

THERE ONCE WERE TWO CLOUDS IN THE SKY



EXCERPT

by

Tara Meddough



a 10-minute play

THERE ONCE WERE TWO CLOUDS IN THE SKY

By

Tara Meddaugh

Winner of The 2023 Bradford Gromelski Jury Award

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Jacqueline Reid, Richard K. Hogle, Chad Scheer, Brent Stevens, Robyn Phillips, Maria Lee
Schmidt

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THERE ONCE WERE TWO CLOUDS IN THE SKY was first produced by FUSION (FUSIONnm.org) as a winning entry in their 17th annual original short works festival, THE SEVEN, June 8th-11th, 2023 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Festival Producer: Dennis Gromelski. Directed by Jen Grigg. Lighting and Scenic Design by Richard K. Hogle. Sound Design by Chad Scheer/Brent Stevens. Properties Design by Robyn Phillips. Production Stage Manager: Maria Lee Schmidt.

The cast was as follows:

Cloud 1.....Laurie Thomas

Cloud 2.....Jacqueline Reid

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Character Breakdown

CLOUD 1	Male/Female/Any gender. A listless cloud. A bit tired, aimless, but appreciates enjoying moments. Appears to tolerate Cloud 2, seems to prefer being alone, but has more compassion than s/he originally lets on.
CLOUD 2	Female, but could be male/any gender. Seeks friendship and purpose; energetic and seems up for anything, but introspective.

Setting

A sky. Present.

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AT RISE: A fairly blue sky. CLOUD 1 is sitting or standing, but seems listless, almost floppy in body. CLOUD 1 sighs. CLOUD 2 enters. CLOUD 2 is a more energetic, social cloud. CLOUD 1 sighs again, throwing him/herself on the floor dramatically.

Are you still listless? CLOUD 2

Yes. CLOUD 1

(pause)

Did you try raining? CLOUD 2

Yes. CLOUD 1

(pause)

Did it help? CLOUD 2

My water droplets aren't heavy enough to rain. CLOUD 1

(pause)

Did you try lightning? CLOUD 2

Yes, and it didn't help, so don't ask. I'm not a thunderstorm cloud. Trying it just made me feel hopeless. And exhausted. And more listless. CLOUD 1

It shouldn't have done that. CLOUD 2

CLOUD 1

Well, it did.

(pause)

CLOUD 2

I don't think you did it right.

CLOUD 1

What does that mean? There's no right or wrong way to lightning. You can either do it and that's right, or you can't do it and that's right, because you're not supposed to.

CLOUD 2

(pause)

No, there's a wrong way and I've seen you try and you do it the wrong way.

CLOUD 1

(sighs)

What's the right way, Cloud?

CLOUD 2

I'm so glad you asked, Cloud, because I've been dying to show you this for like 19 minutes.

CLOUD 1

How many minutes have you been formed?

CLOUD 2

Close to 25, I think. So 19 minutes is a lot of my life. Okay, so when you lightning, you have to really get your electron stream flowing, super intense. And, right now, you're not. You're too....um...loose or slow or something. You're never going to feel fulfilled if you keep messing it up. Watch me.

(CLOUD 1 turns their back.)

CLOUD 2

Okaaaay. Cloud, you can't watch me if you're facing away from me.

CLOUD 1

I don't want to watch you. Clearly.

CLOUD 2

You asked what the right way was, so I was just—

CLOUD 1

I don't want to know anymore. I only asked because you won't leave me alone. Why do you keep coming back over to me anyway?

CLOUD 2

Because you're the only other cloud up in the sky and since we're both—

CLOUD 1

Just go and—lightning over there or something.

(pause)

(CLOUD 2 doesn't leave.)

Why are you still here?

CLOUD 2

I...

CLOUD 1

Stop hovering like a fog. It's annoying.

(pause)

CLOUD 2

I...

CLOUD 1

What?

(pause)

CLOUD 2

I feel kind of listless too.

CLOUD 1

(pause)

You do?

CLOUD 2

Mm hm.

CLOUD 1

Even after you lightnined the "right way?"

CLOUD 2

I know! That's weird, right? I can lightning perfectly. I should feel fulfilled. It's my purpose. But I don't! Cloud...I don't like to say this—

CLOUD 1

Then don't.

CLOUD 2

But we both already know it...We've got—I don't know—maybe an hour, tops, before we dissipate. That's so...that's so short and I'm almost halfway through it all already!

CLOUD 1

Yeah.

CLOUD 2

Doesn't that bother you?

END OF EXCERPT

For the complete play, visit [here:](http://www.tarmeddaugh.com/there-once-were-two-clouds-in-the-sky-a-one-act-play)
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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Tara's plays have been presented by theater companies such as Fusion Theatre, Mosaic Theater Company of DC, The Directors Company, Le Petit Theatre de Terrebonne, Theatre One, Tutti Bravi Productions, Westchester Collaborative Theater, Possibilities Theater, Tagragg Productions, One Armed Man, Oracle Theatre, Inc, The Acme Theatre Company, The Harlequin Players, Woman Seeking...and numerous schools, universities and colleges including Gardner-Webb, Prince Williams, and Colgate. Her work has showcased at festivals such as the Artists of Tomorrow Festival in NYC, The Bangkok Community Theatre Fringe Festival, the Pittsburgh New Works Series and the Last Frontier Theatre Conference in Alaska. Tens of thousands of teachers, actors and students world-wide have utilized her monologues for competitions, course material, auditions, performances, and showcases. Tara has taught Playwriting at Carnegie Mellon, the Pittsburgh Public Theatre, and for The Westport Country Playhouse, and she has led Creative Dramatics Workshops for children in underserved areas throughout New York and New Jersey. Additionally, she has script consulted on several animation and VR projects. Tara's work has been published by YouthPLAYS, Smith & Kraus, Oxford Press South Africa, the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA), Limelight Editions/Applause Acting Series, The Hunger Journal, Meriweather Publishing, Applause Theatre & Cinema, Performer Stuff and Ace-Your-Audition. She is a recipient of the Shubert Fellowship in Dramatic Writing, the Sloan Screenwriting Fellowship, Arts Alive Recovery NY Regrant Award, The Bradford Gromelski Jury Award Winner, the New Works for Young Women [Actors] Award, The Write Stuff Award, and is a member of the Dramatist's Guild. Tara holds her MFA in Dramatic Writing from Carnegie Mellon University.

For more information about Tara Meddaugh or her work,
visit her website at www.tameddaugh.com.

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