

Comprehending Forever

A MONOLOGUE

BY TARA MEDDAUGH

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COMPREHENDING FOREVER

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DETAILS:

Genre: Drama

Running time: Approximately 2 minutes

Cast: Male

Age range: Adult

Setting: Alan's house, kitchen

Time period: Contemporary

Alan's wife has recently died. His brother, Joe, has stopped by to see him. Alan wonders if it is normal to keep asking where his wife is in moments that remind him of her. His brain hurts trying to comprehend the reality that she is gone.

ALAN

Is it strange that I keep asking where she is? I know, I mean, I know she's not here. Logically. I know that. But—it's not just the bigger things—like, how I'll be sitting at the kitchen table where we've had coffee together every morning since we moved in together. I'll look at my mug from, you know, Barcelona or something. She collected a mug from every vacation we went on, so I'm staring at memories with her every single morning. And I'll look at her chair and just say, I'll just say it out loud, "Where are you, Elizabeth?"

(pause)

"Where are you? I shouldn't be drinking coffee. From this mug. By myself."

(pause)

But Joe, it's the small, random things too. Not just our routines and her chair, but these things that you, that maybe you don't think you would even remember. This morning, I'm putting eye drops in and I remember how, years ago, the optometrist said her eyes were unusually dry one visit. We never even talked about that again. And I just look at the bottle of eye drops. And say out loud:

(pause)

"Why are you not here, Elizabeth? Why aren't you in the bathroom with these eyedrops? And me? Where are you?"

(pause)

Sometimes I ask it over and over, and I'll be shaking my head because my brain hurts so much trying to understand this, this new reality. Everyone talks about your heart hurting when someone dies, but that's, you know, that's obvious. Your heart's going to hurt because you're devastated, and that makes sense. But the brain hurts too, not because of emotions, but because...it's trying to make sense of something that doesn't make sense. I don't think my brain can comprehend "forever."

(pause)

So maybe I don't even logically understand it.

END OF MONOLOGUE

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To learn more about Tara's plays, visit www.tameddaugh.com.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Tara is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University's MFA program in Dramatic Writing. Her work has been presented by Fusion Theatre, The Directors Company, Le Petit Theatre de Terrebonne, Theatre One, Westchester Collaborative Theater, One Armed Man, Oracle Theatre, Inc, the Bobik Theatre Ensemble, 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 also showcased at 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. Students, teachers and actors world-wide have utilized her plays and monologues for competitions, Directing, Acting and Dramatic Literature courses and workshops in schools, colleges and theatres. Serial monologues she wrote were performed for two years by the internationally recognized receptionist-robot, Valerie. She has taught Playwriting and Screenwriting 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 toured in a Children's Theatre Troupe, which she wrote for, co-directed, and performed in. Tara's work has been published by YouthPLAYS, Oxford Press South Africa, the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA), The Hunger Journal, Meriweather Publishing and Applause Theatre & Cinema. She is a two-time recipient of the Shubert Fellowship in Dramatic Writing, the Sloan Screenwriting Fellowship, the New Works for Young Women [Actors] Award and is a member of the Dramatist's Guild. Tara has written children's books, short stories, a novel, and writes and records music in the chick-core rap band, [Girl Crusade](#). She lives in Westchester County with her husband and two dramatic children.

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