

A MONOLOGUE

Waiting for The Bus in Red-Checkered Earmuffs

BY

Tara Meddaugh



Previously titled THE BUS STOP

Copyright © 2015 by Tara Meddaugh

All rights reserved. No part of this play may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the author, except by a reviewer, who may quote brief passages in a review. Any members of educational institutions wishing to photocopy part or all of the work for classroom use, or publishers who would like to obtain permission to include the work in an anthology, should send their inquiries via email to tmeddaugh@gmail.com.

CAUTION. Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that *Waiting for The Bus in Red Checkered Earmuffs* (previously title *The Bus Stop*) is subject to a royalty. All rights, including professional, amateur, motion picture, recitation, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound taping, all other forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as information storage and retrieval systems and photocopying, and rights of translation into foreign languages, are strictly reserved.

For permission to perform, contact tmeddaugh@gmail.com.

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

WAITING FOR THE BUS IN RED-CHECKERED EARMUFFS

(previously title THE BUS STOP)

A monologue

By Tara Meddaugh

LAWRENCE, a man in his 80s or so, stands at a bus stop. It is cold. He has just been to the grocery store. He talks to a woman in her 70s or so, who is also waiting at the bus stop. He expresses his frustration at a bad driver who almost hit him with his car, yet Lawrence's license has been taken away from him because he's "too old" to drive. He expresses how difficult it is to accept that he's at the age where he won't be given second chances for many things anymore because there isn't the time or the opportunity.

DETAILS:

Genre: Drama

Running time: Approximately 2-3 minutes

Cast: Male (Any gender ok)

Age range: 60s-90s

Setting: bus stop, night, Fall/Winter

Time period: contemporary

LAWRENCE

I'm walking outta the damn food store carrying this bag of clementines—that's all I got. Not even pushing a damn shopping cart. And some idiot with a Korean car almost runs me over! Some teenage kid driving, no doubt. Spikey hair. Playing games on his damn iphone, no doubt. Some lady behind me yanks on my elbow. She's got her other hand holding some smart-allack kid's hand and she says, "You all right?" and he copies her like some damn parrot and says, "You all right?" I jerk her hand off my damn elbow and tell her and her smart-allack parrot-kid I'm fine. And I walk to the bus stop 'cause I gotta take a damn bus and I think, this kid almost runs me over and I'm the one who can't drive anymore?

(shakes his head)

Not right.

(pause)

Not right for a damn second.

(pause)

And I could tell you about how I served this country and put in my time and how Americans don't give a damn about the elderly, when we should be respected because we've been places and built things and dammit we're still here.

(pause)

But it's mostly...it gets me...because this is it.

(pause)

I don't get another chance.

(pause)

You go through life and good things happen and bad things happen, but you always think you got time to change it. You'll find someone else to love. You'll eat better. You'll exercise. You'll buy another house...You'll get another chance.

(pause)

But then...your damn opportunities end. Because you're not getting smarter or nicer or richer. And your body isn't better either...Truth is, it's getting worse. And you're not sick. There's nothing really wrong with you. It's just never gonna get better. Because it's not meant to. Because you're old. But dammit, you don't feel that way on the inside.

(pause)

So you can't fix this. You can't get your license back....I had to take the bus for a year when I crashed my car into an exit sign during one of those damn blizzards on 81. It was damn cold waiting for the bus that winter, but I always knew I'd get the money and get another car. And I did. But this...

(pause)

I'm gonna be waiting for the damn bus wearing red-checkered earmuffs my granddaughter gave me until the day I die.

To request permission of use, email tmeddaugh@gmail.com.
To learn more about Tara's plays, visit www.tameddaugh.com.

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, 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.

For permission to perform, contact tmeddaugh@gmail.com.