

# THE TENTH OAK TREE

by Tara Meddaugh  
a 10-minute play



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EXCERPT

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## EXCERPT

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## EXCERPT

After its initial commission and school production by the Lancaster Country Day School, *The Tenth Oak Tree* was first produced at The Director's Studio in New York City on September 16, 2007, as part of the one-act play, [\*Movements of the Wind\*](#), with the following cast: The cast who played Carrot and Potato are as follows:

Carrot            *Samantha Sherman*  
Potato            *Lindsay Roth*

Directed by Kel Haney  
Costume Design by Rebecca Frey

EXCERPT

THE TENTH OAK TREE

Character Breakdown

CARROT

A middle-aged mother.

POTATO

A middle-aged mother.

Setting

A vegetable garden.

## EXCERPT

AT RISE: A CARROT and POTATO are in a vegetable garden together. They are long-time friends, against all odds, as it is common knowledge amongst the vegetable garden that carrots and potatoes are not meant to mingle with each other. They have been through a lot, seen a lot, and they are now middle aged, empty nest parents.

CARROT

Spices is gonna stomp on you.

POTATO

What?

CARROT

You're sticking out too much. You should pull back in. The cat will see you.

POTATO

I'm not sticking out any more than usual.

CARROT

Well, I can see your spuds.

POTATO

That's just a slug. That's not mine.

CARROT

It looks like your spud is—

POTATO

Well, you look like your tip is wilting.

CARROT

Oh.

(pause)

Are you going to the festival tonight?

POTATO

Who's it for this time?

CARROT

Onion 19's children. They're leaving tomorrow.

POTATO

Someone's always leaving.

CARROT

Not always.

POTATO

Always. Every night, Carrot-54. It's the same thing. Over and over. One more leaves. We have a festival. Another leaves. We have a festival.

CARROT

We're celebrating them.

POTATO

I know what we're doing. Or what we say we're doing. It's just not much of a special occasion when we have a festival every night. It's more of a drudgery for a tired old vegetable. A daily drudgery.

CARROT

Did you think last night's festival was a drudgery?

POTATO

No! No! Of course not. Last night was different. Last night was special. You know I think last night was special.

(pause)

Carrot?

(pause)

Carrot-54? They did a beautiful job last night. They'll make you proud.

(pause)

It was a special festival last night.

(pause)

CARROT

Okay.

POTATO

Okay.

(pause)

CARROT

The triplets looked so grown-up, didn't they?



They did. POTATO

Such sturdy long roots they have. CARROT

Your triplets are strong. POTATO

They'll do well on their own. CARROT

You're a good mother. You raised them well. POTATO

I know. CARROT  
(pause)  
I miss them already.

(pause)

Well, they'll write to you. They'll write and they'll tell you all how they're doing. POTATO

They will? CARROT

Of course they will. That's what children do. They write to us. To their parents. POTATO

Did your children write to you? CARROT

Every week. For the first few weeks. A little less later. But it helped. It was nice to get their letters. POTATO

Yes, then I'm sure they'll write. CARROT

Then you'll know they arrived safely. POTATO

Yes... CARROT

(pause)

Carrot... POTATO

Yes? CARROT

You did teach them to write, didn't you? POTATO

Oh, well. I'm sure they know. CARROT

(pause)  
If that's what children are supposed to know.

POTATO  
They're supposed to know it because you teach them!

Oh. CARROT

(pause)  
What do I do, Potato-13?

## END OF EXCERPT

For the complete 10-minute play, [The Tenth Oak Tree](http://www.tarmeddaugh.com/the-tenth-oak-tree), visit:  
[www.tarmeddaugh.com/the-tenth-oak-tree](http://www.tarmeddaugh.com/the-tenth-oak-tree)

## 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](http://www.tameddaugh.com).

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