

BIRTHDAY BALLOONS

a monologue

by Tara Meddaugh



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DETAILS

Genre: Drama

Cast: Female (male)

Age range: 20s-40s

Running time: Approximately 2 minutes

Setting: Bedroom

DESCRIPTION

Adelaide, suffering from a terminal illness, speaks to her best friend in her bedroom. She wants to give her a son as special birthday, but also feels the hopelessness of her situation.

ADELAIDE

I want to make him a birthday cake. And buy him a gift, you know, one of those complicated Lego sets. He's into those right now. And, I always put balloons outside his bedroom door in the middle of the night, so when he wakes up, he's greeted by these yellow—that's his favorite color—these yellow "it's your birthday" balloons and...it's a great way to start your birthday, right?

(pause)

Most of the time, I want this, and I think, it's a month away, only one month away. I can do this. I can do this for him. You know? But...

(pause)

Then sometimes, it doesn't seem important anymore. Is that awful to say? Is that awful to say I don't always feel my 6-year-old's birthday is important?

(pause)

I want to be one of those parents where I make up a note and a gift for the next 15 years for him, so he can read them and know I'm thinking of him every birthday, every day, even when I'm not here. But, it's so hard to move and sometimes even breathe. I can't even lift up my hand to hold a pen. And...if I think of the future—of his birthday for the next 15 years...I'm...I'm hit with this wave of...no, this, this tsunami of panic and, like, I go cold and sweat and think I'm going to throw up and faint, because I realize, like, really remember...I have no hope anymore... I'm wrapped up this feeling that everything in the world is pointless and is going to end and

what difference does it make if I ask the home health-aid to put up balloons for me or ask you to get into my account and order a Lego set for Carter.

(pause)

And the wind is knocked out of me.

(pause)

I wish I didn't know that I was going to die so soon.

END OF MONOLOGUE

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Tara is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University's MFA program in Dramatic Writing. Her work has been presented by theaters such as Fusion Theatre, The Directors Company, Le Petit Theatre de Terrebonne, Theatre One, Westchester Collaborative Theater, Tagragg Productions, 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.