

EXCERPT FROM
The Tenth Oak Tree
By Tara Meddaugh
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The Tenth Oak Tree is a 10-minute play, but was originally performed as part of the one-act play, *Movements of the Wind*.

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

EXCERPT

AT RISE: A CARROT and POTATO are in a vegetable garden together. They are old 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 mothers.

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?

POTATO

They did.

CARROT

Such sturdy long roots they have.

POTATO

Your triplets are strong.

CARROT

They'll do well on their own.

POTATO

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

CARROT

I know.

(pause)

I miss them already.

(pause)

POTATO

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

CARROT

They will?

POTATO

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

CARROT

Did your children write to you?

POTATO

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

CARROT

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

POTATO

Then you'll know they arrived safely.

CARROT

Yes...

(pause)

POTATO

Carrot...

CARROT

Yes?

POTATO

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

CARROT

Oh, well. I'm sure they know.

(pause)

If that's what children are supposed to know.

POTATO

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

CARROT

Oh.

(pause)

What do I do, Potato-13?

POTATO

Well, you better catch up with them!

CARROT

You mean, follow them?

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For more information about this play or other works of Tara Meddaugh's,
visit her website at www.tameddaugh.com.