

# English Department 2020

## Loring Holmes and Ruth Dodd Drama Contest



**First Place**  
Maria Connors '20



**Second Place**  
Emily Buza '20



**Third Place**  
Riley Kay '20



**Honorable Mention**  
Luke Pound '22

*Maria is a senior from Alaska and Tanzania, studying English and Media, Culture & the Arts. Her interests include storytelling, listening to Elton John, eating mint chocolate chip ice cream (the green kind) and telling people she is not lying about where she is from.*

*Emily Buza is a graduating senior English and theatre double major, as well as the editor-in-chief of Clark Writes. Her love of the creative performance culture of the circus and a fascination with its history, as well as two minutes of a four-hour PBS documentary, inspired her play, Kitten.*

*Riley Kay Sternhagen is a senior political science and theatre major from Hopkinton, Iowa. In her spare time, she enjoys singing with her a cappella group, performing on stage, and, of course, writing plays.*

*"Luke Pound '22 is a Psychology major with minors in Political Science and Linguistics. His fascination with theatrical convention (and the subsequent breaking of it) led to Elements, an anthology of short plays based upon Aristotle's six elements of theatre."*

### Nothing Out of the Extraordinary

(SAM sits alone at her living room table, a black trash bag folded down in front of her in way that doesn't reveal its contents. She breathes heavily.)

COLLEEN enters the apartment from stage right, and puts her bag down on a chair next to the door. SAM looks up, alarmed, as if she wasn't expecting anyone to come home. She quickly scrunches up the bag and shoves it under the couch, out of COLLEEN's line of sight.)

### Kitten

[MARIA stands alone onstage in no distinct location. She is a pretty girl in her very early twenties. She is dressed simply but does not look plain. She addresses the audience.]

MARIA

I was six years old the first time I saw a tiger. Before that, the circus only had lions. And they were fine enough, sure, but they were dull if you stared at them too long. Lions are a sandy yellow, like fine dirt on a backroad. Nothing much special about that. And they'll lay their heads down and sleep and do absolutely nothing after a while.

But tigers. Tigers are brilliant.

### She was the Sun

(LIGHTS UP on a white room. Against the middle of the far wall is a woman lying on a cot. She is wearing drab, loose-fitting clothes. Her back is to the audience. We hear only her side of the conversation as she talks to what appears to be no one.)

SADIE

I'm going home today. To our apartment. My apartment. It's not home anymore. Not without you. I don't know if I'm any better off after being here, but I know if they hear me talking to you, they'll want me to stay longer, so I have to keep it short. I just miss you. So much...

### IDEA

A

I suppose we could...

B

No.

C

Stop.

D

Of course not.

E

Die.

A

No.

B

In the movie...

D

Too specific.

E

Dated.

C

Unequivocally, above all else...