

YOU MUST WEAR A HAT
Selection 2
by Courtney Meaker

About the play (from the playwright):

Tuesday and Weeks make hats on the Great Barrier Reef, waiting for the world to end. A play for two and a rabbit puppet.

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TUESDAY—Any race, Any gender, Any age

About the scene:

Tuesday and Weeks are at a milliner's shop at the Great Barrier Reef. Tuesday wears a top hat and speaks to Weeks as they sleep.

TUESDAY

I wanted to be a magician. So I came here. For the rabbits. And to get a top hat. But they didn't have any I liked. And it turns out in order to be a magician you have to have more than a top hat and a rabbit. You need magic. Or something. You have to know tricks. You have to be able to fool people. I think that the top hat is a kind of fooling, but it's not a very good trick at the end of the day because you can always take it off and then the illusion is ruined. Which is why you're supposed to be able to pull a rabbit out of it, because then the people, they'll be staring at the rabbit and not at how short you are.

So I started making my hat. But I didn't like it. So I started making another one. And I didn't like that one. And then I made another one. This one. My favorite. My favorite top hat. And then I built a milliner shop at the Great Barrier Reef because you could still see some fish swimming around it and the bleaching wasn't so bad then. I thought. Well. It doesn't matter what I thought.

I still haven't found a live rabbit in Australia. I've seen many rabbit corpses. Especially baby rabbit corpses. They get killed by their rabbit parents. Because the rabbit parents know that nothing can survive here anymore. Not even rabbits. I haven't found a live rabbit. But I found you. So that's a pretty okay trade-off, I think.

(sweet, not creepy)

I like your fingers and your hands. If I could, I would chop off your hand so I could carry it around in my pocket. So every time, I'm sitting and making a hat, I could reach down and squeeze. And your hand would be there. Filling mine.

(slight pause)

I know that's not quite right, yet. I'll find a better way. To say it. Later.