

# AT THE BUZZER

## By Steven Bergman

Copyright © 2008 by Steven Bergman, All rights reserved.  
ISBN: 1-60003-327-X

**CAUTION:** Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

**RIGHTS RESERVED:** All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

**PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS:** All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

**AUTHOR CREDIT:** All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

**PUBLISHER CREDIT:** Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice:

*Produced by special arrangement with Brooklyn Publishers, LLC*

**COPYING:** Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.

## AT THE BUZZER

by  
Steven Bergman

### Characters

ROOSEVELT WILLIAMSON	male, 18, Taneesha's brother, father figure.
TANEESHA WILLIAMSON (Young)	female, 11 years old.
TANEESHA WILLIAMSON (Older)	female, 21 years old.
KYLA WILLIAMSON	female, 38, Roosevelt and Taneesha's mom.
TOM	Taneesha's husband, older 20's.

### Time and Place

Southern Louisiana, August, 27<sup>th</sup> 2005, and ten years later.

***At lights, TANEESHA, age 12, and ROOSEVELT are miming playing one-on-one basketball. They are on a public playground, so some type of sign to the effect of "NO PLAYING AFTER DARK" would be recommended. TANEESHA has the ball.***

ROOSEVELT: C'mon, girl . . .shoot it already, will ya? There's five seconds left in regulation. It's the championship game. State is down by two. T. Will has the ball. Two for O.T., three for the win. But she has to get past Southern's star player to take the shot. The clock is ticking: five, four, three . . .

*(TANEESHA takes a shot.)*

She shoots the three... nothing but net!! State wins the title!  
Whoosh!

*(Even though she sank the shot, TANEESHA isn't enthusiastic about it.)*

At The Buzzer- Page 3

TANEESHA: R.V., do we have to be doing this right now? I mean, shouldn't we be inside with mom getting ready to go?

ROOSEVELT: We will, kiddo, we will. One more round, and then...

KYLA: *(from off-stage)* Roosevelt? Roosevelt Williamson?! Where are you?

TANEESHA: I told you.

ROOSEVELT: *(to TANEESHA)* I know. We will. *(to KYLA)* Out here, mom.

KYLA: Is Taneesha with you?

ROOSEVELT: Yeah.

KYLA: *(enters)* Roosevelt? What do you think you're doing out here? We've got to get inside right now and get packed. It's the only way we're gonna be ready when the bus gets here. Now get your butt inside.

ROOSEVELT: I know, I know. Just another five minutes, mom. I wanted to just get in a bit more hoop time with T. Her shooting from the perimeter is really starting to heat up, and I don't know when we'll get to practice next, you know?

KYLA: Roosevelt, you two get inside and pack . . .now. There isn't much time.

ROOSEVELT: We will, we will. It's just like I said . . .you know . . .I don't know when we're gonna have this chance again, so I want to grab it. It's key that Taneesha keeps up her skills, and this court was where she really got it happenin'.

*(KYLA exits.)*

You know, T, there's a lot of history here.

TANEESHA: What do you mean, R.V.?

ROOSEVELT: Well, this court has produced quite a few names. One of the most famous was a young kid who played here in the 60's. He went on to State, where he led them to their only title in basketball. I must've heard that story a thousand times as a little kid. That player was Theodore Williamson.

TANEESHA: Grandpa Teddy used to play ball?

ROOSEVELT: He sure did, sis. Listen to me. Now, State is down by 15 points at the half. Southern's been taking them to town. Coach Jones was stumped on how to stop Southern's top man, Desi Alvaras, so he decides to try out this underclassman on him . . .

TANEESHA: Grandpa Teddy?

ROOSEVELT: Yep. Before Grandpa goes in, coach calls him over. "Don't try to shoot," he says, "just keep jumpin' in front of him so he can't get off his shot."

TANEESHA: So what happened to Grandpa? Did he win or lose?

At The Buzzer- Page 4

ROOSEVELT: Patience, girl. If I don't teach you nothin' else, beside that hook shot of yours, let me teach you a little patience. Now listen to the story, okay?

TANEESHA: Okay.

ROOSEVELT: All right, then. So Grandpa goes against Alvaras. He just keeps his arms in the air, and wavin' them like he's trying to stop a speeding train. Well, Alvaras can't do anything with this guy, and sure enough, doesn't get a single shot off in the second half. With Alvaras not shooting, State manages to catch up so that they're only down 57-56 with ten seconds to go. But then, Alvaras gets the inbound pass and finally takes a shot...

TANEESHA: And...!

ROOSEVELT: Well, before that day, the Williamsons were a religious lot. But nothing other than Divine Intervention can describe what happened next.

TANEESHA: He missed!

ROOSEVELT: Everyone who witnessed that shot considered it one of the most stunning and unusual moments in basketball. Alvaras' shot was supposed to be automatic, and, you guessed it. About three feet from the basket, the ball just drops like an anvil fell on it. Well, Teddy was smart enough to head downcourt. More to be out of the way from the fans swarming Alvaras after he seals the championship. But then he sees the miss. Upton gets the rebound and hauls it downcourt to Grandpa. He's got a five footer to sink for the championship . . . If he misses, well...

TANEESHA: But he didn't, did he??

ROOSEVELT: My, my. You do have mom's sense of patience. Wait a moment, T . . . yeah, he sank it. The place went nuts! Everyone shouting Grandpa's name as State won the championship.

TANEESHA: Yeah, Grandpa!

KYLA: *(enters)* Taneesha Williamson! You get your butt inside right this minute! And drag your brother's in here as well! I don't care what fabricated tales he's putting in your ear! Get in here!

ROOSEVELT: All right, sharpshot. Let's go in and finish packing.

TANEESHA: Okay, R.V.

*(They exit. Lighting change as a woman and a man enter. The man is leading the woman by the hand to center. The woman has her eyes closed. It is TANEESHA ,now 22. The man is her husband, TOM.)*

TOM: We're almost there, don't open them yet.

TANEESHA: This had better be spectacular. I haven't opened my eyes for almost 15 minutes.

TOM: It will be.

At The Buzzer- Page 5

*(They reach the court (center).)*

Okay, you can open them.

*(TANEESHA opens her eyes, and is quite surprised by where they are.)*

So? How does it look?

TANEESHA: Oh my. I don't know what to say. It's great. Repaved. New hoops, new fence. It looks just like it did ten years ago. Better. Oh, Tom, the company did a wonderful job restoring it. I'm floored that this court even got on the list. There are so many buildings that even ten years later still need to be restored. How did you do it?

TOM: Well, I know there weren't any playgrounds or basketball courts on the latest list, but the rebuilding's far enough along that the committee finally started addressing some of the landmarks that weren't vital to the local infrastructure.

TANEESHA: So you pulled a few strings.

TOM: Yeah, I pulled a few strings. I know that this place was very important to the residents of this area...

TANEESHA: Your wife included . . .

TOM: My wife included. The restoration of these grounds can only help to improve the morale of this area. And any action that can accomplish that is worth undertaking. *(pause)* Besides, I'll never forget you telling me that story of you and R.V. out here the day you evacuated before the storm hit. How you guys and your mom almost missed the evacuation bus because you had to make that shot "at the buzzer." And then, with his death in that drive-by last year and all . . .

TANEESHA: He was something else. We just made that last bus to Houston. Then out to Uncle Theo's in L.A. He's named after our grandpa Theodore, who led State to their only championship over Southern. That's what R.V. was tellin' me right before we had to pack and leave. I'll never forget it. I still see him here, encouraging me on. If it wasn't for R.V., I'd of never gotten that basketball scholarship.

TOM: Too bad he couldn't get it together to go to college himself.

TANEESHA: Yeah. Once we hit L.A., he just fell into the wrong crowd. But he was always checkin' in on me at school, right up until the end . . . *(cries)*

***Thank you for reading this free excerpt from AT THE BUZER by Steven Bergman. For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script, please contact us at:***

**Brooklyn Publishers, LLC**

**P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406**

**Toll Free: 1-888-473-8521 • Fax (319) 368-8011**

**[www.brookpub.com](http://www.brookpub.com)**

Do Not Copy