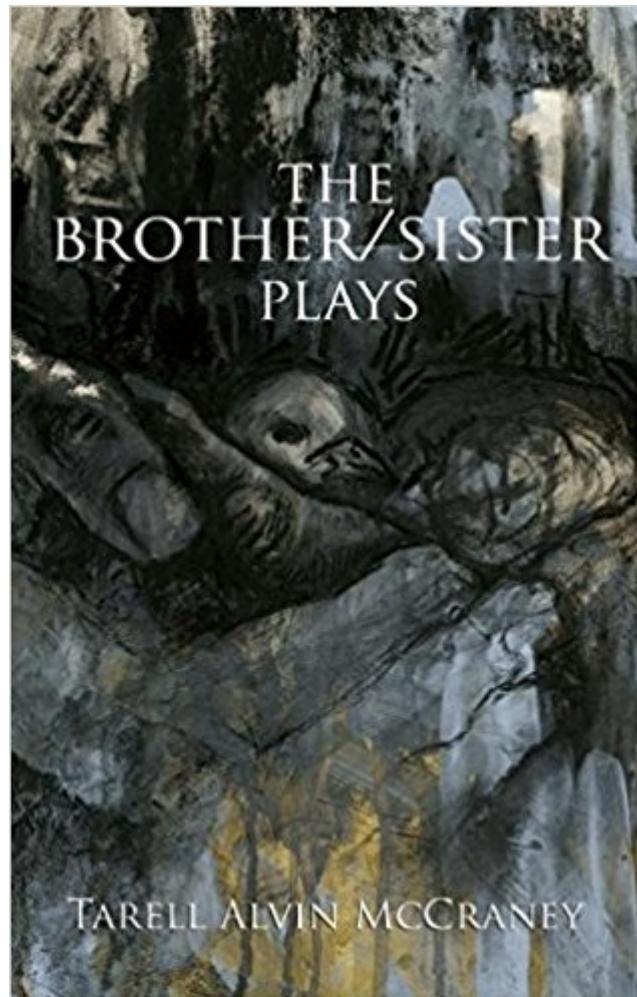


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# The Brother/Sister Plays



## Synopsis

McCraney's richly drawn characters and colloquial poetry . . . manages to sound both epic and rooted in a specific place. Listen closely, and you might hear that thrilling sound that is one of the main reasons we go to the theater, that beautiful music of a new voice.

The New York Times • Taut, expressive drama, *The Brothers Size* realizes the potential of theater to elevate the ordinary. . . . McCraney's writing can be arresting.

Time Out New York This is the first collection by Tarell Alvin McCraney, a major new playwright of the American theater. Lyrical and mythic, provocative and contemporary, McCraney's dramas of kinship, love, and heartache are set in the bayou of Louisiana and loosely draw on West African myths. *In the Red and Brown Water* charts the story of Oya, a fast and beautiful track star who must make difficult choices on her journey to womanhood. *The Brothers Size* dramatizes the struggle between brothers who have taken different paths: Ogun, single-mindedly running his auto shop, and Oshoosi, recently returned from prison and fallen back with trouble. *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet* explores a young man's relationship with his history and friends as he discovers his sexuality and true self against the backdrop of an impending storm. Tarell Alvin McCraney's other works include *Wig Out!* and *The Breach*. His plays have been produced at The Public Theater in New York, internationally at the Royal Court Theatre and Abbey Theatre, and throughout the United States.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tarell Alvin McCraney is author of The Brother/Sister Trilogy: *The Brothers Size*, *In the Red and*

Brown Water, & Marcus; Or the Secret of Sweet. His other works include Choir Boy, which enjoyed acclaimed runs in London and New York, Wig Out! set in New York's drag clubs and The Breach which deals with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He was the first recipient of the New York Times' Outstanding Playwright Award and has also won the 2009 Steinberg Playwrights Award and the Paula Vogel Playwriting Award. In 2013 he was awarded the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship, colloquially known as a "genius grant."

I was lucky enough to see two of these plays -- "The Brothers Size" and "Marcus; Or the Secret of Sweet" -- on stage before I read this volume. Of the three, "The Brothers Size" is my favorite, though they work best as a trilogy as intended. I do think it might be hard to appreciate McCraney's work just by reading the scripts, since the plays are very movement-based and use sound and silence in addition to language that is sometimes hard to accurately transcribe. One oddity of "The Brother/Sister Plays" that I never quite got my head around is McCraney's instruction that all stage directions be read as part of the dialogue. It certainly adds to the unsettling, otherworldly feel of the plays, but it gets a bit tedious.

Tarrell Alvin McCraney is a hot young playwright whose works have been performed nationwide and abroad. He has a most unusual way with dialogue and dramatic action. I've read two of three of the trilogy, seen one performed at UC San Diego, and will soon see The Brothers Size in production at the Old Globe Theatre. McCraney, who came through Yale University Drama Department, where he was influenced by the late August Wilson, is someone to watch.

Terrific playwright - saw two of these plays in local theaters.

Well I got a chance to work on a production of these too, which was a wonderful experience, but the plays are exciting, heart-wrenching, complete, and just, truly beautifully written.

I enjoy the diasporic underpinning, the dialog, the imagery and the symbolism of these great works even MORE because they are written with a black, gay identity. The perspective is clear, unique and vital to the voice of the African and African-American experience.

A beautiful set of plays.

I saw the 'Brother Sister plays' more times than I should admit....He's truly deserving of the MacArthur Genius award and I'm proud to own a copy of his play(s).

Excellent plays!

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