Go Jump in a Hole!

Rebecca Saunders, University of Massachusetts Boston
Go Jump in a Hole!!

A play in one scene
By Rebecca Saunders
Dedicated to the folks On First Parish Road
In Scituate, MA
Merry Christmas!

Starring (in alphabetical order)

Cleo Belber, 6 years old
Jon Belber, early 40s
Nadia Belber, 4 years old
Sage Belber, late 30s
Larry Berman, we won’t say
Kizzy (a dog, who may be played by anyone)
Carolyn Jordan, mid-20s
Julian Jordan, mid-20s
Edouard Maziarz, 50s
Mark Meadows, 40s
Lin Haire-Sargeant, 50s
Beth Soll, 60s
Ellen Troutman, 50s
David Zaig, we won’t say because we don’t know
And everyone else at the Christmas party at Lin’s, 2009

Of course you may substitute anyone you’d like to play these characters. Read through the play first, then decide who you think would be best for the role. Then have a very, merry Christmas!
Well. It was a beautiful winter’s night in Situate and everybody who was anybody was here.

Lin and Jonny were in the kitchen cooking and Mark was just bringing Kizzy back from a walk. Sage and Ellen were setting the table for a huge turkey dinner. Larry was playing the piano, warming up for the singing. Beth was stretching because she had a dance performance the next day. Edward and David were playing chess. Julian and Carolyn exclaimed as they watched the game . . .

‘What a move! Incredible!’

‘Astounding!’

. . . as they waited for someone, probably David, to lose so that one of them could play. Cleo and Nadia were out playing in the yard. Or so we thought . . .

Sage

Everybody stay calm. Just stay calm.
Jonny
Let’s go!

Narrator
And so everyone scrambled out of the warm room and hot-footed it down to the creek beside Shirley’s house where Nadia had fallen into the hole.

Everyone
What’ll we do?? What’ll we do???

Cleo
Hold on, everybody. I have a plan. We’ll make a human chain.

Sage
Good idea, Cleo.

Narrator
Luckily, there was a tall, strong oak tree just close enough to the hole for the human chain to work.

Nadia
Come and get me! I’m down in a hole!

Cleo
We know you’re down in a hole. That’s why we’re here.

Sage
We are on our way, Nadia dear. Don’t be scared! Just stay calm!

Jonny
Hold on, Nadia!

OK.

Nadia
OK.

Cleo
Here’s what we’ll do. Edouard, you are the longest and the strongest so you grab hold of this here tree. . . .

Narrator
So, Edouard wrapped his arms around a tree. He was the longest and the strongest, so he was first. Then Mark held onto Edouard’s ankles and Julian grabbed a hold of Mark’s. Lin grabbed Julian’s ankles and Beth grabbed a hold of hers. David grabbed Beth’s ankles, and Ellen grabbed a hold of his. Rebecca grabbed Ellen’s ankles. Larry didn’t
hold onto anybody because he is narrating this story. Kizzy didn’t either, because he was cheering everyone on.

Kizzy
Woof, woof! Woof, woof!

Narrator
Jonny grabbed Rebecca’s ankles with one hand and held Cleo’s ankles with the other because he is the daddy, so Cleo could reach into the hole and pull out Nadia. Sage was ready to snatch Nadia when she came into sight because she’s the mama.

Cleo
OK, everybody, One, two, three. . . pull!!

Narrator
They did it! Out popped Nadia without a scratch. Swoop went Mama, and Nadia landed right into Mama’s arms.

Cleo
Everyone reacted the way they usually reacted in these situations.

Jonny
Aaahhh! Are you Ok?

Lin
Aaahhh! Are you OK?

Mark
Aaahhh! Are you OK?

Rebecca
Are you hurt?

Kizzy
Woof, Woof?

Sage
Everyone stay calm. Are you all right, Nadia dear?

Nadia
It was beautiful! It had icicles and beautiful colors that glowed all around. Pink and purple and sage green and . . .

Cleo
I want to see!
Narrator
Cleo leaned over and before you knew it, plump! Right into the hole she fell.

Jonny
Aaahhh! Cleo!

Lin
Aaahhh! Cleo!

Mark
Aaahhh! Cleo!

Rebecca
Yikes!

Kizzie
Woof, woof!

Sage
Let’s all stay calm. Calm.

Nadia
Ok, everybody, line up. Human chain, back in action.

Narrator
So everybody scrambled back to the oak. Edouard wrapped his arms around the tree. He was the longest and the strongest, so he was first. Then Mark held onto Edouard’s ankles and Julian grabbed a hold of Mark’s. Lin grabbed Julian’s ankles and Beth grabbed a hold of hers. Ellen grabbed Beth’s ankles, and David grabbed a hold of hers. Rebecca grabbed David’s ankles. Larry didn’t hold onto anybody but you know that already. Finally, Jonny grabbed Rebecca’s ankles and held Nadia’s ankles so she could reach into the hole and pull out Cleo. Sage stood poised to grab Cleo when she came into sight.

Nadia
One, two, three . . . pull!

Narrator
And out popped Cleo without a scratch. Swoop went Mama, and Cleo landed right into Mama’s arms.

Lin
Are you OK?

Sage
Are you OK?
Jonny
Are you OK?

Rebecca
Are you hurt?

Cleo
It’s the most beautiful place I’ve ever seen!

Beth
Oh, I want to be there! I want to see it!

Narrator
And before you could blink an eye... well, you can guess what she did.

Kizzie
Woof, woof?

Narrator
And so, one by one everyone jumped into the hole and one by one everyone formed the human chain and one by one, everyone saw the most beautiful place they had ever seen before they got pulled out. Except Kizzy. And that’s how they spent the rest of the day.

Cleo
Poor Edouard. He was so tall, he had to fold himself in half to see the glowing colors. But when he had seen what he wanted to see, he climbed out of the hole and David shouted to him... 

David
Edouard! It’s your move!!

Narrator
And so we all trooped back into the warm, cozy room and to our surprise, we find a Christmas party going on! And all of you are here.

Everyone in play
Merry Christmas!

[Cleo and Nadia step center stage before the clapping dies down, so that people won’t think the play is over yet. They stay there for the rest of the play.]

Cleo and Nadia
And now, would anybody like to go jump in a hole?

End of play.