

# I Can't Go Out There!

A One-Act Comedy

*by Burton Bumgarner*

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### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

Here is a one-act comedy in four scenes which chronicles the different stages of the stage. In elementary school, a frustrated teacher deals with stage fright while trying to direct young children in a play about jackrabbits and a mean old dog.

In middle school, two students who've been cast as Romeo and Juliet realize that the play is a love story, and that kissing may be involved. A third student tries to ease their minds.

In high school, a teacher is holding auditions for a production of "Anne of Green Gables." Actors audition with a rather violent monologue from "Titus Andronicus," a rap version of the soliloquy from "Julius Caesar," a gothic version of Poe's "The Raven," a song from a musical, and a monologue that the student made up.

In community theater, a production of "Dial 'M' for Murder" is missing a lead actor, and the understudy is not prepared for going on stage.

"I Can't Go Out There!" is easy to produce, and absolutely hysterical.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*7 m, 8 w, 3 flexible*

*(minimum with doubling: 2 m, 3 w, 3 flexible)*

**Scene 1:** Elementary School – “The Little Jackrabbit” (2 m, 3 w.)

MRS. CRUMLEY: Elementary teacher, directing a play.

REBECCA: Student, playing a jackrabbit.

CAMERON: Student, playing a jackrabbit.

BRANDON: Student, playing a jackrabbit.

TRACY: Student, playing a dog.

**Scene 2:** Middle School – “Romeo and Juliet” (2 m, 1 w.)

CLAIRE: Student, playing Juliet.

KYLE: Student, playing Romeo.

BEN: Student, playing Mercutio.

**Scene 3:** High School - Auditions (2 m, 2 w, 3 flexible.)

DIRECTOR: High school teacher holding auditions for a play.

ACTOR 1: Male, auditions with “Titus Andronicus.”

ACTOR 2: Goth female, auditions with Poe’s “The Raven.”

ACTOR 3: Male, auditions with rap version of “Julius Caesar.”

ACTOR 4: Female, auditions with song from “Annie.”

ACTOR 5: Male or female, auditions with made-up script.

ASSISTANT: Helps the director.

**Scene 4:** Community Theater – I Can’t Go Out There!

*(1 m, 2 w.)*

NADIA: Director for “Dial ‘M’ for Murder.”

KELLY: Actress.

CAMERON: Understudy. From Scene 1, now grown up.

*I Can't Go Out There!*

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## **PROPS AND COSTUMES**

Bunny ears  
Dog ears  
School books  
Lunch bags  
Backpack  
Script  
Breath mints  
Notepad and pen  
Red wig  
Tabloid  
Cell phone  
1940s costume

## **SETTING**

Scene 1: Park bench USC.  
Scene 2: The same.  
Scene 3: A table and chair.  
Scene 4: Several chairs SR.

**I Can't Go Out There!**  
**Scene 1**  
**Elementary School – “The Little Jackrabbit”**

*(AT RISE: MRS. CRUMLEY enters and looks around as if examining her set.)*

CRUMLEY: Rebecca! Cameron! Children! Let me see your costumes! *(REBECCA and CAMERON enter. They are wearing bunny costumes. Mrs. Crumley straightens Cameron's bunny ears.)* You've bent your ears, Cameron.

REBECCA: *(Nervous.)* How many people will be here, Mrs. Crumley?

CRUMLEY: A whole lot, I hope. All the parents and brothers and sisters. Probably some grandparents and some aunts and uncles.

CAMERON: Rebecca's chicken.

REBECCA: Am not!

CAMERON: Are so! Your hands are shaking!

REBECCA: Are not! Look! *(Holds out her hands, which are trembling.)*

CAMERON: Looks to me like they're shaking.

REBECCA: Does not! I don't feel good, Mrs. Crumley.

CRUMLEY: I'm sure you'll be fine, Rebecca. Where is our dog?

REBECCA: My stomach hurts.

CAMERON: Rebecca's chicken.

REBECCA: Am not!

CAMERON: Are so!

CRUMLEY: You'll be fine. Remember our rehearsals?

REBECCA: I didn't feel sick then.

CRUMLEY: Let's hear your lines. I bet if you say them you'll feel better. Remember your lines? *(REBECCA nods.)*

CAMERON: I remember our lines.

CRUMLEY: We'll have a little rehearsal right now. Let me hear your lines.

CAMERON: "Run, little jackrabbit! Run home! That dog will eat you!"

CRUMLEY: Very good. Now, Rebecca. Can you say your lines?

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REBECCA: *(Nods. Mournfully.)* "Run, little jackrabbit. Run home. That dog will eat you."

CAMERON: That was terrible!

CRUMLEY: Cameron! It was not terrible! It could use a little more expression. *(Looks around.)* Where are Tracy and Brandon?

*(TRACY and BRANDON enter. Tracy wears dog ears. Brandon wears a bunny costume.)*

TRACY: Here, Mrs. Crumley.

CRUMLEY: Where is the rest of your costume?

TRACY: It's at home in the washing machine.

CRUMLEY: Why isn't it here? Doesn't your mother realize the performance is this afternoon?

TRACY: She realizes it, all right. It's just that my little brother messed up the rest of the dog.

BRANDON: How did he do that?

TRACY: I was trying to change his diaper and I was wearing the bottom part of the costume ....

CAMERON and BRANDON: GROSS!

*(REBECCA holds her stomach.)*

CRUMLEY: I think we get the picture.

TRACY: Usually I can change them without it making such a big mess.

REBECCA: I don't feel good!

TRACY: But this time I wasn't so lucky.

BRANDON: That's so sick!

CRUMLEY: Okay, Tracy. I know you're a big help to your mother.

TRACY: *(Preen.)* I am. My brother turned into twins, you know.

CRUMLEY: So I've heard.

TRACY: My mother is always losing her mind. That's what she says. How do you lose your mind, Mrs. Crumley? Isn't it stuck inside your head?

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