

# **Into a Vacuum**

**By Jerold London**

**Copyright © 2024  
Jerold London  
All rights reserved, etc.  
jlondon@deepweaversfaith.com**



**Photo by Yasir from Pexels**

**Nothing happens in a vacuum ....**

**– Khaled Hosseini**

## **Into a Vacuum**

### **TIME**

**Time out of memory.**

### **PLACE**

**Land of unseen giants. A second floor bedroom and window are atop a riser upstage. Beyond it is the hint of an ocean and a pea-green boat.**

### **CHARACTERS**

**ALBERT**

**BIRDIE**

**CHASE**

**DAISY**

**ELI**

**FABLE**

**GRAY**

**HOLLY**

**IVAN**

**JASMINE**

**KIT**

**LILY**

**MONTY**

**NADIA**

**OSCAR**

**POPPY**

**QUIGLEY**

**ROSE**

**SIMON**

**TRULY**

## SCENE 1

At rise in darkness is the sound of a rubber hose the size of a culvert slapping down, **stage left**.

In spotlight **stage right** ALBERT enters wearing a rooster hat, pulling a pirate's treasure chest on a heavy duty kids' pull wagon. He opens its lid and exits.

Spotlight on the opened chest and wagon. Then, like a sunrise, the stage is lit.

## SCENE 2

The man-size hose at **stage left** begins to make a sucking sound like the vacuum cleaner it is. The effect can be enhanced by an industrial-sized fan (**offstage**), positioned in a way to blow papers and the like up into the hose.

BIRDIE enters, **stage left**, investigates the hose, and is sucked up into it.

CHASE enters, **stage left**, and does the same.

Then DAISY.

Next ELI – each one disappearing.

Finally, FABLE and GRAY enter, **stage left**, rolling a man-size hairball. They roll it into the hose to clog it. Thereupon the suction stops, the hose making a weak wheezing sound for the remainder of the play.

FABLE and GRAY give each other a high five and exit.

## SCENE 3

HOLLY and IVAN carry a large, inflatable egg on stage and up into the bedroom atop the riser. They roll it out the window into the space upstage the audience cannot see. The egg makes the sound of a gunshot as it hits the ground. All exit.

## SCENE 4

JASMINE and KIT carry a basket of bowling pins onstage, set them up, and from a second basket roll balls at the pins. When all the pins are down they gather the pins and balls into their respective baskets and exit.

## SCENE 5

LILY, dressed as a toddler and carrying a large doll, enters, climbs the riser, and lies down to sleep in her crib.

A number of actors, dressed in black, enter from both sides of the stage carrying bedbug puppets. They climb the riser and imitate bedbugs sucking Lily's blood.

Blood appears in various places as the puppeteers all exit.

## SCENE 6

A royal wedding takes place – MONTY as the King and bridegroom, standing, and NADIA as the bride, being walked down the aisle by her brother, OSCAR, and followed by POPPY, holding Nadia's train. Baby LILY watches from her bedroom. Vows are given, presided over by QUIGLEY as priest. King MONTY then puts a ring on Queen Nadia's ring finger.

At the time for the wedding kiss NADIA turns and kisses her brother.

All but LILY exit.

## SCENE 7

NADIA enters with a folding chair, opens it, and sits **center stage** as KIT and JASMINE bring in a watermelon and lay it down on a large sheet, **center stage**.

KIT then proceeds to "behead" the melon with an ax. All exit, including LILY.

## SCENE 8

ROSE, smoking a cigarette, enters **stage right** and climbs the riser. SIMON enters, dressed as a matador, holding a red cape. CHASE enters as a bull. SIMON and CHASE engage in a mock bullfight, SIMON "killing" CHASE at the end.

After the bullfight ROSE descends from the riser and pretends to be a bull, holding her hands to her head, index fingers pointing out like a bull's horns. She passes once at Simon's cape, and then the two embrace and kiss. All exit.

## SCENE 9

HOLLY and IVAN again carry a large, inflatable egg on stage and up into the bedroom. Then they exit.

Several rats “float down” on balloons, climb the riser, and roll the egg off. Again it makes the sound of a gunshot when it hits the stage floor.

TRULY enters piping a pipe. All the rats follow her off the stage.

## SCENE 10

Five monkeys enter with their mother, played by BIRDIE, and a doctor, played by CHASE. The monkeys climb the riser and begin jumping on the bed.

One falls off, and goes crying to his mother, holding his head in pain. CHASE wags his finger at the monkeys up in the bedroom.

A second one falls off, and goes crying to his mother, holding his head in pain. Again CHASE wags his finger at the monkeys.

A third one falls off, and goes crying to his mother, holding his head in pain. And once more CHASE wags his finger at the monkeys.

A fourth one falls off, and goes crying to his mother, holding his head in pain. This time CHASE climbs the riser and brings the fifth monkey down by his ear.

## SCENE 11

DAISY, carrying a pail for water, and ELI enter and climb the riser. ELI slips and falls out the window at the back of the riser. DAISY, trying to catch him, falls out the window as well.

## SCENE 12

Three rats enter, their eyes blindfolded.

FABLE enters with a carving knife, and chases the rats offstage, cutting one or two of their tails off in the process.

### SCENE 13

A mile marker is brought onstage, pointing and stating: ST. IVES 3 MILES.

GRAY enters, travelling in the direction of St. Ives, and stops for a moment at the sign. At that point he is met by a man with seven wives, travelling AWAY FROM St. Ives.

Each wife shows GRAY the sack she is carrying – each one with seven cats in it. And each cat has seven kits.

They then exit in separate directions, waving their goodbyes – GRAY continuing on in the direction of St. Ives, and the others exiting in the opposite direction.

Just as GRAY is about to exit he passes HOLLY, who is carrying a picnic basket filled with curds and whey. They nod to each other as GRAY exits.

### SCENE 14

HOLLY walks on a bit farther, finds a grassy tuffet, sits down upon it, and opens her lunch basket.

Just as she is about to start her picnic lunch along comes a spider and scares HOLLY off stage. The spider remains onstage.

### SCENE 15

The sun is shining, and the spider climbs the riser. But when it reaches the top rain starts falling, and the spider is washed over the back side of the riser.

The sun comes out, and in a few moments the spider can be seen climbing over the back of the riser, where it sits and watches for the remainder of the play.

### SCENE 16

A tub is brought in and IVAN (dressed as a butcher), KIT (dressed as a baker), and MONTY (carrying a few candlesticks) approach the tub, undress, and climb in. Underneath they are wearing bathing suits. The three of them each brings a brush to scrub the others' backs.



## SCENE 17

ALBERT enters (still wearing a rooster hat), closes the treasure chest, and exits. The stage darkens as night falls.

In a spotlight the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker continue rub-a-dub-dubbing in the tub.

A moon rises in the night sky.

In a pair of spotlights: a cat enters, playing a fiddle for a cow, who dances around the stage.

In another spotlight a dog enters and for a while observes what is going on. Then he begins chasing after the cow, who jumps over the moon.

In another spotlight a dish and a spoon enter and are immediately chased across the stage by the dog, who, at the end of the chase, rolls on its back, laughing.

In the darkness all but the spider exit.

## SCENE 18

In a spotlight an Owl and a Pussycat enter, check their backpacks for money and jars of honey, and then exit upstage in the beautiful pea-green boat that's there waiting for them.

## SCENE 19

In a spotlight JASMINE enters, does the Baby Shark dance complete with hand movements, and exits.

## SCENE 20

In a spotlight ALBERT returns in his rooster hat to open the treasure chest and exit. Morning comes.

On the riser with the spider is a tall billboard of a shark or sharks with their teeth showing.

## SCENE 21

LILY, still dressed as a toddler, enters and sits down. A tiger enters from across the stage and comes up to her. Calmly she catches the tiger by the toe, and it hollers (silently). She lets it go, and they both exit as NADIA enters with two sheep following her. She turns to see only two sheep, and covers her face as she cries bitterly.

Three more sheep enter and come up to rub against her, wagging their tails. When NADIA takes her hands down from her face she jumps up and down for joy.

They all (but the spider) exit.

## SCENE 22

A very large pumpkin shell and a very, very large shoe with ten windows are brought in **upstage**. OSCAR enters and stands, as POPPY enters and walks down the aisle to join him. They are married by QUIGLEY (who enters as priest).

After the bride and groom kiss OSCAR leads POPPY upstage to the pumpkin shell, which they enter and go out of sight of the audience.

## SCENE 23

Faces appear in the windows of the giant shoe. The door opens and ROSE steps out for a moment with a cigarette. A matador's red cape is around her shoulders.

## SCENE 24

TRULY enters as the chicken Henny Penny (Chicken Little). She strolls about the stage, looking, and as she walks under the bedroom on the riser the spider throws a pillow (white, in the form of a cloud) down on TRULY. Alarmed, TRULY takes the pillow to show to the many other characters who come on stage (Ducky Lucky, Drakey Lakey, Goosey Loosey, Turkey Lurkey and Foxy Loxy included) – in each case tremulously pointing at the sky. In the end the entire group of them tightly surround TRULY and forcibly escort her from the stage.

SCENE 25

The riser is surrounded by a wall, and 99 bottles of beer are set up on it. The spider sneaks offstage, knocking one of the bottles off the wall on its way.

The entire cast enter to decorate the stage for Christmas.

ALBERT then closes the treasure chest.

**ALBERT**

That's all, Folks.

**The stage goes dark.**

**END**