



2003

# Hole in the Ground

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Leiblich, Lilian. *Hole in the Ground*. Pioneer Drama Services, 1980. Contact publisher regarding price. 22 pp.

Reviewer: Mindy Nelsen

Reading Level: Young adult;

Rating: Shortcomings;

Genre: Detective and Mystery Plays; Plays; Contemporary Realistic Plays;

Subject: Drama--Reviews; Mystery--Juvenile drama; Neighbors--Juvenile drama;

Theme: What you think you see may not be reality.

Production Requirements: The script calls for several complicated props, but the play takes place in only one setting.

Acts: 1

Run Time: 30 min

Characters: 4

Cast: 2 M / 2 F

Time Period: The present.

Elliot Traynor is a teacher and collector of Indian artifacts. His nosy neighbor, Dixie, comes over to visit his wife and finds Elliot acting very strangely and his wife gone. Through the conversation and a bit of spying, she determines that he has murdered his wife and is trying to bury her in the backyard. She calls in Lt. Wolf and Officer Randolph to investigate. After an aloof interrogation with Elliot avoiding questions and threatening Dixie, it is revealed that Elliot is telling the truth, his wife is out of town, and he is just trying to illegally bury a buffalo head in his back yard. He and Dixie go back to being annoyed but good neighbors.

The play contains a lot of questionable and adult themes and language. Though all characters with the exception of Officer Randolph are well-developed, both Officer Randolph and Dixie tend to be stereotypical and static. They seem to run around in circles without any real promoting action taking place. The plot exists, but at the same time, has no real purpose or lesson to teach. The advantages of this production are its small cast and possibility of a nice chemistry. This play, though intended for a young adult audience, is not recommended.