

Booktalk!

Because of the Rabbit Script

For this Book Talk you will need

- 3 actors (Dad, Emma, Woman)
- **Dad:** work pants, work shirt, work boots, toolbox, plastic bin with lid
- **Emma:** jeans, t-shirt, jacket, running shoes
- **Woman:** pants, top, jacket, broom
- **Additional props:** long table, white construction paper cut in shape of picket fence (& taped to table so that it hangs down on one of the long sides), rabbit stuffed animal, copy of *Because of the Rabbit*

Dad: *(walking onto stage with Em & looking around)*
Okay, Em. This must be the place.

Woman: *(standing on opposite side of stage closer to fence, with rabbit positioned so it appears to be stuck in fence; looking up & shouting over to Dad & Em while pointing towards the fence with broom handle)* I tried to poke the rabbit through, but he's wedged in there tight!

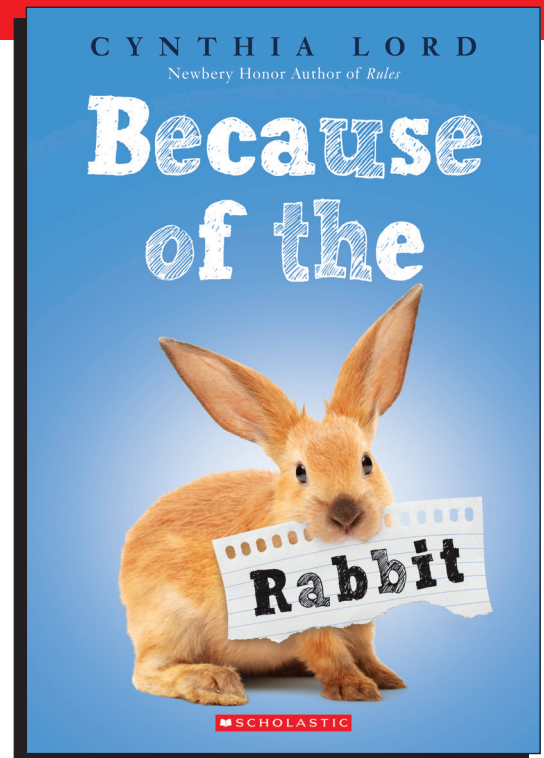
Dad: *(continuing to walk towards fence with Em & shouting back pleasantly)* Don't touch him ma'am – we don't want to risk hurting him.

Em: *(gasping as she notices the rabbit)*

Dad: *(setting down toolbox & bin; walking over to fence & squatting to take a better look at the rabbit)* Well, there's a surprise! *(addressing the woman)* Do any of your neighbours have a pet rabbit?

Woman: *(shaking head)* Not that I know of.

Dad: *(stroking chin thoughtfully)* Look, I'm glad to free it, but as a game warden, I only deal with wildlife. You'll need to call your local control officer to come get this bunny. They handle pets.



Booktalk!

- Woman:** *(glancing at watch & sounding rushed)* How long will that take? I'm supposed to be at a meeting.
- Dad:** *(motioning towards bin while addressing Woman)* I can give you this bin to keep him in until animal control gets here, but I can't –
- Woman:** *(cutting off Dad impatiently)* Let it hop back into the woods. That's where rabbits belong.
- Em:** Not this rabbit. He's not wild.
- Woman:** *(shooting Emma an angry look)* Well, he's not *my* rabbit!
- Em:** *(turning to Dad & sounding worried)* You know he doesn't stand a chance in the woods. Not with all those foxes, lynx and owls.
- Dad:** *(looking from Woman to rabbit to Em)* Well, there's no need for him to suffer while we figure it out. *(leaning down and running his fingers along the rabbit's sides)* His ribs are too round to go forward, so let's try easing him back the way he came. *(pointing towards bin)* Em, take the bin and get behind him – but not too close to those hind legs. Even a little bunny's got a kick. *(Em walking around behind fence and squatting down)*
- Woman:** *(sounding concerned)* It won't jump up and attack us, will it?
- Dad:** *(smirking)* I don't think so... *(pausing)* Maybe you'd like to go in your house, ma'am? Just in case. Emma and I are trained rabbit wranglers, but I can't guarantee your safety. *(Woman looking skeptical, but taking a few steps back)*
- Em:** *(speaking comfortingly to rabbit)* Don't worry. We're here to help you.
- Dad:** *(speaking gently to the rabbit while working to pry it out of the fence; Emma moving the rabbit from behind to make it appear as if the rabbit's moving itself)* Come on. Don't fight it. *(Woman slowly walking offstage)*
- Em:** *(speaking excitedly to Dad)* It's helping! He's coming!
- Dad:** Good! Set the bin on its side, so he'll back into it. *(Emma tipping bin on its side)* Then as soon as he's inside, tip it upright, and throw the lid on.
- Em:** *(moving rabbit backwards out of pickets and into the bin then putting lid on & standing up)* Got him!

Booktalk!

- Dad:** Great job, Em! *(standing and turning to speak to Woman)* Ma'am, let's call your local – *(stopping suddenly when he realizes the Woman is nowhere in sight; looking offstage & seeing that she's driving off in her car)* I don't believe it – the woman is driving off in her car! What does she expect me to do with him?
- Em:** *(walking around to same side of fence as Dad & setting the bin down)* You can't leave him here. That lady doesn't care what happens to him.
- Dad:** The nearest animal shelter is in Rangeley, but I'm sure they're closed for the night now. *(turning to audience)* Where did this little guy come from, and what are we going to do with him?
- Em:** *(opening lid on bin, pulling out a copy of Because of the Rabbit & holding it up for audience to see)* Look for *Because of the Rabbit* when you head to get to our Scholastic Book Fair.