

TAKING THE PLUNGE

A three-minute play for four older actors

By JANE CAFARELLA

Older women, MARY, DEBBIE, SUE and JULIE, are sitting in a plane, all kitted out with skydiving gear, waiting to jump.

MARY: (*Gazing out the window, excited*) Look at that! A bird! I've always loved birds. I could never keep a bird in a cage. I always thought that when I die, I'm gonna come back as a bird. The years went by and one day I thought, why wait. So here I am! I want to fly!

DEBBIE: (*Panic stricken*) There's no birds at 1500 feet, you old fool! You're not gonna fly, you're gonna fall! We're all gonna fall!

MARY: (*Shakes her head*) I'm gonna fly because I believe in fairy dust. "The moment you doubt whether you can fly, you cease forever to be able to do it" – and I quote, Peter Pan!

SUE: (*Cynically*) Grow up, Mary! Debbie's right. We're all gonna fall. We're paying some ridiculous price to fall from a plane.

MARY: (*Reading from a pamphlet, still euphoric*) It says here that it's like being cradled by a cloud – and so quiet. Peaceful!

JULIE: (*Hysterical*) I'm gonna have a heart attack. I know it! Why did I let you talk me into this? Why? Why!

MARY: (*Grabbing JULIE by the shoulders*) Because all your life, you've played it safe. Julie, it's time to take a risk.

JULIE: Playing it safe has paid off. How else would be I be celebrating this milestone: 75 today - dead tomorrow! Help! Let me out! No! Don't! Don't let me out! I wanna go home!

MARY: Calm down! What's the worst that can happen?

SUE: (*Cynically*) I dunno, we all end up splattered over some downtown carpark? Or in a field, where the crows will come and pick out our eyes.

DEBBIE: Oh, my God! I forgot to check my insurance!

JULIE: I forgot to check my will!

MARY: Stop it – all of you! You said you wanted to do something for the first time. There's not much left that we haven't done at our age, so this is it!

DEBBIE: (*Panicked*) This'll be the last time! The last time we do anything!

MARY: Listen, you bunch of crusty old pessimists. All your lives you've taken risks – yes, even you Julie – and here you are – survivors. We're all SURVIVORS! Come on! Get up! Get UP!

They all struggle to their feet, clinging to each other. SFX wind rushing.

Life is thrilling, still! It's a leap of faith. We can do it. It'll be the best day of our lives.

JUMP!

374 spoken words

jane.cafarella@gmail.com

+61 408 880 185

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