

gifts. And it happened that whilst he was away, although the daughter obeyed her father, the brother did not. Instead he meddled with his father's spell books and not only tormented his sister but was cruel to the servants. In fact, he became so wild and uncontrollable that when the father returned the palace was all but in ruins. For by then the son, in his search for wealth and power, had sold his very soul to Schaibar himself...

Schaibar, the Stranger from the Darkness who seeks to lead us all into that same Darkness. Anyway, the wizard could do nothing, realising he had lost his only son forever. And he became first sad and then angry with his daughter for just feebly standing by and doing nothing to stop her brother. And her punishment was to remain in a beautiful but lonely cave high on a mountain. A prison she could never leave until she learnt to stand up for what is right and to oppose all that is bad. Alone with only Nasuh for company. You are the first visitor this place has ever seen, Ahmed. Welcome.

Maybe you were sent? Who knows?

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## SEA URCHINS

by Sharman Macdonald

*Sea Urchins* was first produced at the Dundee Rep Theatre in May 1998, a co-production between the Tron Theatre Company and the Dundee Rep Theatre.

*The play is set in the summer of 1961 on the wild Welsh coast. Rena, a Scottish girl of eleven, is on holiday with her family and struggling with the pains of growing up. She indulges in a fantasy correspondence with a multiple murderer, Manning, who is on the run from the police and whose story fills the newspapers. This speech is addressed to the (unseen) murderer and concerns a twelve-year-old girl, Noelle, whom Rena has met on the beach.*

Accent: Scottish.

RENA: (*Whispers.*) Dear Mr Manning. Dear, dear, dear Mr Manning. I've a candidate for murder I want to introduce you to. I've got your number nine sitting in a fresh water stream in Wales waiting to have your knife plunge into her guts. Dear Mr Manning please don't take any other applications. This is important. Noelle Williams is the one for you. Please get yourself down here by the quickest method of travel. I'll reimburse any expenses you incur though it may take me a while. Girls can be bad bitches Mr Manning but Noelle Williams takes the biscuit. She'll make an awful woman when she comes to maturity. You'd be doing the world a favour were you to cease her being. About dinner time should suit. We'll all be gathered. You'll know the bitch by her yellow swimsuit and the rolls of fat on her upper arms. And the three necklace of Venus lines that circle her dark neck. She says they're a promise of