

## SCHOOL PLAY

by Suzy Almond

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CHARLIE has serious ambitions - to mess with teachers' heads, to front a gang, to ride a motorbike. But when the new music teacher, Miss Fry, arrives, things start to change.

Here CHARLIE talks to her friend Lee about one of her music lessons.

CHARLIE: She... One lesson.. .you see, some lessons she didn't actually teach. And sometimes, especially at the beginning, what she did was boring, you don't wanna hear, she drones. But now and again... One time she was about to play a song about a lady who drowned in a river, but it was nothing to do with the lesson, it was just that she liked it. I said it sounds miserable to me, miss, but she said hang on, and she told me the story: It's a sad song, she said... she fought for love and she lost. . . and now her skin is white as a lily, her lips are rose red, she's still, and floats downstream. She told me to close my eyes and imagine it was a dark moonlit night and that the water was lapping around the lady, taking her in. She said that when she got to the bridge of the song there would be a special note that didn't sound like the rest of the tune. It was a high sound, extra sad, a black key near the end of the piano - and when I heard it I had to imagine it was like a shooting star bursting across the river, trying to wake up the lady. I told her I couldn't be bothered, but when she started to play... And at the end of the second verse, when she hit that key and the sound broke, I felt the note shoot through the roof of this room like a bullet and I saw the star burst and I wanted the lady to wake up. I couldn't wait for that note to come round again. So that she'd open her-eyes.

## TOO LATE

by Jenny Thornton

In this scene a teenage girl reflects on her life. The stage represents two time zones - this year (stage left) and last year (stage right).

(Standing in the middle of the stage.)

Here I bridge the gap - span two time zones. Life was so different then. How could I possibly know? How?

(Mimes watching television.)

Mum! Mum! Bring my cup of tea up will you. Oh goon— please!! No I can't be bothered to come downstairs.

(Taking the tea.)

Thanks. Oh and by the way, I'm not going to the disco, they apparently make a fuss if you don't dance and I'm too tired to dance so I shan't bother. Maybe I'll go to the one next month - Yes - next month.

(Freeze - moves to a towel.)

What a hot day. I'll just sunbathe for a few hours. Paddle! Why on earth would I want to paddle. No thanks I'm staying on my towel - safe - no salty water or sand between my toes.

(Freeze - moves to a flower.)

He loves me - he loves me not - he loves me - he loves me not. What a bore. Why do we have to come on these family picnics I'll never know. And walking - who wants to walk up and down hills. All that grass gives me hay fever.

(Freeze - moves to centre stage.)