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Something Wicked

by Kate Rice

EXTRACT

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Australian Script Centre, trading
as australianplays.org

77 Salamanca Place Hobart
7004 Tasmania Australia

admin@australianplays.org
<http://australianplays.org>
Tel +61 3 6223 4675
Fax +61 3 6223 4678

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SOMETHING WICKED

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CHARACTERS

ELOISE the new girl in school who finds it hard to make friends
SARA the girl in charge of the gang
BREE the good-time girl who never does her homework
MIDGE the girl who is crazy for netball, but not very good at it
RENEE the girl with a crush on the coolest boy in school
MICKEY the coolest boy in school
MRS DAGMAR GRIMBLEY the unfulfilled and terminally cranky teacher
MR MERKIN FERKINS the principal who just wants to be loved
JANELLE Sara's mother
NICK, RUPERT, FRANCES students
EMMA captain of the Dunsinane netball team
VASHTI a netball player
DIANDRA captain of the Inverness netball team
REFEREE
MR HAROLD WALL, MISS SALLY SIMPER teachers
NED the cleaner
WENDY, BARBARA the Paranormal Investigation Society
MACBETH the ambitious lord who kills to become king
BANQUO Macbeth's friend
FLEANCE (n/s) Banquo's son
WITCHES 1, 2 and 3
MACDONWALD (n/s),
MURDERERS 1, 2 and 3
Also Soldiers, Witches, Students, Netball players, Stretcher-bearers, Teachers.

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE: THE BATTLEFIELD

Drums. The Witches awaken, sliding on the floor, sticking to the walls, writhing. They clear the battlefield.

DANCE – THE BATTLE

Macbeth and Banquo's army and Macdonwald's army gather in opposing camps, armed with swords. As the drums reach a crescendo, they rush at each other & fight.

The drums stop, & they freeze.

Eloise's house – Eloise is brushing her hair, preparing for school.

ELOISE Today they will notice me. Today, I will make some friends.

She smiles at her reflection.

ELOISE Shit.

The drums start up again, the battle continues – then stops.

Sara's house – Sara follows her mother (Janelle) out the door as she races off to work, keys jangling & papers flying. Janelle stops to put on her shoes.

SARA You want some breakfast, Mum?

JANELLE Late again.

SARA I made your favourite.

JANELLE Hate these early meetings.

SARA Pancakes.

JANELLE Hate them.

SARA With a fish milkshake?

JANELLE Bye then.

Janelle flies off.

SARA As if you care.

The battle starts up and stops again.

School grounds – Midge comes on with her school bag and her netball, throwing & catching. Renee is studying.

MIDGE Hey, watch this. I can run and jump and throw at the same time.

Renee watches as Midge runs, trips, falls & drops the ball.

RENEE It's definitely an improvement.

MIDGE You think so? Thanks! Better keep practising though, big game today.

Midge throws the ball & falls over again. Bree arrives at the bus stop and sees her.

BREE You keep going like that, they might even let you play.

Midge scrambles after the ball between the feet of the soldiers.

BREE Whatcha doing?

RENEE Studying. Grimbley's test.

BREE Test? What test? Omigod. What's it on? Oh no. Do you mind if I... ?

The drums begin, soft and slow. The battle starts again in slow motion.

Bree looks through Renee's notes, panicked. Renee doesn't even notice because she only has eyes for Mickey, who has appeared on the opposite side of the area. He's talking with his friend Nick.

Renee stands up, smooths her hair.

MIDGE Uh oh, there she goes again. Some people just don't know when to give up.

Midge tosses the ball as she speaks and hits herself in the head.

MIDGE Ow.

Bree and Midge watch Renee as she goes over to Mickey. Sara arrives and watches with them.

RENEE Hi.

Mickey pretends not to hear her. Renee taps him gingerly on the shoulder. He turns around, still pretends not to see her. Finally he does see her, and feigns surprise.

MICKEY Oh. Hi.

RENEE Hi, Mickey. You doing anything after school today?

MICKEY No. I mean yes.

RENEE Oh. That's funny because I'm not doing anything.

MICKEY I guess that's because nobody ever asks you out.

Mickey and Nick snicker. They turn to leave.

RENEE Call me if you change your mind!

Renee smiles bravely. When they've gone she looks as if she might cry.

The drums speed up, the battle speeds up to full fury.

Sara, Bree and Midge all gather around Renee and comfort her.

Eloise arrives and watches them. She smiles at them but they don't see her. They walk as a group towards her, still comforting Renee.

ELOISE Hi!

Eloise can't be heard above the noise of the battle. The girls ignore her.

ELOISE I said hi! Hello!

She waves but they walk right past her. Sara looks at Eloise over her shoulder.

SARA Did you say something?

ELOISE Yes.

SARA I thought so.

Sara goes off with the others. Eloise follows them dejectedly.

The drums and battle noises increase – half of the army is dead. Macbeth faces Macdonwald for the final showdown. They fight. Macbeth unseams him from the nape to the chaps – what’s left of Macdonwald’s army surrenders – and Macbeth is the victor.

SCENE TWO: CLASSROOM

The students file in. Mickey, Renee, Bree and Midge sit in the front row. Nick, Eloise and Sara sit in the row behind. Rupert and Frances sit further behind. The students are quiet and orderly – until they see that Mrs Grimbley has entered the room. Then they start being rowdy.

MRS G Oh shut up. Now, I know you don’t want to be here –

NICK We want to be here, Miss – we just wish you weren’t.

MRS G Very funny. So do I.

RUPERT Miss, is it all right if I –?

MRS G No. Okay, people, this is an exam situation. No books, no notes, no pencil cases, no gum, no lucky fluffy toys, and *no talking*.

RUPERT Miss, can I —?

MRS G No. The exam question is up on the board, you have two minutes reading time after which time you may write in blue pen on white ruled paper for exactly thirty-five minutes after which time we will have no discussion time whatsoever. Do I make myself clear?

FRANCES Miss, I've only got black —

MRS G *Do I make myself clear?*

CLASS Yes, Mrs Grimbley.

RUPERT Miss, I really need to —

MRS G One more word and you're on detention.

Rupert sits back down and crosses his legs.

MRS G Your time starts now.

The students stare at the board in front of them. Grimbley paces around the classroom.

Bree is staring at the board, hopelessly bewildered. She puts her head in her hands.

MRS G Cheer up, Denton, you can't possibly do any worse than last time.

Renee turns to Mickey – tries to catch his eye. He ignores her. She keeps looking at him and smiling.

Mrs Grimbley comes up behind Renee and gives her a whack on the head.

MRS G Heads that aren't looking straight ahead will be whacked.

RUPERT Miss, I still need to –

MRS G Silence! Writing time starts now!

Renee keeps looking over at Mickey. She edges her seat closer to his. He edges away from her.

MRS G Michael McFarlane, are you perfectly in control?

MICKEY Yes thank you, miss, I just wanted to get my eraser.

He turns to Nick and gives a sign. Nick nods.

Mickey tosses the eraser to Nick, who pegs it really hard at Renee. It hits her in the head.

RENEE (gasps) Ah!

Sara gets up to retrieve the eraser.

MRS G In your seat!

SARA Sorry, miss, just getting something I dropped, miss.

Sara slinks back into her seat with the eraser.

Renee turns around to look at Nick, who snickers. Renee rubs her head.

RENEE *(whispering to Bree)* Nick did it!

BREE *(whispering to Midge)* Nick did it!

MIDGE *(turning and whispering to Sara)* Nick did it!

Sara weighs the rubber in her hand. She looks over at Nick – Eloise is between them but she’s bent over writing. At the precise moment that Sara throws the eraser, Eloise straightens up and she gets the eraser full force in the side of the head.

ELOISE Ow!

SARA What?

ELOISE You threw that at me.

MIDGE No, she didn’t.

MRS G Eloise, Sara, and Midge, out the front please.

BREE But she –

RENEE But it was –

MRS G Bree and Renee, you can join them. What do you have to say for yourselves?

SARA I didn't do it.

ELOISE Yes, she did.

MIDGE I don't have anything to say, so I'd like to do a netball skills demonstration instead.

RENEE I don't know why certain people don't like certain other people when they are only trying to be nice.

BREE Let's all dress up in pink elephant suits and go for a swim!

RUPERT Miss, can I *please* go to the toilet now?

EVERYONE No!

Mrs Grimbley gathers up five books of Macbeth.

MRS G Seeing as you have no interest in this exam, your marks for this entire topic will be zero. Next topic is Shakespeare. Tomorrow morning I expect a 2000-word essay on *Macbeth*. You may spend the rest of the class in Detention Room 3.

The whole class gasps.

MIDGE Not Detention Room 3!

BREE Nooooooooooooo!

MRS G Goodbye.

The girls look at the books and start to file out.

ELOISE What's the essay question?

MRS G 'Are the characters governed by their own free will, or by the supernatural?'

SCENE THREE: DETENTION ROOM 3/WITCHES' WORLD

The girls file in to the room.

BREE Detention Room 3. I thought it was just a myth.

RENEE It's for the worst offenders.

MIDGE/SARA All those who ate patty-cake mixture in Year Eight cooking.

SARA Looks like no one's been in here since then.

Eloise sits and starts to read. Midge opens her book.

MIDGE Blah blah blah, thee thy thou, boring boring.

She throws her book down.

MIDGE Anyone for Captainball?

SARA I don't really like getting hit in the head.

ELOISE Neither do I.

Eloise goes straight back to her book.