



*derelection* by Chris Cooper



Celebrating the Rights of the Child

# dereliction

by Chris Cooper



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A room without a view, ten floors up in a block of flats on a 'sink' estate. The door is bolted from the outside. Inside a young man lies low. A girl holds the last of the trust he can muster.

"Why did you come over here?"

"Fed up of curfew. Wouldn't let me out. I had to stand at the door and shout for someone to go to the shop for me."

"Did they?"

"No. The lift was broken."

We live in a climate of fear and nowhere is it more apparent than in society's treatment of young people. The media is awash with headlines about young people terrorising the streets, copious column inches, TV news items, and radio phone-ins about alcohol abuse, family breakdown, sex and violence, and our children's easy access to it on TV, film and through the internet.

*Dereliction* is a study of freedom in a climate of fear, alienation and anger. The play is part of Big Brum's year long celebration of the Rights of the Child.

Design: Ceri Townsend

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