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## Blue / ...Touched... (Oberon Modern Plays)

*Ursula Rani Sarma*

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#2833704 in eBooks 2002-11-18 2002-11-18 File Name: B00BL1PAHK | File size: 70.Mb

**Ursula Rani Sarma : Blue / ...Touched... (Oberon Modern Plays)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blue / ...Touched... (Oberon Modern Plays):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Promise from a young playwrightBy John L MurphyIf you've read the novels of Irvine Welsh or Niall Griffiths, here's a rough counterpart from the West of Ireland in two short plays that explore bonding between friends and/or siblings among disaffected Irish youth.Colloquial, quickly-paced, and

energetic, "...touched..." in my estimation worked better, at least on the page (not having seen either play performed). It depicts an episode of a robbery and its prequel and sequel from a triple perspective, and intersperses poetic description, slangy argot, and the contrast between small-town and Dublin Irish effectively. The potentially maudlin or hackneyed theme of sexual abuse motivates key actions here, and the imagery, to the author's credit, controls this unstable element effectively. The other play, "Blue," may be slower and more meditative, with a sprawling plot that takes in growing up among a trio in a village in the West, and in print, seemed to often downshift from the dynamism of its predecessor, preferring a leisurely exploration of maturity, again with a background of drugs and violence lurking and coming, in both efforts, out of the blue. I predict Ms Sarma will go on to expand upon the potential she's shown here, and I certainly would be open to adjusting my rating if I had the chance to see her plays on stage. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Haunting Drama with a lyrical heart By Rose Ursula Rani Sarma's ...touched... is a moving and eloquent account of a horrific act which robs a young girl of her innocence and her attempt to escape from the world where this act was committed. She and her naive brother Mikey plan their journey away from the small town drudgery where they live with their dysfunctional aunt and uncle. When they eventually do make their escape, the city life they dreamt of is not all they has hoped for. After accidentally committing a crime themselves they flee again only to fall into the hands of a street wise gangster who tries to lead them further astray. I was moved and entranced by this play, the familiar theme is tackled in an innovative and original way which makes it seem like it the first time you are hearing such a story as this. Sarma's lyricism is both haunting and hypnotic and I look forward to seeing a production of this beautiful fragile piece. I was lucky enough to have seen a production of Blue a few years ago in London and was delighted to have the chance to revisit it as a text. It is the story of three young friends who are on the cusp of adulthood and are reluctantly letting go of their childhood and embracing the uncertainty of what is to come. It is Des who leads us through the play and his beautiful monologues at the beginning and end of the play allow us to enter into and leave the world of the piece in a mesmerized state. At the time I saw it Blue had just been named one of the top 5 best plays in London in The Times newspaper. It has stayed with me since then and remains one of the most eloquent and moving plays that I have come across. I look forward to reading more work from this young playwright.

In Blue three childhood friends try to make the most of their last year together in the isolated sea-side town in which they live. They study for their leaving certificate, go clubbing in the city and, in an effort to console their sense of worthlessness, they devise a deadly daily ritual. Together they jump from a point where the cliffs are forty feet above the ocean. In those panicked seconds, plummeting at full force towards the sea, Joe, Des and Danny believe that anything is possible, and that their hopes and dreams may just come true. When one day a mysterious black package is washed up on the shore, it seems as if all of those dreams and hopes are within reaching distance. Until everything falls apart and the unthinkable happens. In Touched Cora and Mikey yearn for Dublin, for a life without darkness, without secrets, without despair. Ensnared in their uncle's dishevelled pub in the "crotch of the country", the young sister and brother make a pact to escape. Cora hides the darkest secret of all, one that dates back to the day of her tenth birthday, when the local doctor brought her to the beach alone for ice-cream. Their flight to Dublin leads them straight into the hands of the street wise, money-hungry Macca, to a horrific crime and to a city that was far from the paradise they had dreamt about.