

*Spring Festival submissions are read by an outside reader. It is a BLIND competition – meaning your name can not appear on the title page or subsequent pages of the copy sent to the reader.*

*Please include TWO Title Pages with your submission to Spring Festival  
One with just the play's title – to be sent to the outside reader  
And one with the Play title, your name, and contact info for the office*

*You may also include a cover letter discussing aspects of the play that you are currently working on. If you want this letter to go to the outside reader – make sure that your name does not appear on the page.*

*The Play should be typed in 12-point font (either Courier or Times New Roman) on 8 ½ x 11 paper  
Printed on ONE SIDE only  
Double spaced, with a one-inch margin on both the right and left.  
See following sample.*

*TITLE PAGE for office*

*Play Title*

by

Playwright X

© Playwright X

Your address - street  
City, postal code  
Phone number  
Email address

Submitted to the Saskatchewan Playwrights Centre Spring Festival of New Plays  
October 30, 2008

TITLE PAGE – To be sent to outside reader

*Play Title*

Submitted to the Saskatchewan Playwrights Centre Spring Festival of New Plays  
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**Put a HEADER ▲ on each page with the Play Title and Page number**

**Characters**

*(Name and describe ALL characters briefly. Sample from Pam Bustin's SADDLES IN THE RAIN - bit dull, but basic.)*

**KATHRYN:** A young woman  
**KAT:** Kathryn as a child - from 5 to 15  
**BABBER:** Kathryn's sister - from birth to teenager  
**DARLENE:** Kathryn's mom  
**JAKE:** Kathryn's stepfather

**Setting:**

*(Describe the stage: both what it's supposed to be and how it's physically laid out. Some go long, some go short - here's a favourite from Mansel Robinson's play THE HEART AS IT LIVED )*

*A room, 10,000 books. June 1996. Regina Saskatchewan*

*(Pam went a bit longer in SADDLES)*

**Notes:**

*The scenes are written to flow into each other. Blackouts should be used VERY SPARINGLY.*

*The main areas on the set are Kathryn's apartment in the Big City and the family's house, which represents all the houses they have ever lived in. These "homes" can be just suggested, or as realistic as you want.*

*Kathryn's apartment should be quite obviously separate and have a very different feel than the family house. A Circle is good.*

*The Family house has a bedroom with a door that shuts and a window Kat can climb out of, a kitchen and a living room with a tape deck and television.*

*There's a huge but portable, velvet Elvis watching over us all. Kat takes the painting off the wall at one point so it needs to be reachable.*

*There is coffee - lots and lots of coffee.*

Mark the act and scene breaks as in Act 1, Scene 1. And let the reader know where you are (SADDLES sample again)  
We've included a two page sample - because it starts off... weird.

NOTE - that the *stage directions* are separated from the character dialogue. The main idea is to make the script as EASY as possible for people to read and understand.

## Prologue

*Kathryn listening.*

*The whispery voices she hears are her mother, her sister, and herself. The lines overlap - so you can't really make them out.*

*The song she hears is Kat singing her mermaid song. It is a beautiful, haunting, childlike tune.*

*If you do the voices live Kat's song is more important than her speaking lines.*

*Suggestions of lines to choose from:*

**Kat/Kathryn:** I swear never to tell.  
Give me a break.  
I can't.  
I don't understand.

**Babber:** I swear never to tell.  
He gone to get her?  
You were gone long.  
I'm okay.

**Darlene:** Your dad's here.  
Leave her alone Jake.  
I really mean it this time...  
We'll get away together.

*Kathryn speaks. Voices continue under.*

**Kathryn:** Women's voices whispering.  
What language? I cannot hear it through my sleep.  
The window is open. The women outside.  
It's raining.  
A child cries. A young girl hums. Sings a mermaid song on the fire escape of an east Toronto tenement. Drifting notes to slip away on.  
Sitting up, I see her through the window. Her dress is blue cotton.  
Sleeveless.

Hanging in the still air  
swinging leg  
air ruffles near the hem.  
Tanned arms,  
head bent to the side,  
singing into the dusk.

*Kat stops singing. Whispers stop.*

**Kat:** What do you fear the most?

**Kathryn:** Death.

**Kat:** No.

**Kathryn:** Knives.

**Kat:** Why?

**Kathryn:** I'm afraid of being cut - what it would feel like.

*We hear a woman {Darlene} crying with a moaning Oboe accompaniment.  
Sniffles and whimpers. Sobs.*

**Kathryn:** I hate the sound of women crying.  
What is that "song" on the radio? I hate that. Hate it.  
Reminds me of...  
Reminds me of my mother when she thinks I'm asleep.

**Kathryn and  
an unseen**

**man:** Who would ever find you sexy?  
Who would ever love you?

**Kathryn:** My father said before he left.

*Crying stops.*

**Kat:** What do you fear the most?

**Kathryn:** Crying. And growing up to be just like Daddy.