

THE BEST NEW FICTION



A Theatre For Dreamers

Polly Samson

Bloomsbury £14.99

To a teenage girl from England, in mourning for her dead mother, the Greek island of Hydra seems like an earthly paradise. The year is 1960 and the picturesque, car-free island has attracted bohemian types from all over the globe, including the young Leonard Cohen. Erica, Samson's impressionable young heroine, soon finds herself on the fringes of an uncharted world of free love, nude swimming and heavy drinking. It will all end in tears, inevitably, but this well-crafted novel beautifully captures the texture of a halcyon age in which anything seems possible.

Max Davidson