

### Bartlett Plays: 1: My Child, Contractions, Artefacts, Cock, Not Talking (Contemporary Dramatists)

By Mike Bartlett



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This first collection of Mike Bartlett's plays showcases the adroit expertise and flair of a writer known for laser-sharp political comment, tight dialectics and needlingly real characters.

My Child is a gut-wrenching exploration of the lengths a father will go to to have access to his child. The play creates a violent world where good intentions count for very little, and offers an incisive, honest look at what it means to be a good parent.

*Contractions* is an ink-black comedy about work and play: Emma's been seeing Darren. She thinks she's in love. Her boss thinks she's in breach of contract. The situation needs to be resolved.

Artefacts depicts a father-daughter reunion which, after 16 years, crosses between the world of a British teenager and an Iraqi expert in antiquity, and is complicated by the ambivalent gift of a precious Mespotamian vase.

*Cock* is a punchy play which takes a playful, candid look at one man's sexuality and the difficulties that arise when you realize you have a choice.



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#### **Editorial Review**

About the Author

Hailed by *Stage* as 'one of the most exciting new talents to emerge in recent times', Mike has worked with various theatres since graduating including Paines Plough, the Royal Court, Soho and Hampstead. He is a winner of the Old Vic New Voices Award and is currently participating in the prestigious Pearson Playwrights Scheme. His plays include *Cock* (Royal Court), *Artefacts* (Bush Theatre) and *Earthquakes in London* (Headlong/National Theatre).

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