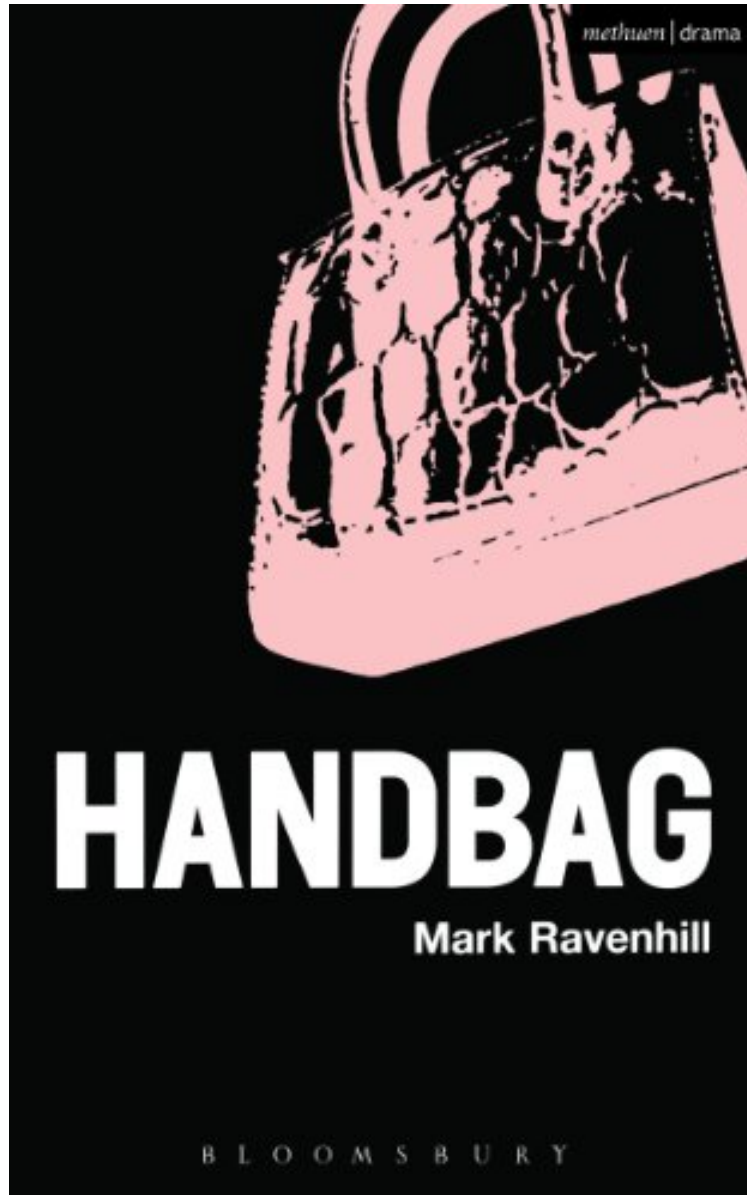


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Handbag (Modern Plays)

Mark Ravenhill

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Mark Ravenhill : Handbag (Modern Plays) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Handbag (Modern Plays):

"In Shopping and Fucking, Mark Ravenhill made theatre relevant to the Thatcher generation. Now he's put videos and Net-surfing in Faust. And it's no less stunning" (Guardian)Twenty-eight years before The Importance of Being

Earnest, a young woman gives birth to a baby boy. Is it an accident when Nanny places him in a handbag and her unpublished novel into the pram? In 1998 a new baby is stolen and an academic discovers an unpublished novel of more than usual revolting sentimentality. From Victorian wet nurses to 90s sperm banks, Mark Ravenhill's play examines the role of parenting in an age of diverse sexualities, biological engineering and Tinky Winky's handbag. "There are few stage authors writing more interestingly than Mark Ravenhill . . . He is - it is now yet more evident - a searing, intelligent, disturbing sociologist with a talent for satirical dialogue and a flair for sexual sensationalism" (Financial Times)

From the Back Cover Twenty-eight years before *The Importance of Being Earnest*, a young woman gives birth to a baby boy. Is it an accident when Nanny places him in a handbag and her unpublished novel into the pram? In 1998 a new baby is stolen and an academic discovers an unpublished novel of more than usual revolting sentimentality. From Victorian wet nurses to 90s sperm banks, Mark Ravenhill's new play examines the role of parenting in an age of diverse sexualities, biological engineering and Tinky Winky's handbag. About the Author Mark Ravenhill is one of the most distinctive contemporary UK playwrights. He burst on to the theatre scene in 1996 with the huge hit *Shopping and Fucking*. He has continued to garner critical acclaim for plays that include *Some Explicit Polaroids*, *Mother Clap's Molly House*, and more recently *Shoot/Get Treasure/Repeat* (National Theatre, Royal Court, Paines Plough, The Gate Theatre, April 2008).