

[The Early Bird](#) by Leo Butler



A child that goes missing is every parent's gravest fear. When it happens to Debbie and Jack in Leo Butler's dark play, their relationship is put under enormous strain as each blames the other as they try to make sense of what has happened to their daughter. In this thrilling 60 minute two-hander, the language moves between naturalism and hyper-realism, brilliantly capturing the surreal quality of the worst time in this couple's life.

The Early Bird premiered at the Belfast Theatre Festival in October 2006.

'Unremitting intensity' *Irish Times*

Genre:	Dark family duologue	Fee:	£56 plus VAT, per performance
Cast:	m1 f1	Scripts:	ISBN 9780713684735 £8.99
Set:	one unspecified setting	Length:	1 continuous scene
Contact:	amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com		

EXTRACT

Debbie What we're trying to say . . .	She would have told me at least.
Jack Maybe there was and maybe there wasn't.	Jack You can't help but think the worst.
Debbie It wasn't . . .	Debbie She hadn't been picked on or anything.
Jack Something.	Jack We don't know that.
Debbie . . . anything either of us had really . . .	Debbie She kept herself to herself.
Jack Something else was going on.	Jack We can't be sure of anything now.
Debbie She would have told us.	Debbie She's a good girl.
<i>Pause</i>	Jack Right.

If you enjoyed this, you might like:

- *The Grown-Ups* by Nicholas Kelly (m3 f2)
 - *Losing Louis* by Simon Mendes de Costa (m3 f4)
 - *Christmas* by Simon Stephens (m4)
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