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BOOK REVIEW

Loss, Change and Bereavement in Palliative Care

Pam Firth, Gill Luff, David Oliviere (eds)



Maidenhead, Berks, UK
Open University Press
2005, 207pp

£ 65.00 hb
ISBN 0 335 21324
£19.99 pb
ISBN 0 335 21323

This edited collection is based on the premise that loss and change are fundamental to the experience of end of life. During the transitions of advanced illness, patients and families face numerous losses which culminate for families in the irrevocable loss of bereavement. Many books have addressed this theme from a number of perspectives within David Clark's 'Facing Death' series, for example from a sociological viewpoint by Walter¹, focusing on family therapy by Kissane and Bloch² and parental loss by Riches and Dawson³. This text is a welcome addition to the series because it is comes from the perspective of social work.

The editors are well-known social workers who have a wealth of experience in palliative care. They have drawn

together an impressive group of authors who cover topics from an overview of theories of loss, to social exclusion, user involvement and ethnicity. As in most edited collections some chapters stand out as fresh and challenging; and I would like to commend those on cultural aspects of loss by Shirley Firth, on family carers by Richard Harding and on models of user involvement by Peter Beresford and his colleagues. The whole book is underpinned by egalitarian ideals and a strong attention to the social implications, which makes it a good alternative to the more usual psychological accounts of loss and bereavement.

While some of the chapters are less polished, overall this book is appropriate for postgraduate students and practitioners in all aspects of palliative care and bereavement work. ●

Sheila Payne
Professor of Palliative Care

1. Kissane DW, Bloch S. *Family Focused Grief Therapy: A Model of Family-centred Care during Palliative Care and Bereavement*. Maidenhead, Berks, UK: Open University Press, 2002.
2. Riches, G, Dawson P. *An Intimate Loneliness: Supporting Bereaved Parents and Siblings*. *Ibid*, 2000.
3. Walter T. *On Bereavement: the Culture of Grief*. *Ibid*, 1999.

TRIBUTE

Within that huge *corpus*, bereavement has remained something of a Cinderella.

In some hospices the model of bereavement service developed at St Christopher's has been copied, often in a slavish way, and without the fresh research that encourages healthy growth; in others the need for bereavement support has been exaggerated. Thus, in the USA it became a condition of hospice funding that every bereaved person should receive the help of a bereavement service. It is paradoxical that, in many parts of the world, it is now necessary for someone to die in a hospice for the family to obtain bereavement care.

Outside of the hospice movement the research and service developed at St Christopher's has stimulated a wide range of services including services for bereaved children and in disaster areas. For example, St Christopher's now runs its own child bereavement service (The Candle Project) that is not restricted to the children of patients dying in the hospice. Likewise, several hospices in the Indian Ocean region provided bereavement support to survivors of the tsunami on 26 December last year.

The institutionalisation, or fossilisation, that often accompanies charismatic movements may now be changing. Several well-conducted evaluations of hospice services have shown that most bereaved people do not need and will not benefit from counselling. On the other hand a number of methods of helping with particular problems have proved their worth. These include David Kissane's family focused grief therapy, which was developed in hospices and cancer units in Australia⁵.

Cicely's model of care grew out of her love for a patient and it is not surprising that, within the hospice movement, it is the patient who remains the focus of care. But the time may be approaching when it is the family, which includes the patient, which will be recognised as the appropriate unit of care, for in the end the patient's troubles will soon be over, while those of their families may just be beginning.

Cicely Saunders died peacefully, aged 87, of cancer, in the hospice that she had created. When last I talked with

her she told me that her bags were packed and, although she was not suffering and was full of praise for the staff, she was tired of life and ready to move on. In a book of selected readings she edited, *Beyond All Pain*⁶, is a quotation from Hebridean altars that can be taken as a farewell message to us all:

Beloved, go and live thy life in the
spirit of my dying,
In righteousness and love;
Then truly shalt thou share my victory
and taste my peace. ●

Colin Murray Parkes
Consultant Psychiatrist

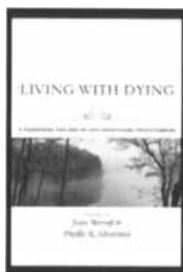
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5. Kissane D, Bloch S. Family Focused Grief Therapy. Buckingham, UK; Philadelphia, USA: Open University Press, 2002.
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BOOK REVIEW

Living with Dying A Handbook for End-of-life Healthcare Practitioners

Joan Berzoff, Phyllis R. Silverman (eds)



New York/Chichester
W Sussex, UK
Columbia University
Press, 2004
928pp
£55.00/\$85.00 hb
ISBN 0 231 12794 4

This large tome of 44 chapters is mainly written by and for social workers. The editors are leading figures in American end-of-life social work. Four sections present personal experiences and reflections, theory in death and dying, clinical issues in work in particular groups and settings, and policy and management issues.

The main focus is on social work during the process of dying. The editors see bereavement work as integral to that but most chapters do not attempt this integration explicitly. For example, otherwise good overviews of social work in hospice, and on clinical social work, practice in end-of-life care barely mention bereavement. Silverman's thoughtful chapters on the history of social work

in end-of-life care, on bereavement as a transition and on helping bereaved people are some compensation.

The perspective is often psychodynamic. Berzoff's excellent chapter on psychodynamic perspectives in grief and bereavement is not matched by similar treatment of other approaches, although constructivist viewpoints using narrative are represented. Cultural factors in assessment and treatment are emphasised, an approach that distinguishes American social work from the British focus on anti-discrimination. Case management and advocacy in social work, recognised by the editors, are not reflected in the largely counselling focus of many chapters.

Much of this book, therefore, does not speak to theoretically eclectic social workers in the British welfare system as well as Curren's briefer text¹. However, applying the insights on end-of-life care in Berzoff and Silverman's broad-ranging collection to bereavement care offers interesting ideas, covering individual, family and group work. ●

Malcolm Payne

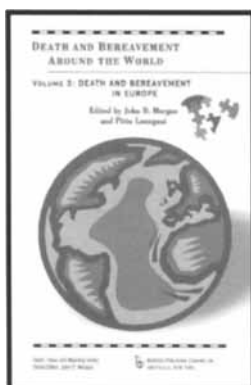
Director, Hospice Psychosocial and Spiritual Care

1. Curren C. Responding to Grief: Dying, Bereavement and Social Care. Basingstoke, Hants, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2001.

BOOK REVIEWS

International perspectives

Death and Bereavement in Europe



John Morgan
Pittu Laungani (eds)
Amityville, New York:
Baywood, 2004
224pp

\$44.95 hb
ISBN: 0 89503 236 8

\$33.95 pb
ISBN 0 89503 237 6

remieva explores Russian attitudes to death before the Revolution through literature, which reveals a glorification of death and an elaborate etiquette of condolences that were subsequently lost. The Soviet ideology ignored personality and human rights, including the 'right of consolation', and medical staff 'indulged in no moral reflection' for years. Russia now faces more deaths through violence, suicides and traffic accidents than 20 years ago, with a lowering of life expectancy. Changes in attitude began with articles by philosophers, followed by translations of writings on thanatology (Kübler-Ross etc).

In Roth's view, the impact of World War II on Germany led to the invisibility of death and an inability to mourn, avoiding 'reflection, taking stock of things, dealing with questions and personal guilt'. In West Germany consumerism became all important and films dealt with happy endings, whereas East Germany promoted an illusion of a 'new person' and 'absolute equality'. Memories of Nazi policies have led to massive opposition by doctors to euthanasia, despite demands for it. In the Netherlands the experience of the war and holocaust as well as a growth of interest in the survivors of Japanese

camps in Indonesia has led to an understanding of the long-term effects of trauma, and also to educational programmes for children about the past. The development of attitudes to euthanasia arises out of compassion for the suffering rather than devaluing life.

For Thompson, the historical domination of England over Wales has led to an 'institutionalised approach to the end of life matters', which puts at risk not only the Welsh language, but its culture. For those working with ethnic minorities, he stresses the need to recognise language as a feature of social identity, particularly for the dying, who are 'unique individuals with important roots of identity in his or her cultural and linguistic background'.

A common theme throughout the book is lamenting of loss of family and religious support, both for the dying and for the bereaved. This is attributed to the growth of individualism and depersonalisation due to the medicalisation and professionalisation of death. Jupp and others comment that the increase in the numbers of women working means there is less support for home care, yet it is universally perceived as important. The roles of women are drawn out particularly in two fascinating articles on Greece

THIS IS THE THIRD VOLUME in a series, *Death and Bereavement around the World*, encompassing essays from 14 European countries. Themes which the writers address include the growth of palliative care and hospices, bereavement care, deaths of children, suicides, and ethical issues such as organ transplants and euthanasia. A principal theme is the growth of secularisation and its influence on the denial and medicalisation of death. Of particular interest are the historical influences behind the changes in attitudes to death in different countries, which include the impact of war, occupation and the Soviet system.

(Papadatou and Jossifides) and Portugal (Tovar). In both countries there is still a cult of death, very much in the hands of women. In Greece, there are still secondary burials of 'the exhumed bones, seen as the final severing or re-ordering of the relationship between the dead and the living'. In both countries there is an intense mourning period with social support, and religious rituals still playing an important role before and after death.

In Northern Europe, by contrast, the writers point to the privatisation of grief. Roth sees the growing practice in Germany of embalming as a reflection of the denial of death, and grief is invisible because of the breakdown of religious involvement and family life. Even in Ireland, Durkin and Walshe point to the demise of the wake, and a 'change from a relationship-centred society to a work-and-activity centred society [with] increasing recognition of the individual's physical and psychological space'.

The role of religion, whether in established or new forms, is reflected in a number of chapters. Rogiewicz and Ratajska cite the observation of a Marxist writer, Cackowski, that 'believers look to a future life and that is why they approach dying with a greater

BOOK REVIEWS

sense of dignity... non-believers, when dying, look to their previous life'. The growth of suicide rates in many countries is attributable to loss of meaning, but there are also encouraging moves to provide 'good deaths', evolve meaningful rituals and provide bereavement support. For example, the Natural Death Centre in Belgium and the Netherlands, and the Hope and Life movement in Portugal which helps widows 'cope with the emotional aspects of death by taking advantage of religious ideology as a tool for self-empowerment and self-realisation'. This acknowledges both traditional and new roles, modifying some of the more stultifying traditions for widows. Wretmark describes Sweden as having had a 'death-free generation' in the 1970s, but there is a growing exploration of the existential and spiritual issues. In Sweden and the Netherlands there is particular concern for parents who have experienced miscarriages and neonatal deaths.

While the writing is at times uneven, with a couple of short or obscure chapters, the book also contains thoughtful and lively writing from a number of angles, and will be useful to volunteers and professionals working in palliative and bereavement care, and social work. The ways in which different countries approach these issues, arising out of different historical experiences, inevitably determine the way care of the dying and bereaved will develop, and it is important to acknowledge and respect this. It is also salutary to recognise the value of religious, social and cultural traditions around death and bereavement where they are still strong, and to explore ways in which these can be preserved or developed in new contexts. Learning about other cultures is helpful in multicultural situations, but cultural pluralism is not addressed in any of the chapters. In these situations informed consent and disclosure become very important, and the book would have gained by a chapter from Olarte on cultural and ethical issues around disclosure in palliative care in Spain¹. Family structures are also important in understanding patients from minority ethnic communities, and Gordon and Paci's exploration of social structures and disclosure in Italy², not referred to by Campione, would also throw light on issues of disclosure, for example for South Asian patients. Despite these shortcomings, the book should nevertheless provoke discussion and provide inspiration for new ideas.

Shirley Firth

Lecturer, *Cultural Perspectives on Death and Bereavement*

1. Olarte JMN, Guillén DC. Cultural issues and ethical dilemmas in palliative and end of life care in Spain. *Cancer Control* 2001; 8(1): 46-51.
2. Gordon D, Paci E. 1997, Disclosure practices and cultural narratives: understanding concealment and silence around cancer in Tuscany, Italy. *Social Science and Medicine* 1997; 44: 1422-1452.

Death and Bereavement in Asia, Australia and New Zealand

John D Morgan, Pittu Laungani (eds)



Amityville, New York:
Baywood, 2005
158pp
\$46.95 hb
ISBN 0 89503 234 1
\$35.95 pb
ISBN 0 89503 235 X

This slim volume introduces the reader to issues surrounding death, dying and bereavement in the Asia/Pacific basin, Australia and New Zealand.

The multi-cultural, multi-religious societies in which we live demand that health practitioners and other caregivers have an awareness of different traditions in relation to death and dying. The cultural tradition affects the understanding of the meaning of death, rituals associated with the dying process, beliefs about an afterlife and whether burial or cremation is chosen. Mourning, and the manner of expressing grief, along with the specific roles for men, women and children are also largely culturally determined.

The editors have chosen writers with a professional

knowledge of death and bereavement practices in Australia and New Zealand, with contributions on the latter from both a white and Maori perspective. The cultural considerations in Hindu funeral practices in India and England provide a comparative overview of 'end of life' rituals. Japanese writers in the chapter aptly titled 'The spirits of the dead' give perspectives on the care of the dying and religion in a changing society. The Korean death system is examined as well as glimpses of Chinese practices from Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The book reveals the diversity of traditions and practices both between and within cultures. It is eminently readable providing the reader with an awareness of death and bereavement practices across the region. The content format is not uniform so the chapters vary from a sociological/historical perspective to very specific cultural religious practices as expressed by the Maori and Korean writers and the outline of the hospice movement's development in Asia. A geographically unanticipated contribution from the Israeli authors reveals the changing face of death and bereavement there from a sacred and secular viewpoint.

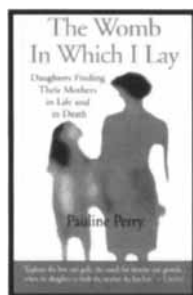
This volume maintains the high standard we expect from John Morgan, one of the editors, and it was probably his last contribution to the bereavement literature before his death earlier this year. ●

Geoffrey Glasscock

Psychologist, former National President of NALAG

The Womb in which I Lay Daughters finding their mothers in life and death

Pauline Perry



London: Souvenir
Press, 2003
163pp
£16.99 hb ISBN 0 285
63666 9
£9.99 pb ISBN 0 285
637193

The Womb in Which I Lay offers a perspective on how the death of mother effects and strengthens the bond between mother and daughter, and sets out to cover prominent areas within the mother-daughter relationship such as love, grief, guilt, personal and sexual identity. Ten women's stories are used as examples to demonstrate these aspects. However, the women chosen were all remarkable and successful, not diverse in culture, and all of the same generation, now middle-aged. Any ambivalent or negative aspects in the relationships are not

really dealt with in any depth, except through the author's references to the writing of other women. One aspect of this book that I did find useful and interesting was the use of ritual; the author writes of different burial rituals across different cultures and religions, and the importance and effect these had on the bereaved daughters, whose experiences were poignant and touching.

I would be reluctant to suggest this book to most of my bereaved clients, especially those that fall outside the generational bracket of the book, as many people who come for bereavement counselling are dealing with complicated grief following difficult relationships. Nor would it be useful to those who are trying to expand their insight in a professional capacity in counselling or psychotherapy. I might recommend it to women of the same generation who have had relatively well-functioning relationships with their mothers, as they may experience a sense of acknowledgement through these women's stories and find it useful in identifying their own emotional experience. This is a collection of personal, emotional accounts of grief rather than an analytical reference tool. ●

Karen Wrack

Bereavement Supporter

For adults supporting a child

Someone Very Important has Just Died

Mary Turner



London: Jessica Kingsley, 2004
48pp
£6.95/\$9.95
ISBN 1 84310 295 1

This little book offers support to people, such as parents, who are caring for a bereaved child. The author is a counsellor working with bereaved children, who saw the need for a simple book of suggestions to help during this stressful time. Thus the book is made up of short chapters, each with a bullet point summary.

It contains a number of thoughtful suggestions, such as including children where possible in making decisions, for example how they would like their teacher to be told about their bereavement or what readings should be included at the funeral. Another good idea was that of drawing a circle of support, a picture of the child surrounded by those who love and care about them. This would be a lovely way to remind even pre-verbal children that, despite their loss, they are not alone.

The most useful chapter is 'Talking to children about death and funerals' which includes suggested forms of words to use. It is often tempting to use euphemisms and vague statements in these situations in an attempt to protect a child from the reality of death. But in our work with traumatised children we have found that clear statements about what has happened, that are appropriate to the child's age, help to avoid confusion. The suggestions included in this chapter are likely to help parents and carers struggling with this difficult task.

I would recommend this book to professionals coming into contact with recently bereaved children, but those who working with families months or years after a significant death are less likely to find it relevant. Although the text has been carefully written to be culturally neutral, the illustrations tend to depict white western people and as such may be less appealing to those from other cultural and ethnic groups.

Lucy Serpell
Clinical Psychologist

When Someone you Love Dies

By William L Coleman



Minneapolis, MN, USA
Augsburg, 1994
124pp
\$6.99
ISBN 0-8066 2670 4

This small book discusses how adults may help children after bereavement. There is much that is good advice in the book. For example, adults are advised not to be in a hurry, to be positive, not to lie, to be a good listener, to accept children's feelings, to encourage questions, and to show their own feelings. The author argues that facts and feelings need special attention after bereavement, but also includes faith as a third. This is my main reservation about this book. It appears to be written by someone with a strong Christian faith and there are frequent Biblical references. A belief in resurrection is assumed ('we believe it will happen at God's perfect time') and we are told, 'Jesus will head up the welcoming committee when we get [to heaven]'. In my view, such a strong Christian perspective limits the book's appeal and usefulness.

When your Child Loses a Loved One



Theresa Huntley
Minneapolis MN, USA:
Augsburg, 2001
2001
56pp
\$4.99
ISBN 0 8066 4262 9

This book is written for parents and provides excellent value for money. The author, a clinical social worker at a children's hospital in Minnesota, explains how an understanding of death develops during childhood and adolescence, how children grieve, and gives advice on how to talk to children about death. Parents are advised to answer questions truthfully, to explore questions when deciding how best to answer them, and to avoid

euphemisms. Good clinical vignettes illustrate the points made. The reader is reminded that a bereaved child may present with physical symptoms, as well as behavioural changes, poor concentration and emotional responses such as anger and denial, and that bereavement may challenge existing personal beliefs.

Professionals, such as teachers, may also find this book helpful. Personal preference will dictate whether a teacher chooses this book or *Supporting Bereaved Students in Primary and Secondary Schools* (see review on p62), since they both cover similar ground. The latter is written for UK professionals and very attractively presented, and as someone who works in the UK I would chose this one. Cruse Bereavement Care publishes a similar, very popular title, *When Someone Dies; How Schools Can Help Bereaved Students** (reviewed in *Bereavement Care* 16[3]: 39) which is also recommended. Such publications should be in every school and, rather than left to gather dust on a shelf, should be regularly used to train and support staff and pupils. ●

Martin Newman

Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

* Order direct from Cruse. Also a companion book, *When Someone Dies: Help for Young People Coping with Grief*. £2.95 each. Tel +44[0]20 8939 9530; www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk.

EVENTS IN 2006

Facing grief: young people and bereavement. 10th annual conference of Bereavement, Loss, Training and Support (BLTS). Northwood, Middx, UK. 15 Feb. Keynote speaker, Ann Chalmers. Contact BLTS: tel 020 8930 7375; blts.blts@ntlworld.com

Bereavement services: training support workers. Two-day course with Marilyn Relf, Di Rivers. 31 Jan-1 Feb. **Responding to complicated grief.** Study day (NICE level 3). 23 May. Oxford, UK. Sobell Study Centre: tel 01865 225886; ssc@orh.nhs.uk

CORRECTION

In Leila Gupta's article, 'Children exposed to war in Afghanistan', *Bereavement Care* Summer 2005 (24(2): 31-43), the second sentence should have read: 'In 1994 alone 500,000 adults and 300,00 children were brutally massacred in a three-month period during the Rwandan genocide'.

BOOK REVIEWS

Bereavement in a school setting

Supporting bereaved students in primary and secondary schools

Karen Lowton, Irene Higginson, Frances Kraus, Barbara Munroe *et al*



London: National Council for Hospice and Specialist Palliative Care Services, 2004
14pp
£5.00
ISBN 1 89891 534 2

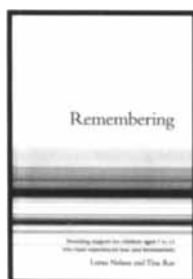
This short A4 booklet is subtitled 'Practical advice for school staff', and this is amply justified by the contents. The authors' stated aim is to support teachers in dealing with a child's bereavement, highlight some of the difficulties that they may encounter (for example, anxiety, anger, daydreaming, being over-absorbed in school work, changes in behaviour, separation anxiety, psychosomatic symptoms), and to offer practical solutions. Some of the possible consequences of the death of a parent are covered, such as having to move home and/or school, and having to live on a reduced income. Teachers are advised to avoid euphemisms, and encouraged to speak with the child, to show sympathy, and to note significant dates for the child in the class register, so that the teacher is reminded that the child may need particular support around those times. The booklet is clear, concise, and readable. At £5, it is very affordable and is highly recommended to teachers and to others who work with bereaved children.

Martin Newman

Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

Remembering

Lorna Nelson, Tina Rae



Bristol, UK: Lucky Duck, 2004
92pp
£18.99 hb
ISBN 1 90431 542 9

The authors here are both educational psychologists and I particularly liked their ideas for finding ways to

bring death and dying into the curriculum. The 35 worksheets, aimed at the 7-13 age group, are full of good ideas for working with children. A very busy teacher or practitioner will be able to use them with little preparation and, for those with a bit more time, they will be a source of inspiration and ideas that can be developed to the particular needs of the situation.

The first chapter provides an overview of death and bereavement which may not be comprehensive enough for some, but does provide a starting place if this is unfamiliar territory. However, in their successful attempt to be succinct, I worry that the authors have oversimplified concepts. Although this book is obviously intended as a practical guide rather than an academic work, some of the assumptions about bereavement could have been better referenced. It is important to encourage practitioners to think of grief as a lengthy process lasting years not weeks, so I was concerned at the suggestion that grief is limited to a two-year period.

Nonetheless this book is easy to read and the accompanying computer CD of worksheets to print out is particularly useful. Don't use this book to tell you all about grieving children; do use it to inform, inspire and, if necessary, instruct your work on bereavement with children as individuals, or in a group or class situation.

David Trickey

Consultant Clinical Psychologist

Saying Goodbye To Greg

Christine Chapman



Oxford, UK: The Bible Reading Fellowship
2004
137pp
£7.99pb
ISBN 1 84101 210 6

This book addresses a particular bereavement issue – how does a school cope with the sudden violent death of a pupil? It presents a fictional account of a school in which a child is killed on the road when roller blading. It describes the reaction of the head teacher and staff and the ways in which they helped the children deal with the trauma. This part of the book is full of detailed advice based on received wisdom about helping any children affected by a

death, both siblings of the dead child and the whole school community. It is focused and could be of use to teachers anywhere. However, it links with the stages of the National Curriculum, and so will be of most interest to UK readers. I liked the chapter about the funeral, in particular the contribution of the undertaker, not often brought into books about helping children.

The author, who has a background of social work, is now a director of counselling and bereavement training in an Anglican setting, and the next section of the story goes into what was done in the junior church on Sunday and the involvement of the vicar in what is presumably a church school. There is detailed theological attention to the problem of 'Where is God in fatal accidents?', for the sake of the staff. These sections could be off-putting for teachers of no faith.

With this proviso, *Saying Goodbye to Greg* could well be on the booklist for a course on unexpected or traumatic bereavement in a school setting, and indeed two of the chapters offer a blueprint for such an eventuality. As an aid on the morning after the worst has happened, it is less useful. It is long and the print is quite small, sometimes dense and therefore daunting. However, the chapter headings and the checkpoints at the end of the chapters do make it possible to 'dip in'. Some teachers may find it somewhat patronising, but for a school using it to prepare before the event there is much wisdom here, and on this basis I can commend it.

Bringing Home The Dead

Dennis Carter



Oswestry, Shropshire, UK: Catchfire Publications, 2003
130 pp
£5.50 pb
ISBN 0 95334 093 4

This book has an intriguing dedication: 'For the children of Class 3B, Higher Bebington County Junior School 1965-1966'. It becomes clear that this was the author's class in his first teaching job. Where are those real children now? Dennis Carter is an established children's author and the date is significant because he sets his story in 1966 in Merseyside where he was born. Consequently there are references to the Beatles and England winning

B O O K S

the World Cup in 1966, but I don't imagine this will be a problem with children of today.

We see a great many books for young people with a bereavement theme. Some stand out because they are grabbing tales in their own right. This one has an arresting first sentence and is about things to which children can relate: relationships with teachers and peers, school trips, football, pop music, and even the serious dangers of accepting lifts from strangers. It is good to see football there – more bereavement books seem to be about girls than boys.

However, it is a girl, Dawn, who is the main character, still grieving for her sailor father who died

at sea two years ago. The body was never returned. She relates badly to her stepfather and, strictly against her mother's instructions, she revisits the now derelict house in which they lived with her father. There she stores her reminders of him. She is very good at creative writing and produces a parallel story of a girl at the time of the Crusades whose father is killed. All this is skilfully woven into the main narrative of how her beloved teacher and others realise her plight and help her through. This is a good story; it held me and I enjoyed it. The protagonists are ten years old but this book might be appreciated most by children somewhat older. ●

Mary Bending
Teacher and Bereavement Counsellor

A B S T R A C T S

Stress, social support and quality of life of bereaved spouses

Cheng BB, Ma JL. In: Tse JWL, Bagley C (eds). *Suicidal Behaviour, Bereavement and Death Education in Chinese Adolescents*, ch 7. Aldershot, Hants, UK: Ashgate, 2002

Reports of research into bereavement in China are seldom reported in English language journals. Although this sample of 70 bereaved spouses in Hong Kong who were interviewed six months to two years after bereavement, cannot be said to be

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