

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. ●

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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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