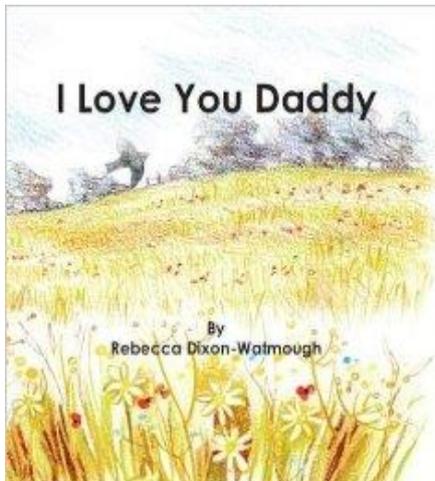


MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT
RIGHT THERE WITH YOU

BOOK REVIEWS

Read what people affected by cancer think about...



I love you daddy (2014)

Dixon-Watmough R.
Sandbach: Millgate House Publishers, 2014.
28pp.
ISBN 9780956264671.

Average star rating 4.0 (out of 5)

Macmillan Cancer Support
89 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7UQ

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This will be useful for children going through bereavement or who have a parent with terminal cancer. It will give a child who has just found out that a parent has terminal cancer an idea of what is to come. The scary part of cancer is not knowing what to expect – this will give children an idea of what will happen. It will also help after bereavement, to help them understand, and to know that they are not alone, that other children also go through this. Bereavement does make you feel alone.

The information is in a logical order and I like the way it is told; it really makes you feel like you are living it with the child and it's relatable. All the words are suitable for children, especially the part where they explain cancer with the cells getting poorly and becoming a growth or a tumour. I think that works well and explains it well for children to understand. I really like the look of the book and the illustrations.

I like how it is written as if the child is telling the story, telling you about her dad, and how it explains what cancer is. It isn't too detailed, it is done nicely.

I lost my dad to stomach, colon and pancreatic cancer (18-25) (November 2017)

A child will really understand this book but it might be a good idea for the parent to read it too, to understand how their child might be feeling. I think it is best read after the bereavement so that the child can understand.

The story is told in a lovely, touching way and it is easy to understand. Everything is in a nice context for a child to read. The illustrations help the child to imagine more.

Even though it's sad that the child's daddy died, it's helpful to know how a child feels in a situation like this. It shows the child that they're not alone and it could really help the way they're thinking to know that someone else they are reading about is going through a similar situation. It might also help a parent or other family member to understand how a child might be feeling. I definitely recommend it.

My dad died in November 2015. He had a rare form of liver cancer and there wasn't much they could do for him (18-25) (March 2017)



This is a book that could be shared with younger children or read by slightly older ones independently. It is a brave and useful insight into what it's like when a loved one is close to death and then dies. It could be read at any time, but after a bereavement would be particularly useful.

I like the way the story is told (in the first person) as I think that other children may well relate to this, especially those aged 7-10 years as they could read the story independently. It could certainly answer some questions that a child may wish to ask, but is too shy or embarrassed to do so.

It is very easy to understand but I'm afraid that I don't like the look of the book. The cover illustration gives no clue as to what the book is about (for younger readers) and the illustrations inside are more decorative than purposeful or useful for discussion.

I like the honesty but don't like the continual references to Heaven in response to where Daddy is when he has died. The book is clearly written from the heart and I could have done no better, but the illustrations and format make it look as if it is a 'special' book to read in 'special' circumstances. It stands out as being different and I prefer to see books of this nature as no different to other picture books. Then again, it will serve the purpose and do the job and others may well think differently.

Living with cancer (myelodysplastic syndrome) and former teacher of 3-16-year-olds with SEN (46-55) (May 2017)



The lovely thing about this book is that all proceeds go to Macmillan Cancer Support. This alone makes it difficult to be critical.

There is a place for many types of books that deal with bereavement. What works for one child and family might not for another. Many children from Christian families will be able to relate to this book and it may help. There are some nice thoughtful moments that deal with worries and fears that could help.

However, some families will not be comfortable reading parts to children. You must be prepared to explain what god and heaven is perceived to be. This is not something I would read to a child as I think it could be very misleading although I appreciate it is all supposed to soften the blow.

I like the simple way that cancer is explained and the author's good intentions that the proceeds go to Macmillan. The story is in logical order and is easy to understand but, given to the wrong child, it could be misleading. The illustrations are fitting for the text but I don't think they are clear enough for a young child to appreciate and I am not keen on them.

There are parts I really don't like; for instance, the suggestion that Dad could unwrap a speedboat in heaven as a surprise with relatives who have already died. Although this is a nice comforting thought for some, it won't sit easy with others and could be very misleading. I dislike the fact that god and heaven are referred to.

In short, a Christian family might benefit from this but I would not recommend it otherwise.

Breast cancer patient with five grandchildren (46-55) (October 2017)

Further information

Why does Macmillan Cancer Support review books?

We use reviews to help us compile a list of suggested cancer books, the [Macmillan Core Book List](#). Cancer information centres and public libraries can use this list to select appropriate and relevant books for people affected by cancer.

We add reviews to the [Directory of information materials for people affected by cancer](#) so that people affected by cancer can see what others in a similar situation think about a book. You can also see details of all the books reviewed in the [Book reviews listing](#), which also has links to all the reviews.

We recruit most of our reviewers through the [Volunteering Village](#) and the [Cancer Voices Network](#), people affected by cancer who have signed up to help Macmillan Cancer Support in a number of ways. Volunteers are a vital part of our book review process; since 2007, over 1,500 Macmillan volunteers have written more than 6,000 reviews of over 500 different books.

If you are a health professional who would like to review books for us, please [email Sue Hawkins](#), Information Materials Researcher, Macmillan Cancer Support.

Information and support for people affected by cancer

If you are looking for support to help you live life with cancer, you may wish to contact one of [Macmillan's cancer information and support services](#). Or you can call the Macmillan Support Line free on **0808 808 00 00** (Mon-Fri 9am–8pm). We have an interpreting service in over 200 languages. Just state, in English, the language you wish to use. If you are deaf or hard of hearing you can use textphone no 0808 808 0121 or Text Relay.

You can also email us using the [website enquiry form](#). Alternatively, [visit our website](#).

Feedback

If you have any comments, please [email Sue Hawkins](#), Information Materials Researcher, Macmillan Cancer Support.

We're here to help everyone with cancer live life as fully as they can, providing physical, financial and emotional support. So whatever cancer throws your way, we're right there with you.

For information, support or just someone to talk to, call 0808 808 00 00 or visit macmillan.org.uk

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