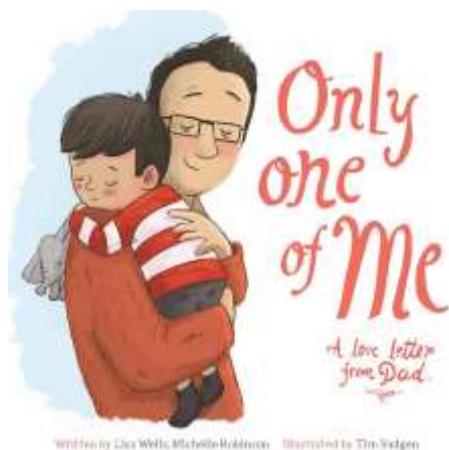


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BOOK REVIEWS

Read what people affected by cancer think about...



Only one of me. A love letter from dad (2018)

Wells L, Robinson M, Budgen T (illustrator).

Llanelli: Graeffeg Limited, 2018.

34pp.

ISBN 9781912654635.

£12.99.

Average star rating 4.7 (out of 5)

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This is a very moving book, a beautiful way to talk to children about the most difficult thing that a parent can face. It is almost like a keepsake, very well illustrated. It highlights that Dad is leaving a legacy of love and will be comforting to a family. It will be useful for any child whose parent is terminally ill, other family members, healthcare professionals and teachers.

Retired Macmillan Nurse (56-65) (June 2019)

I love this story. It is designed to be read to a child about to lose their father to cancer. It is written in a way that a child will understand and be able to accept – it is gradual but effective in its message of love through upcoming challenges. I recommend it is read to the child first by the father before he dies if possible, then after the father has died by family who are there to support the child as they grow.

It is very child friendly with appropriate language that many young children would understand. The illustrations match the story very well, from the cover to the end; they complement and expand on the meanings making it a wonderful story to enjoy from the words and the pictures.

I would buy it for anyone I know in this situation. I like the main message: love no matter what. The father makes it clear from the start that he wishes he could spend more time with his child because of how much he loves him. After discussing that he may die, he moves on to explain all the people that will love and support the child (including himself) grow even after he is gone. It is also wonderful that there is space for a picture and a personalised message for the father to complete for his child.

Daughter of a father who died from cancer (prostate, bone, leukaemia) and primary school teacher (26-35) (March 2019)

It is hard to explain to a young child that a parent has a terminal illness, but this book will be a very useful resource to help explain what is going to happen and to reassure them that they will always be loved. Although the book is written from a father to a child it will be helpful to other adults to explain to a child that although Dad won't be there for too long, there will be other adults to help and love them. It could be used throughout the cancer journey and shared with the child frequently as reassurance.

The book is well-laid out with the right amount of text to illustration and would be attractive to a child. It is easy to understand, and the language is suitable for young children. I like the way that the story uses rhyme, which most young children enjoy, and that the book looks and feels like a 'normal' picture book for a young child.

I wholeheartedly recommend it. It is excellent for anyone needing to explain to a young child that their father has a terminal illness but particularly good for a father to share with his child. It reassures the child that Dad has asked some special people to be there for them once he has gone, that it is alright to be sad but also to remember the happy times. There is space for Dad to write a message to the child and for a photo. It is sensitively written and something for a child to treasure.

Lead volunteer for a practical and emotional support service (66-75) (December 2018)

This excellent book by a mother with terminal cancer has been thoughtfully written as a letter to a child from their father who is terminally ill. It is a gentle, loving story told in a light-hearted way – not easy for such a sad subject. Dad tells his child that he is asking mum and other family members to help them when he has gone and to remember the good times they had. He explains that it is ok to feel sad and cross, but they must remember the good times.

I really like how the story is told in rhyme and I like the people in the story who seem fun and caring. It is easy to understand, even for a small child. The illustrations are simple yet charming and suit the story perfectly.

It's a brilliant book that covers a very difficult time for any child or family that find themselves in this situation. It will certainly help children who might lose their dad. It is most useful to read when they know that the parent is terminal but could be read at any stage for many years after death. It feels very personal.

Breast cancer survivor with seven grandchildren (46-55) (November 2018)



This book will really help explain things to a young child whose father has incurable cancer. The story is told nicely in short, snappy sentences that rhyme. It's very easy to understand; the author uses simple words that young children can grasp. The illustrations are bright and colourful and appropriate for the subject.

This book could apply to anyone; it could be told from the perspective of another close relative or carer, not just Dad. The rhymes and illustrations will capture the audience and make it easier to deal with a difficult subject. It's almost as if you get to watch the little boy grow up and learn to cope without his dad.

My mum had breast cancer (18-25) (November 2019)

This is a simple, effective and inviting book for children whose parent is dying or who has died. It conveys what a parent might well want to say to a young child but is unable to for many reasons I like the simplicity of the message and the premise behind it. It is best read when a parent is diagnosed with a terminal illness or after they have died.

It is very simple, straightforward and from the heart, and very easy to understand. The simple text and beautifully supportive illustrations convey a heartfelt message of love and warmth from a parent to a child. Effectively and simply done. Brilliant.

Living with cancer (myelodysplastic syndrome) and former teacher of 3-16-year olds with SEN (46-55) (October 2018)

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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