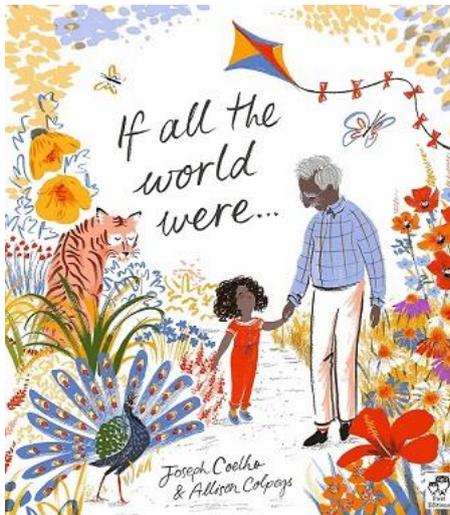


**MACMILLAN
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RIGHT THERE WITH YOU

BOOK REVIEWS

Read what people affected by cancer think about...



If all the world... (2018)

Coelho J, Colpoys A (illustrator).
Lincoln Children's Books, 2018.
32pp.
ISBN 9781786030597.

Average star rating 4.5 (out of 5)

Macmillan Cancer Support
89 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7UQ

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I love this book and how the story is told. It is captivating and very sensitive. It also addresses the question of how we can remember people after they have died. It could be useful to prepare the ground and after bereavement and would suit a child who has been bereaved, their parent or main carer and other family members. It could also be useful for nurseries/schools in particular circumstances

When it arrived, I thought Wow! this looks good, and that was before I opened it. The illustrations are so beautiful and relevant and have a magical quality about them. I love the colour palette that is carried on throughout the book. The language is suitable as it is not medically focused, but there were one or two unfamiliar words that it was lovely to learn, e.g. Indian-leather string. It is an enchanting story and, in a sense, a very simple one but it also opens up the idea of other worlds – that of faraway places, space and the strangeness of time. The illustrations can be viewed at many levels, just the visual quality or the finer details of each page of drawings.

I love everything about this book, particularly the sense of “A kaleidoscope of memories”. I love the appearance, the fantastic illustrations and, above all, the way the story is told with such sensitivity. It is full of how we can express love for someone before and after they die. I would be more than happy to read this to my grandchildren and to any child on a one-to-one basis in a professional context.

Grandmother who has had breast cancer and bladder cancer and grandparent of a child whose granddad has aggressive cancer (66-75) (June 2019)

Straight away, I felt that this would be a great book. The cover is bright and colourful, the illustrations gorgeous, and it does not shy away or apologise for this as do some books about bereavement. It is a simple tale of a girl's love for her granddad and her wishes for them both before and after his death and colour is important throughout.

This is a story and narrative for anyone, of all ages. The oldest and most wrinkly of us all could read it to the tiniest tots. It is simple and easy to understand but uses poetic, imaginative language that flows – just what is needed when dealing with such a sensitive subject. It is a useful tool to prepare the way, and it would also be useful to pave over the cracks. I think most people would derive pleasure from reading it, whether it be from the words or illustrations, or, like me, both.

My favourite thing is perhaps that everything is implicit and not overt. The illustration of an empty chair (a bit like that in Granpa by John Burningham) speaks more than words, but is the nearest to death that we get. Death is not referred to in words, but through illustrations alone. The rest is implicit in the message of the text which is poetical simplicity, laced with imagination, positivity and hope.

Living with cancer (myelodysplastic syndrome) and former teacher of 3-16-year-olds with SEN (46-55) (February 2019)



This shows the close relationship between a girl and her grandad as they create wonderful memories across the seasons. Sadly, as winter approaches, we get a hint that Grandad is unwell. The girl wishes, "I could make my grandad better" and there's a hard-hitting moment where we realise he has now died.

Coelho doesn't dwell on the stages of grief and creates an uplifting story that focuses on shared memories. Within the story, he shows a way of dealing with grief by writing and drawing these memories. It is beautifully told, with gentle and lyrical language suitable for children and will be useful for children before and after bereavement. It is beautifully illustrated; the detailed pictures and pastel palette match the text so well.

This book doesn't shy away from the difficult topic of death but approaches it a gentle way. The illustration of an empty chair that simply says, "But some tales are silent" really sums up the feeling of emptiness you feel when someone leaves your life. I like how the book provides a way for families to discuss death and bereavement, and offers a tool to help children, by drawing and writing down their memories.

Parent of a child with cancer (retinoblastoma) (36-45) (March 2019)

This is a beautifully illustrated, uplifting book about a little girl losing her grandad and all the treasured memories she has of him as she copes with his death. It is a very moving book and lovely for an adult as well. It could provoke a lot of discussion with children and could really help a bereaved family.

It has a place on the shelf of any child because it has an attractive cover and the artwork throughout is lovely. Not only that, but the book is so bright and simple – there is lots of happiness as well as sadness. The only thing I would like to see is a reference to Grandad dying for a child who has been bereaved. Children are very resilient – it's us adults who try to cushion it too much sometimes. Just my opinion though – it is a lovely, caring and thought-provoking book.

I like the way the story is told in a gentle uplifting way and the fact that it is easy even for a young child to understand. It would be useful at any stage and would sit happily on a book shelf to read at any time.

Breast cancer survivor with seven grandchildren (46-55) (February 2019)

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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