

from a range of social and ethnic backgrounds write about the deaths of their mothers. This is an unusual collection: it gathers personal, emotional narratives by men on the subject of their mothers. The accounts reveal an array of emotions—idealization, ambivalence, anger, and regret towards mothers—so readers will discover work that touches a chord or offers insight into the power of the mother-son relationship, from the son's perspective.

Much of the writing included here—especially where it has been written for the book—attests to an ongoing connection with the dead mother experienced either positively (effective mourning, a return to the mother) or negatively (incomplete mourning, depression, resentment). Psychoanalytically, Blauner identifies this return to the mother as “a man's midlife task” (xvi), undertaken either before or after the mother's death. Blauner is all too aware of difficulty in negotiating the all-powerful archetypes of the Good Mother, the Bad Mother, and in dealing with the “backlog of repressed emotion” (xv) a mother's death uncovers.

John Updike's piece describes how the older and frailer his mother becomes, the younger grows his image of her (taken from photographs rather than his own memory). Both Gus Lee and Norman Sasowsky, whose mothers died when they were children, explain how as adults they set out to learn about their mothers' lives, in order to discover who their mothers were “other than dead mothers.” T. S. Matthews charts the “physical labor” of dying and attests to the coping difficulties of families. One of the most powerful contributions—by Nick Davis—takes the form of a letter refusing Blauner's offer to write a piece for the collection because he is unable to make sense of his fragmented memories. By far the most painful image in the book is Wallace Stegner's “mind clenched like a fist” following his mother's death (164).

On the whole, the anthology avoids sentimentality. A pleasant touch are the photographs included as centre pages to give a human face to the mothers who, in death, become the objects of so much rarely voiced male emotion.

Interwoven Lives: Adolescent Mothers and Their Children

Thomas L. Whitman, John G. Borkowski, Deborah A. Keogh, and Keri Weed
London: Lawrence Earlbaum Associates, 2001

Reviewed by Dawn Zinga

This book examines the interrelated development of adolescent mothers and their children. Unlike many studies that focus exclusively on the risk factors and potential developmental deficits faced by children of adolescent mothers, this book also explores the developmental changes experienced by adolescent mothers.

I agree with the authors: that adolescent mothers and their infants must not be considered in isolation from one another. This volume charts a comprehensive, longitudinal study of adolescent mothers and their children.

The book describes the findings of the Notre Dame Parenting Project. This intensive study followed adolescent mothers and their children for eight years. In the second chapter, the authors provide a model of adolescent parenting as a framework for their research findings. In a later chapter, a model generated from the gathered data identifies the central role of cognitive readiness in successful parenting.

This book is unique in its ability to balance traditional quantitative data analysis with qualitative understanding of individual differences. The authors take great steps toward banishing simplistic conceptions of adolescent mothers and their children. They examine the sensitive and complex issues inherent in adolescent parenting and they accurately report on risk factors, deficits, and other problems identified by their research. In addition, the authors consider the implications of their research for designing assistance programs to adolescent mothers and their children; for examining resilient versus non-resilient mothers and children; and for identifying high-risk mother-infant dyads.

This book offers important insights and, while written largely for a graduate audience, portions of the text will be readily accessible to undergraduate students and lay readers, as well. Of particular interest to a wide readership are the sections on adolescent mothers' life stories and social policy implications. *Interwoven Lives* lives up to its intriguing title: it describes accurately how the developmental outcomes and trajectories of adolescent mothers and their children are intertwined.

The Girlfriends' Guide to Toddlers

Vicki Iovine
New York: Perigee, 1999

Reviewed by Andrea Riesch Toepell

Vicki Iovine writes a humorous guide with down-to-earth, practical advice for parents of toddlers. An expert on the subject, having had four children in nine years, she does not assume a voice of authority. Rather, she writes from the position of experience – her own and those of her girlfriends. Iovine illustrates her book with examples, many of which belong to her girlfriends. Readers will feel reassured that their feelings about parenthood are not exceptional and will take comfort in the toddler stories of Iovine and her girlfriends.

I especially enjoyed Iovine's use of humour. Sometimes the examples she