

As Roth points out, the reproductive costs, both physical and emotional, that women pay are enormous. Moreover, women are led to mistrust the medical and legal establishments. In fact, there is no direct cost-benefit relationship in terms of the cost to a woman and the benefit to her fetus. Roth returns to the idea that what women lose in the reproductive equation is gained by (male) doctors and lawmakers rather than fetuses.

Perhaps most intriguing in *Making Women Pay* is the concept of woman's citizenship that, Roth argues, is constrained by fetal rights. According to Roth, a woman's rights to bodily integrity, employment, due process, and religious practice are fundamental issues of citizenship. This book would work well in political science and law courses, as well as women's studies courses.

Crooked Smile: One Family's Journey Toward Healing

Lainie Cohen
Toronto: ECW Press, 2003

Reviewed by Christine Peets

Daniel Cohen was seventeen in August 1993 when he was involved in a car accident that left him with a brain injury. This book chronicles the struggle of Daniel and his family to deal with his trauma. Daniel's mother, Lainie Cohen, started writing *Crooked Smile* five years after her son's accident. It took another five years to complete and publish her work.

Following his accident, Daniel was comatose for weeks and faced seemingly insurmountable odds. His injury affected his ability to talk, read, and move; his basic self-care functions had to be relearned. Health, educational, and social work professionals did not give the family much hope. The Cohens were told that their son would have to be institutionalized, but they refused to believe that Daniel would not improve. They never gave up and were willing to do, as Cohen writes, "whatever it takes to help our son." They carried out or supervised every aspect of Daniel's physical and mental care, well supported by family, friends, and health-care professionals.

This exhaustive care took its toll on the family, however. The Cohens' younger son, Jonathan, started using marijuana. Their daughter, Alyssa, suffered joint pain that left her in a wheelchair for a time. While the point is made that Daniel's trauma involved the whole family, Cohen does not make the connection strongly enough between what was going on with Daniel and how

it affected her other children. The narrative flow is not always smooth, as Cohen switches from present to past tense. Is the author telling her story or is she trying to have readers relive it with her?

Throughout the story of Daniel's recovery, we learn about the Cohens: who they were and who they are today. Following the accident, "[w]e were," Cohen writes, "like Humpty Dumpty, who never could be put back together again." One of her biggest triumphs comes in a small moment when, after having been away from the family for a while, she realizes that she has missed Daniel, "not the way he was, but the way he is now." Cohen had finally achieved the acceptance that had once eluded her.

In the end, narrative lapses do not matter because Cohen's story is so powerful. The unconditional love, the strength gained from the support of family and friends, and the determination shown by and for Daniel comes through vividly. This is a healing book, not just for Lainie Cohen and her family, but for the reader as well. When Daniel reacquires his full smile, the reader learns what is possible when a family never gives up.

Lainie Cohen is an educator and psychological consultant. At the time of her son's accident, she had some background in dealing with individuals with special needs but she was forced to learn more than she likely ever wanted to know about brain injuries. Her work will be especially helpful to anyone living with or teaching a brain-injured individual. In a further effort to help physicians and families deal with the trauma that accompanies brain injury, Cohen has gone on to write and speak about her family's journey. *Crooked Smile*, Cohen's first book, serves an important personal and public purpose.