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Barber and Barbers' "Is Daddy Coming Back in a Minute?: Explaining Sudden Death in Words Very Young Children Can Understand" (book review)

Tina Craft
Ohio Christian University

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Book Reviews



Barber E. & Barber, A. (2021). *Is daddy coming back in a minute?: Explaining (sudden) death in words very young children can understand*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers. \$19.95. ISBN 9781787757646

In *Is Daddy Coming Back in a Minute*, 10-year-old Alex Barber revisits the sudden loss of his father at the age of 3 and his mother's help in understanding the tragedy. Written in the voice of a three-year-old Alex, this story is written by Alex and his mother. This children's book is illustrated, so the pictures make it engaging for the child. The wording and phrasing is simple and helps a child to grasp the complex topics of death and grief. This book reminds us that we are never alone in our grief. We always have someone (family, friends, a teacher) we can turn to. It is normal to ask questions such as: Where did they go?, Are they coming back? Was it my fault they died? and simply Why did this happen? This book lets the reader know that it is okay to be sad. However, this book also reminds us that we still need to have fun and laugh. Overall, I would recommend this title because it does a great job of dealing with the topics of death and grief, but in a kid-friendly way.

Reviewer

Tina Craft, Ohio Christian University