



[Home](#) > [Death and Dying](#)

Death and Dying

Books Reviewed:

[Death and Dying](#) [1]

Issue:

[68](#) [2]

Reviewer:

[Ted Percy](#) [3]

Editorial Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

0

Presenting the idea of death to young children, most of us tend to talk round the point before getting to it. The difficulty is that although nearly all children who watch television will have seen images of death, they may still find it hard to realise that dying is part of the life-cycle for all of us. Sanders establishes this point early on, but the heart of his thesis concerns grief at the death of others. Ways of expressing understanding and coping with grief - both ours and other people's - are hung on such common questions as: 'Why don't people always tell the truth about death?', 'Do people ever feel better after someone dies?' and 'Why is death so difficult to talk about?'

The author wisely avoids dogmatic answers and religious digressions, and his frequent use of 'maybe', 'perhaps' and 'some people' amply justifies his own assertion that 'children can cope with grief better than many adults think they can'. I was left feeling that despite the author's positive tone he has made heavy going of a terrain where such as Varley's **Badger's Parting Gifts** and Waddell's **Grandma's Bill** pass with an easier grace, and although this book is written for children who may not know where to stop, it will be most helpful to adults who don't know where to start.

Running Order:

4

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[1] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/death-and-dying>

[2] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/68>

[3] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/member/ted-percy>