



# Resources for Families Coping with a Homicide

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## Children's Books

### A guide to helping children cope with the traumatic loss of someone special

A Terrible Thing Happened. M. Holmes, S. Mudlaff, C. Pillo. This story is for children who have been witness to any kind of violent or traumatic incident, including a homicide.  
(Grades Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup>)

After a Murder: A Workbook for Grieving Kids. The Dougy Center. An activity workbook for children who have lost a loved one due to homicide. Therapeutic activities that teach children that they are not alone, as well as coping skills. The book prepares and describes the possible confusion associated with police, the media and the courts.  
(Grades 1 – 8)

The Boy Who Sat By the Window: Helping Children Cope with Violence. Chris Loftis. A classmate tells the story of a community's shock after the random drive-by shooting of a young boy.  
(Grades 3 – 7)

Children Also Grieve: Talking about Death and Healing. Linda Goldman. This book focuses on generalized grief and loss with a focus on homicide. It is recommended an adult read along with children.  
(Grades 1- 5)

Cricket Goes To Court. Gwendolyn White, Coleen Chaney. This booklet was designed by Pinellas County Florida victim advocates to help caring adults prepare children for their interactions at a courthouse.  
(Grades Pre-K – 5)

Just One Tear. K.L. Mahon. A short novel, created and written by a 14 year-old girl in diary format. This story spans a period of time after a 13 year-old boy witnesses his father's murder.  
(Grades 6 - 12)

Reactions. Alison Salloum. A therapeutic activity book to support and educate children/teens who have experienced a traumatic loss.  
(Grades 3 – 8)

When Someone You Know Has Been Killed. Jay Schleifer. A resource that focuses on older children and younger teens who are suffering from a traumatic death.  
(Grades 6 – 9)

## Adult Books

### A guide for adults after the traumatic loss of someone special

A Grief Like No Other: Surviving The Violent Death of Someone You Love. Kathleen O'Hara. A personal account of a mother who's college-age son was murdered. This book offers practical suggestions for healing after a traumatic death.

Coping With Traumatic Death: Homicide. Bob Baugher & Lew Cox. A tool written to validate common grief reactions to help readers understand what to expect following a murder. It provides a timeline focusing on the days, weeks, months and year after the death.

The Forgiving Place: Choosing Peace after Violent Trauma. Richard R. Gayton & Amrienne Williamson. The focus is to educate the reader on how to process the intense emotions after a violent death.

Homicide Survivors: Misunderstood Griefers. Judie A. Bucholz, PhD. A book about families and how they have coped with the murder of a loved one.

No Time For Goodbyes: Coping with Sorrow, Anger and Injustice After a Tragic Death. Janice Harris Lord. A practical resource providing helpful information on possible legal and financial issues following a tragic death.

What to Do When the Police Leave: A Guide to the First Days of Traumatic Loss. Bill Jenkins. A factual guide for families who lost a loved one due to a traumatic death.

When a Child Has Been Murdered: Ways You Can Help the Grieving Parents. Bonnie Hunt Conrad. A resource for homicide survivors who have lost a child due to murder.

Continued on back

## Children's Videos

**Good Grief Charlie Brown.** (2002). NR rating. Linus and the twisted tale of his security blanket. Everything bad happens and yet, Linus can't give up the blanket.

**After the Tears: A Gentle Guide to Help Children Understand Death.** (2000). G. Rating. Children are taught about death, the process of death, what it means to grieve and how our faith will sustain us in difficult times.

**Lion King.** (1995). G. Rating. Lion cub is sent to exile after his father is killed by a rival uncle. The little hero finds his way to the "circle of life" with new friends.

**Ice Age.** (2002). G. Rating. A team of "sub zero heroes" band together to save a human infant after the death of his mother.

**Finding Nemo.** (2003). G Rating. After the sudden death of his mother, nemo is later captured by a scuba diver. His father, a nervous nellie clownfish sets off in the vast ocean to find him.

**Brother Bear.** (2003). G Rating. After a hunter kills a bear, he becomes a bear himself and is hunted by his own older brother. The focus in on the relationship between the hunter and the orphaned bear.

**Jack Frost.** (1998). PG Rating. After his sudden death, a father comes back as a snowman to help his family heal.

## Teen Videos

**Two Brothers.** (2004). PG Rating. These cubs are separated shortly after their birth, when their father is killed by hunters. The story depicts their difficulties with life following the death.

**Raising Helen.** (2004). PG-13 Rating. A successful fashion designer gains custody of her sister's children after a sudden death.

**Big Fish.** (2004) PG-13 Rating. A young man, who never really knew his dying father, sits at his bedside and recollects memories of his youth.

**A Walk to Remember.** (2002). PG Rating. Two teens, from different backgrounds fall in love and soon realize that forever is unlikely as one teen is diagnosed with terminal cancer.

**Here on Earth.** (2000). PG Rating. Romance develops between two teens when she is diagnosed with a terminal illness.

## Websites

[www.griefnet.org](http://www.griefnet.org)

[www.pomc.org](http://www.pomc.org) (Parents of Murdered Children)

[www.usdoj.gov](http://www.usdoj.gov) (Office for Victims of Crime)

[www.fernside.org](http://www.fernside.org)