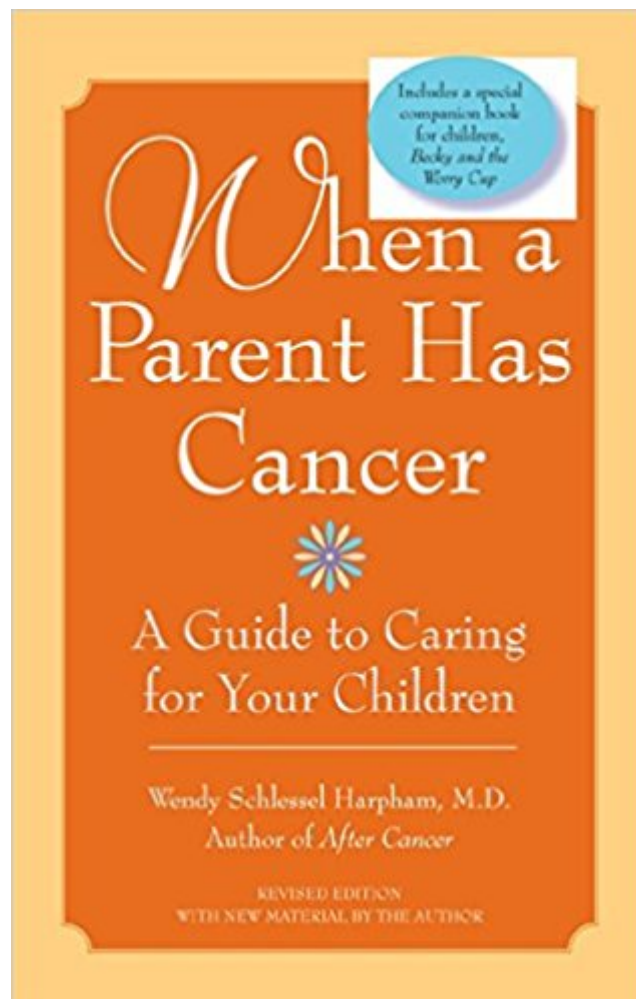




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# When A Parent Has Cancer: A Guide To Caring For Your Children



## Synopsis

At some point in our lives, many of us will face the crisis of an unexpected illness. For parents, the fear, anxiety and confusion resulting from a cancer diagnosis can be particularly devastating. When *A Parent Has Cancer* is a book for families written from the heart of experience. A mother, physician, and cancer survivor, Dr Wendy Harpham offers clear, direct, and sympathetic advice for parents challenged with the task of raising normal, healthy children while they struggle with a potentially life-threatening disease. Dr Harpham lays the groundwork of her book with specific plans for helping children through the upheaval of a parent's diagnosis and treatment, remission and recovery, and if necessary, confronting the possibility of death. She emphasises the importance of being honest with children about the gravity of the illness, while assuring them that their basic needs will always be met. Included is *Becky and the Worry Cup*, an illustrated children's book that tells the story of a seven-year-old girl's experiences with her mother's cancer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Harpham (*After Cancer*, LJ 8/94) deals here with "the difficulties of raising children when a parent has cancer and proposes approaches for preventing and responding to common problems in a healthy way." Harpham, a parent with cancer, is also a physician, and the last 47 pages of this title is a children's book, *Becky and the Worry Cup*, drawn from the experience of her own children. In discussing parenting issues, Harpham includes examples for handling specific problems, with

especially important points set in boldface. Although most of the book deals with caring for children under the age of ten, there is a chapter on teenagers. Appendixes include a glossary that children can understand, a list of resources and support groups, and a bibliography for children and parents. A similar offering is Pat Brack's *Moms Don't Get Sick* (LJ 8/90). Recommended for consumer health/patient education collections. Mary J. Jarvis, Methodist Hosp. Medical Lib., Lubbock, Tex. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A parent's cancer is a family crisis. Children will adapt, however, if their fundamental physical and emotional needs are met, if they understand what is happening, and if they know that they will be cared for no matter what happens. Basing her efforts on those three perceptions and drawing on her expertise as a physician and her experience as a person with cancer, Harpham provides practical advice on caring for children of all ages during diagnosis and treatment and helpful insights for helping them cope with grief, loss, uncertainty, and fear of death. She accompanies her guidance for parents with a story for children--"Becky and the Worry Cup"--that illustrates the concerns kids have and how parents can help them cope. Both the guidebook and the story are sympathetic, sensitive to intense emotions, and, above all, empowering to parents and children facing the significant changes life-threatening illness demands of a family. Kathryn Carpenter --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I came across this book after I was asked to give a presentation to parents at Gilda's Club about talking to children when you have been diagnosed with cancer. Dr. Wendy Harpham has lived the experience she writes about. This book is a remarkable resource providing invaluable information and help to anyone wondering how to tell his/her children he/she has been diagnosed with cancer and how to help the children deal with the ongoing challenges a family faces when a parent is fighting for his/her life.

This book can get pretty repetitive, and I did not get many hints that I found useful for walking my children through my cancer diagnosis. I appreciate the sentiment, but it would have been just as effective for me at half the length.

This book was a gift to a dear friend who has three young children and is battling cancer for the second time. She said she found this book very helpful in both her thoughts and how to begin the

conversation with her older girls. She especially liked the children's book included. I only wish this was a purchase I didn't have to make.

This book is realistic and upbeat. The author writes from experience and addresses all kinds of issues that are faced by the family, from care to physical changes. The book at the back for children is not so much a story for kids, as a narrative of suggestions to help the child(children) understand and be a part of the care process. I am sorry that I don't have more detail to share, as I've already sent it to my sister. She told me it was a great help.

I am going to give this book to my friend who has cancer and has two kids aged 9 & 10. I read this book and it gives some amazing insights on how to deal with emotions and pain that cancer brings in to a family. It is very well written, gives suggestions on how to be strong mentally and prepare your children for the best and worst. Well researched and helpful book.

I've recommended to a few friends who are dealing with the impact of serious parental health issues. Bought it because I enjoyed being her patient until her first diagnosis but discovered it's an amazing resource.

I just received this book and it is wonderful. However, per the description, it says it included the book "Becky's Worry Cup". I didn't receive that with my order, and I was expecting it. Did anyone order this and receive it with theirs? Thanks!

As a parent of an 8 year old, this book gives me many ideas to help our child through my illness. It also helped me see things more clearly. I am looking forward to reading Becky and the Worry Cup with our child.

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