



The Widow's Son

Bruce Steinberg

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Enjoy the music, politics, fashion, television and movie fare of the 1960s. Did you know that 2 days before the blizzard of 1967 that brought the Midwest to a halt, it was a balmy 65 degrees? Or that Wild Thing by the Troggs kicked the Beatles Paperback Writer off the top of the pop charts? Or that Gomer Pyle USMC replaced the Dick Van Dyke Show? These details unique to 1966 and 1967 also include the Apollo 1 disaster, what young men did to avoid the draft and Vietnam, and President Johnson's conclusion in 1966 that the Vietnam War had been as good as won. All of this incredible history, accurately researched and woven into this incredible story without a seam, presents a historic backdrop for a powerful tale of survival - and the determination of a neighborhood filled with beloved nuts and bolts who go beyond the call to save a broken family. And it all begins with these words of a child's lament - When I hear the news I want to jump on the dining room clock and make time go backwards . . . Based on the real life loss of the author's father, Bruce Steinberg brings his passionate tale home as told through the eyes of his oldest brother - a child on the cusp of manhood who does not easily take to wearing the crown of New Man of the House. The moment 12-year-old Jeremy Rosenberg witnesses his father's death, Jeremy loses the world he assumed would last forever. With a young brother expecting their father to yet come home, a sister blaming herself, and a mother falling toward isolation, Jeremy is sent fatherless into the world just as he enters adolescence. Beautifully and memorably set in mid-1960s Chicago suburbia, The Widow's Son is launched on a devastating moment. But this tale of misguided efforts and accidental triumphs of children forced into adult emotions creates a humorous, poignant novel. The reader's laughter and tears are sure to flow together to the last page as Jeremy battles to make his family into a family once again.

The Widow's Son Details

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Author : Bruce Steinberg

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From Reader Review The Widow's Son for online ebook

Monica says

I enjoyed this book very much. The characters were well-thought out, three-dimensional, and sympathetic. The book is about a family struggling to stay afloat after the sudden death of the father. The story is told in first-person from the point of view of Jeremy, who is thrown into the job of "man of the house" at the age of twelve. Much too much responsibility for someone so young. With a stressed out, exhausted, and grieving mother spending her days earning a living and her nights listening to the TV, a lullaby to drown out her pain, Jeremy is forced to take on much more than he should have to. He's often in charge of his younger siblings, the feisty Cheryl, who likes to torture her younger-by-a-year brother, the insecure David. But who wouldn't be insecure when at the young age of seven, you no longer have a father to look up to and your sister will do anything to make your life miserable? I really felt for Jeremy, for all three children and the mother too, but especially Jeremy. I was happy to watch all the characters grow as time went on.

I'm a tough audience. A book has to touch me deeply to earn five stars. While I loved being transported back in time (and place--I grew up in Skokie, Illinois) and the beginning and the end had me reading scene after scene when I should have been sleeping, I gave the book four stars instead of five because it was a little slow in the middle.

All in all, I recommend reading this book, especially if you were a child in the '60s and '70s.

Mary says

The moment 12-year-old Jeremy Rosenberg witnesses his father's death, he loses the world he had assumed would last forever. With a young brother expecting "Daddy" to yet come home, a sister blaming herself, and a mother falling toward isolation, Jeremy is sent fatherless into the world just as he reaches adolescence. Effectively set in mid1960's Chicago suburbia, THE WIDOW'S SON is launched on a devastating moment, but this tale of misguided efforts and accidental triumphs of children forced into difficult times creates a humorous, poignant novel.

Lydia says

Halfway through and very bored...keep waiting for a plot to develop around dad's death or something! I usually love coming of age books, but I don't know if I can finish this one or not. The writing is fair at best, and it is just not floating my boat.

Debra says

A tragic death resulted in a boy suddenly becoming the man of the house, and things don't always go as planned or smoothly in this coming of age story. One thing that does stand out is a community coming together to help a family in need because every little bit helps! We need more of this and not less in the

world today.

Jennifer Cox says

There were a few times in the book I wanted a little more action. The book was never short on detail and description. I really felt like one of the kids that grew up in the main character's neighborhood. Although it started out sad it ended with relief and that always makes for a good book in my opinion.

Hilary says

3.5 stars

This follows Jeremy, Cheryl and David through the first year after their father's death as they struggle to make sense of the world and their new life; life, however, continues around them, as they play or fight with, and despise or like their neighbors' children, as they look at what it means to be Jewish, and as they try to make it together, as a family. It gives the sense of reality, very clearly bringing out the complexity of children's emotions and their logic, reminding readers of their own childhoods.

Winifred Gray says

A father's son

Jeremy thought he wouldn't be able to fill his father's shoes, but through trial and error, he did. This Jewish family leaned on their faith for strength, used their sense of humor as learning tools and discovered that they were a family who overcame pain loss (with the help of a few good neighbors).

Judith says

I thought this was very well done, a heartfelt story. Any shortcomings in the storyline were made up for by wonderful characters and Jeremy's voice. It kept my attention, has stayed with me after finishing it and I would recommend it to others.

Beth Lind says

I almost gave this book 5 stars but there were a couple of parts where the story seemed to linger on just a little too long. Just a little though. There were so many parts of this book I could relate to and the story will be one that I remember because of some of those similarities. His descriptions of not being able to cry after his father's death and feeling the need to take care of everyone felt very familiar. Also, I love that the siblings stayed close when they grew up. Dealing with the death of a parent as a child does make you view the world differently. And he was spot on about being frustrated about the looks from others who pity you for being in

the "child of a dead father" club.

A great true story!

Kathy says

I really enjoyed this book. Was a very good story of a young widowed mother trying to raise 3 children on her own both emotionally and financially. Story was told through the eyes of her 13 year old son, "the man of the family now". Humorous, sad, true. Loved it.

Emily says

We follow 12 year old Jeremy Rosenberg through the death of his father & through the year following. The story is told from Jeremy's point of view, and we see the chaos in his family, his thoughts and friends. He learns where he stands among his peers and with his God.

This is a well written book & enjoyable read; it was a quick read & one that I kept coming back to, even though I'm reading another book.

Angie says

I loved this book. It's a shame that more people haven't read it. There isn't much of a plot; really it's about a man's death and how his family cope in the aftermath, but it's never depressing. The characters were so well-written that they became almost real to me. I loved the dialogue, I loved the descriptions. I'm not sure, but it made me think that this might be based on the author's real experiences, some of it was so detailed. I also enjoyed learning about some Jewish culture, which was new to me. Great work, highly recommended.

Jeremy Potter says

I'll just start by saying that you should read this book. It is a pleasure from beginning to end. It's sad, happy, funny, charming, nostalgic, and even a little bit profound at times. For your trouble you'll enjoy a neighborhood full of interesting characters, a coming of age story, an exploration of faith, and a motorcycle. It's the best book I've read this year.

Jackie says

An enjoyable novel with likeable characters and very amusing in parts. Just found it heavy-going from the middle onwards. A realistic tale of a family coming to terms with the death of one of its members. Didn't

understand all the Jewish references, but found the Jewish perspective quite fascinating.

Kate Johnson says

This is a beautiful story. Sad, funny, well written. It made me laugh out loud and it made me cry, too. If you're a baby-boomer or Generation X, you'll love it for the cultural references. (Who remembers Helen Crump? Who would want to?) If you're younger, it'll give you an idea of how life was back when a whole block of boys had to share a Playboy, and girls wore saddle shoes and though they were hot.
