



# Devastating Losses: How Parents Cope With the Death of a Child to Suicide or Drugs

*William Feigelman Ph.D., John Jordan Ph.D., John McIntosh Ph.D., Beverly Feigelman LCSW*

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**Devastating Losses: How Parents Cope With the Death of a Child to Suicide or Drugs** William Feigelman Ph.D., John Jordan Ph.D., John McIntosh Ph.D., Beverly Feigelman LCSW

Based on my forty year career in grief counseling, I give this work an unqualified recommendation for both professionals who care for grieving parents as well as for parents who are trying to understand their own losses or those of relatives or friends."--**Gerald Corey**, EdD, ABPP; in **Illness, Crisis, and Loss**

This notable book provides new and substantive research data and perspective about how parents cope with the devastation that follows the death of a child to suicide or drugs...It greatly enriches our understanding to offer appropriate response for the healing journey of traumatically bereaved parents."--**The Forum: The Newsletter of the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC)**

[The] Feigelmans initiated the broadest and most conclusive survey data collection project regarding parent survivors. The result is the most current and comprehensive understanding of parent suicide survivors to date, with survivors ranging from the newly bereaved to those whose loss was well over a decade ago. This fact alone would ensure *Devastating Loss*'s designation as an essential resource for mental health professionals, suicide survivors, and grief experts around the world. However, there is additional value in this work which is far greater than just the data collection."--**American Association of Suicidology**

In addition to tugging on my heartstrings, *Devastating Losses: How Parents Cope with the Death of a Child to Suicide or Drugs* captivated my clinical quest for knowledge. The authors combined personal stories of survivors who lost children to suicide or drug related deaths with a profundity of solid quantitative research and clinical experience."--**The Professional Counselor (TPC) Journal**

Finally, a thorough and elaborate American study has appeared on the grief and mourning process of bereaved parents who experienced the loss of a child to suicide or a drug overdose."--**LAVA**

[This] reader experienced surprise in reading the book. It was not surprising that these experts did a good job; after all, they are experts writing on a topic they know well. Rather, it is the personal element, not often seen amidst so much data. The book is like a recipe for chicken salad that includes prunes, an unexpected combination that works quite well."--**Death Studies**

"Grounded equally in solid clinical practice and uniquely relevant research, and tragically leavened by the personal bereavement of two of the book's authors, *Devastating Losses* sheds new and compassionate light on the experience of a child's death to traumatic causes."

**Robert A. Neimeyer, PhD**  
Editor, *Death Studies*

The book is important for its contributions to knowledge of a complex and illusive subject, and also perhaps as importantly a model for personal growth in the context of loss through learning and connection."--**Clinical Social Work Journal**

This volume is a pioneering and long overdue work, a study not only of grieving parents who lost a child to

suicide but also of parents whose children succumbed to drug overdoses. The authors have done a masterful job of blending their quantitative research findings and the anguished voices of parents attending survivor support groups to create a rich and very engaging book.

**Michael F Myers, MD**

Co-Author, "Touched by Suicide: Hope and Healing after Loss"

"I recommend this book for its impressive scope of data and thoughtful analysis. This resource will also be of value to those coping with the devastating loss of a family member or loved one."

**Edward K. (Ted) Rynearson**

Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Washington

Director, Violent Death Bereavement Society

Author, *Retelling Violent Death*, and Editor, *Violent Death: Resilience and Intervention Beyond the Crisis*

This book fills a critical gap in our scientific understanding of the grief response of parents who have lost a child to traumatic death and the psychotherapeutic strategies that best facilitate healing. It is based on the results of the largest study ever conducted of parents surviving a child's traumatic death or suicide. The book was conceived by William and Beverly Feigelman following their own devastating loss of a son, and written from the perspective of their experiences as both suicide-survivor support group participants and facilitators. It intertwines data, insight, and critical learning gathered from research with the voices of the 575 survivors who participated in the study.

The text emphasizes the sociological underpinnings of survivors' grief and provides data that vividly documents their critical need for emotional support. It explains how bereavement difficulties can be exacerbated by stigmatization, and by the failure of significant others to provide expected support. Also explored in depth are the ways in which couples adapt to the traumatic loss of a child and how this can bring them closer or render their relationship irreparable. Findings suggest that with time and peer support affiliations, most traumatically bereaved parents ultimately demonstrate resilience and find meaningful new roles for themselves, helping the newly bereaved or engaging in other humanitarian acts.

### **Key Features:**

- Offers researchers, clinicians, and parent-survivors current information on how parents adapt initially and over time after the traumatic loss of a child
- Presents data culled from the largest survey ever conducted (575 individuals) of parents surviving a child's suicide or other traumatic death
- Investigates the ways in which stigmatization complicates and prolongs the grieving process
- Addresses the tremendous value of support groups in the healing process
- Explores how married couples are affected by the traumatic loss of their child

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**From reader reviews:**

**Michael Hamlin:**

The book Devastating Losses: How Parents Cope With the Death of a Child to Suicide or Drugs can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Why must we leave the best thing like a book Devastating Losses: How Parents Cope With the Death of a Child to Suicide or Drugs? Wide variety you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim that will book can give many information for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer together with your book. Knowledge or information that you take for that, you can give for each other; it is possible to share all of these. Book Devastating Losses: How Parents Cope With the Death of a Child to Suicide or Drugs has simple shape however, you know: it has great and big function for you. You can appear the enormous world by start and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

**Jane Kim:**

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**Dorothy Betancourt:**

Reading a publication tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world may share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the books. But also they write about advantage about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write to their book. One of them is this Devastating Losses: How Parents Cope With the Death of a Child to Suicide or Drugs.

**Loretta Jones:**

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled Devastating Losses: How Parents Cope With the Death of a Child to Suicide or Drugs your mind

will drift away through every dimension, wandering in most aspects that maybe unidentified for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a book then become one type conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get just before. The Devastating Losses: How Parents Cope With the Death of a Child to Suicide or Drugs giving you one more experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful details for your better life within this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

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