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Remembering Mrs. Rossi

Marsha D. Broadway

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Hest, Amy. *Remembering Mrs. Rossi*. Illustrated by Heather Maione. Candlewick, 2007. ISBN 9780763621636. \$14.99. 147p.

Reviewer: Marsha D. Broadway

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Death--Juvenile literature; Parent and child--Juvenile literature; New York (N.Y.)--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews

Annie Rossi's mother has died unexpectedly. Although she loves her professor father and their life in New York City, eight-year-old Annie misses her mother and the way Mommy took care of her. As Annie and her father experience everyday life, they share happy and sad times while they cope with their loss and grief. Daddy may forget to take Annie to the library or mismatch her pajamas, but Annie is not above using his birthday as a ploy to ask for a new dog. Annie finds comfort in the new information she learns about her mother from a scrapbook that her teacher mother's sixth-grade class created. Dad writes his own memories in a journal which he shares with Annie during their summer vacation at the beach.

Hest has created genial characters who must learn to grieve, grow, and enjoy life despite their realistic imperfections. The supportive father soothes Annie when her anger flares, and together they find ways to keep Annie's mother close while they let her go. This book, which focuses on positive coping skills, could be useful in family discussions about death and grief or in bibliotherapeutic interventions.