

Books Reviewed

of reference; the story suggests that Carla and her mother form a single-parent family. The book respects the intelligence of young readers.

Carla is realistically portrayed as a young girl who is fearful throughout the process, but she provides a good model for prospective youthful witnesses by appropriately asserting herself and asking questions when she is confused. She acknowledges her feelings of fear of the proceedings but decides that her fears do not have to determine her behavior. The authors are very sensitive in anticipating the specific fears and concerns of child witnesses, such as facing the defendant in court, and build those ideas into the story. Other typical themes and issues for the book's heroine that reflect the reality of the process for young witnesses are anxiety about separation from her mother during the preliminary hearing, frustration about the need for telling her story again and again, feelings of anger toward the defense attorney, and confusion about exact times (which reflects the difference between adults' and children's senses of time).

The book would be an extremely helpful addition to the library of any professional who works with children who will be witnesses. Many children who testify in court are testifying regarding sexual abuse. The authors would provide a great service by developing a similar book portraying a child testifying on a sexual abuse charge — since that situation has additional dimensions and fears for the child. □

WINNING CUSTODY. By Maurice R. Franks. Englewood Cliffs NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1983, 192 Pp. + Index.

Reviewed by Melvin G. Goldzband, MD

I read this book immediately on completing William Manchester's remarkable first volume of his biography of Winston Churchill. While reading Franks's thin volume, I could not avoid the recurrent mental picture of a horrified Churchill reading *Mein Kampf* during the late 1920s and early 1930s. The impression made on him by Hitler's book must have been akin to that made upon me by Franks's *Winning Custody*.

On page 61, in his characteristic, very punchy style, Franks begins his chapter on "When to Split the Scene" (yes, he advises fathers to run away with the children before a divorce action is filed) with a prescient, "You're probably getting discouraged right now reading this book." This reviewer found that a considerable understatement.

Not a single aspect of this book deals with the real best interests of the fought-over children of divorce. Some lip service is paid to the notion that divorce is harmful to kids, but I found nothing about custody battles being harmful. There is an offhand reference to Goldstein, Freud, and Solnit (Franks calls them psychologists); later Franks urges litigating fathers to read their first book so that they can spout material from it and impress evaluators (page 106). He also discusses

numerous other techniques the litigant can use to con the naive evaluator. Speaking of psychologists, the author comments that he prefers psychologists to psychiatrists as experts because they bring test results with curves and graphs into court, and those give the impression of some objectivity.

Fathers who have been embittered by their marriages and their divorces have been juicy targets for the author. According to the biographical material in the book, he maintains offices in Denver and Pueblo, Colorado, and in New Orleans. Further, "Mr. Franks pilots his own airplane across the country handling hotly contested divorce and custody matters. He has handled divorce-related cases in at least nineteen states." He is now married to his fourth wife, by whom he has two children. He graciously dedicated his book to them.

We may decry this type of rabble-rousing, but we surely ought to be aware of its existence. We also ought to be aware of the lawyers who may follow its advice. This terrible book is a blatantly sexist appeal to hurt, disenfranchised, and angry men, and is devoid of any sensitivity to issues of child welfare and development.

In this reviewer's opinion, *Winning Custody* is dangerous to the children of divorce. They will be fought over more and more because of the destructive encouragement of this book. The poor parents who follow its dictates don't know it yet, but the odds are they also will find it dangerous in the end. □

LEGAL REFORMS AFFECTING CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES. Edited by Gary B. Melton. Volume 5, Numbers 1/2. New York: The Haworth Press, Inc., 1982.

Reviewed by Helen L. Morrison, MD

Legal Reforms Affecting Child and Youth Services concerns itself with the changes in the legal status of minors and the authority of their parents and the state. From the nearly idealized programs of the 1899 emphasis on rehabilitation rather than deterrence in Illinois Juvenile Courts, this volume educates the health professional to current and critical legal concerns about the juvenile justice system.

New standards include four basic goals that incorporate clarity and restraint through all phases of the juvenile system. The shift is from the medical model of justice for juveniles to reliance on due process of the law. This shift is most apparent in advocacy services in opposition to treatment services. Legal issues and policy considerations based on the concept of shared responsibility are most apparent in family-community-government relationships.

Despite the medical model of family autonomy, the legal model has focused on social contexts of family life. Viewed in the context of custody, parents have custody, the state has visitation rights. The nonadversarial court model of the past is now giving way to the view of adversary, resulting in more control over resolution of custody disputes. In the sphere of competence, this adversarial and eco-