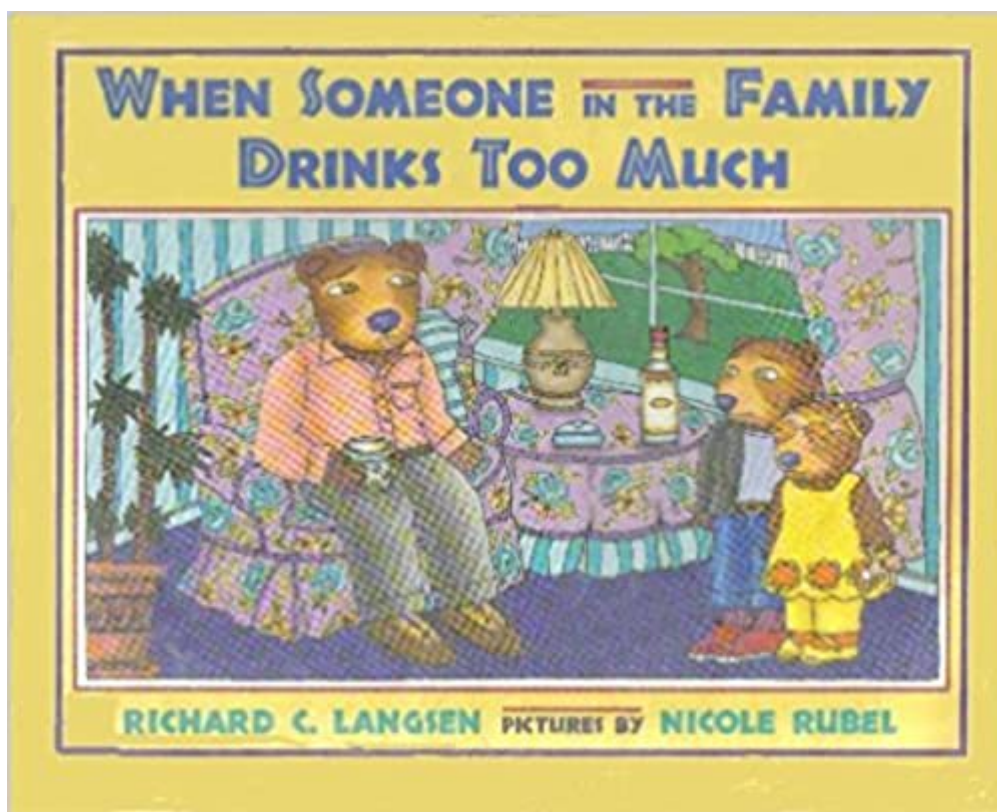


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# When Someone In The Family Drinks Too Much



## Synopsis

In this easy-to-understand book for young children, Richard Langsen writes about one of the nation's most debilitating diseases. Nicole Rubel's illustrations add subtle humor to help ease fears that children might have about this illness. Here is a book that will help young readers in understanding their own feelings and give them valuable information for guidance and support. Full color.

## Book Information

Age Range: 5 and up

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Dial Books; 1st edition (June 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0803716869

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 11.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #787,625 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Substance Abuse #92 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Drugs #104 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Addiction & Recovery > Smoking

## Customer Reviews

A highly accessible title on a troublesome topic, this picture book by a husband-and-wife team could be of inestimable value to children struggling with alcoholism in their families. Featuring a cast of bears, the artwork allows children a safe distance while the text delivers the lowdown ("There are 28 million alcoholics in America. One out of every ten people has this illness"). Langsen, a family therapist and teacher, writes from a position of strength and authority. His explanations of the feelings that alcoholism can cause (guilt, embarrassment, anger and so on), and the ways the illness can affect a family (creating enablers, rebels, clowns, etc.) could be a real lifeline for a child; at the same time, he offers advice on where to turn for help. In a format similar to that of Laurie Krasny Brown and Marc Brown's Dinosaurs books, Rubel (the Rotten Ralph books) contributes colorful, occasionally humorous and always direct cartoons (one illustration, for instance, shows Mama Bear with her head in the toilet). This is a powerful vehicle for education, comfort and even

healing, and should be offered without hesitation to any child whom one suspects is dealing with this problem at home. Ages 6-10. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Kindergarten-Grade 3?Langsen proposes to allay the fears children have of being the cause of the problems their alcoholic parents create. He explains what alcoholism is, lists the 10 warning signs, and describes typical behavior associated with the disease: denial, mood swings, blackouts, and embarrassing conduct. The author details different reactions from children such as acting as enabler, perfect child, rebel, or clown. A list of common feelings shared by the family breaks up the text and lends itself to discussion. The final page lists places to get help. Rubel's appealing bear family is portrayed in a colorful, cartoon style that lightens the heavy topic, but doesn't make light of the starkly serious scenes that are depicted. Most pages feature from two to four pictures; each one includes a sentence or two of additional information. This title fills a void for this age group as Carol Carrick's *Banana Beer* (1995) and Judith Vigna's *I Wish Daddy Didn't Drink So Much* (1988, both Albert Whitman) and Maureen Duggan's *Mommy Doesn't Live Here Anymore* (Bonnie Brae, 1987) are fiction. A reassuring approach to a problem that affects so many children in today's society.?Marsha McGrath, Clearwater Public Library, FLCopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

How many of us are scapegoats in a crazy making alcoholic family system which seems to include most of the United States? This book has inestimable value for children of alcoholics of all ages. Children in my MFT internship gravitated towards this book over and over again.. Often it was at the conclusion of the play therapy session that the child would ask "Can I read that book again? Can I see that book again?" Children grow up in alcoholic families not knowing how to have a feeling. Every time they look into Mom or Dad's face they see an incongruent reflection there. Spiritual abuse occurs every time a child is physically, emotionally, or mentally abused. Alcohol is a factor in 50% of all spousal and child abuse. Spiritual abuse occurs every time a child is abused because the message the child gets from the parent is: "I can do anything I want with you" In effect, the child gets the mistaken idea that the parent is the child's Higher power. It is crucial to the development of spirituality that children are taught the concept of a higher power than themselves..and higher than their parents. This book will cost more than gold some day because it is golden. The 21st century will not be known for nuclear fission but the 12 step program and books such as this master piece.

This book helps children and adults understand the disease of alcoholism and how it affects

children. As a counselor, I have used this book with children ages 6 to 60. It helps them understand how alcoholism affects people and how we can respond to it in a healthy way. It's my favorite book to use with children or adults who are growing up or have grown up with an addict of any kind. It's both light and powerful.

The book arrived damaged and the seller issued a refund. I am disappointed that another book was not available, but appreciate the refund.

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