

Bogvægten (The Book Emphasis)

Professional literature

Camilla Semlov

Det næstbedste – når far og mor ikke bor sammen (The next best thing – when dad and mom don't live together)

236 pages

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The losers in divorces are often children but there is help at hand. Social worker and family counselor, Camilla Semlov describes in her book how parents, in spite of hurt feelings and rearranged lives, can create a good environment for the young ones.

With her own divorce and a four year old son as starting point, the author goes through the many aspects there are in building a new and different daily life for herself and, in particular, her child. Semlov emphasizes the importance of the parents agreeing to all the circumstances in connection with the child, also if they are, perhaps, in a phase, where they have difficulty communicating with each other. Furthermore, it is imperative that the partners speak respectfully of each other in front of the child.

The author makes a great effort in explaining what divorce means to the child and how one can best keep the child's world intact, whether the ideal situation is joint custody and, if this is the case, what is required of the communication between the homes.

Another aspect is when the divorced parents enter a new relationship. How is this done tactfully out of respect for the former partner, when and how can one present a new partner to the child? Here the author herself can recount such a successful adjustment of the two new step-parents that the son has no less than four parents along to Parents' Day at school and it results in an overwhelming situation for those around them, when the child presents four parents.

Consideration for the child is constantly emphasized and there are excellent and tested suggestions as to how this consideration can be maintained. The book is rather detailed but the fact that the author concurrently tells of her own experiences makes a strong impact.

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