

PROGENY

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went on to spend the rest of the interview talking about our fathers. It was probably not the best protocol, but for inexplicable reasons, we both felt that it was perfectly appropriate. (Interestingly enough, Tracy was one of the first people who I came out to, not as a fatherless son, but as a gay man.)

For one reason or another, I have had more success with connecting with women who have lost a parent rather than men. Even the bookstore has a wider selection of books on the topic for women than for men. One of my favorite books, in fact, is *Motherless Daughters* by Hope Edelman. It is a courageous book that examines the life-long impact of a mother's death on her

daughters. I can distinctly remember reading the review in the *New York Times Book Review* and thinking, "I wonder if there is a similar book for men?" Five years later, no book has been published. So I have decided to attempt to write this book myself.

I'm mainly writing it for selfish reasons. I want to learn from older men who also experienced the death of their father at a young age. That way, when I turn 40, buy my first house, or go to my child's first day of school, I'll know what impact not having a father may have on my psyche.

But I'm also writing it for people like you, who have obviously cared enough to read this far into the column. I have no training as a psychologist or sociologist, but

I do know what I feel. I also know that there isn't much out there to help men and those who love them to learn more about our own grief from each other. Maybe it's because men tend to be less willing to share or because men tend to grieve differently than women.

All I know is that each time I meet an individual who has lost a parent, I feel a sense of relief knowing that I am not alone. Let's come out together. ▼

This is Kevin McAteer's first piece of writing for OITM. He is in the very early stages of research for his book and welcomes comments about this column and topic; contact him at mcateer@middlebury.edu

not change people's minds" is disputable, the remainder of the piece is food for thought. Ford asks us to consider that we are "so starved for positive representation in the dominant culture that we run the risk of mistaking consumerist assimilation for respect, advertising imagery for rights." A progressive corporation, Ford suggests, would not merely produce ads for a gay market, but would fund grassroots legislative drives, gays-in-the-workplace seminars, and treatment for substance abuse in

the gay and lesbian community.

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Please write to the *Los Angeles Times* to thank them for an education in advertising to the "gay market," and to the *San Francisco Examiner* for a cautionary discussion on not confusing visibility for authenticity.

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