"One in five ..."
Judith Lermer Crawley
with the participation of
Corina Hannah and Gideon Shalom Crawley

1 in 5 Canadian children is raised in a single-parent family.
Women head $85 \%$ of single-parent families. They earn $60 \%$ of the income of singleparent families headed by men.
$65 \%$ of children of single-parent families headed by women live in poverty.
73\% of mothers with children aged 6-15 are in the labour force.
1991 Census; 1986 Census, Fact Sheet, p 29, 33
The Clobe and Mail p A18, Dec. 16, 1991

2 Parenting alone began when he crashed his motorcycle and died

3 I started photographing again six weeks after Michael's death:
my children were almost $31 / 2$ and 5 years old.
Their father died a few weeks after we had separated.
Emotions were already intense.
Their questions and their needs kept me going.

Gideon: When Michael died, we cried every night, eh? For how long?

Years later, when Gideon recalled something about his father at the dinner table, Corina cried. She had no memories of him.

4 With my teacher's salary (and accident insurance), I could afford day-care and babysitters, music and swimming lessons, after-school activities and camp, skiing and summers in the country. I could be home more than most working parents.

Only $\mathbf{3 \%}$ of women ( $\mathbf{1 8 \%}$ of men) earn as much as I do.

## What if anything happens to me?

10 How do you feel about my using pictures of you?
Gideon: I don't mind.
Corina: It's neat. It shows we had lots of different experiences.
Gideon: Oh wow. You can't leave out this one at the picnic, with all your ex-hippie friends standing around. Or that one.
Corina: Look at the clothes she dressed us in.

Gideon: Mum, if you notice, we're smiling in every one of these pictures.
Corina: Almost every one.
Gideon: We're very happy kids.
Corina: Get away from me, jerk.

11 When they argue, I get tense. It shuts me out.

13 Gideon: I don't know what living in a double parent family would be like.

Corina: When I was in elementary school and my friends were always talking about going out with their fathers, it made me feel bad because I didn't know what it was like. They had a completely different part in their life that I never had.

Gideon: $\quad$ Ya.
Corina: And also, my life would be so different now if there was a father...
Gideon: Ya.
Corina: Having another person in your life is a big deal.
Gideon: We'd have another influence. Do you think I'll don't turn out gay because I didn't have a father?

Corina: I doubt it.
Gideon: We'd get double allowance.

2 am
Madame Crawley. This is the Verdun police. We have your daughter here.
But she called at 11:30 to say she was safe and sound.
B \& E ...
What?
at the Nuns' Island community centre.

11 am
Hi Mom. There was a big fight last night. Skinheads crashed the party and beat up a guy when we kicked them out. We called 911 and an ambulance came. Where were you during the fight?
Watching from the stairs.
I don't like this. Now they know you and you're at risk.
Oh, I know these guys from the Alexis Nihon Plaza. They only do this when they're drunk.
Was there any anti-Semitism?
Don't be naive, Mom, there's always anti-Semitism with Skinheads.
11 pm
Mrs. Crawley. This is Police - Station 33. Your son was arrested for shop lifting a mickey of Southern Comfort. Will you come and get him?
What if I say no.
We'll send him to l'Escale, the juvenile detention centre and the court will decide where to place him tomorrow morning. You know what he'll meet in the system?
Do you want that?
But he's out of my control. It's one crisis after another.

Aim your anger at me - who else is there?

I still sleep with my ear tuned to the front door, in knots till they're both home.

Once on Father's Day, I told Gideon that I was angry at Michael.
"How can you be angry at a dead person?"
"Easy," I said, "because he's dead. Because he got on that motorcyle when he was drunk, because he's not helping with the child care, because he's missed out on you guys, because he's not here for you, because he's not here to take half the garbage you dish out at me - maybe there'd be less of it, but we'll never know.

I used to think I would never want them to leave home

