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Judith Moore’s Father Fantasies

In *Fat Girl,* author Judith Moore presents what a person goes through when faced with the struggles of a love/hate relationship with food and the lack of unconditional love and support one needs in order to feel secure. Moore shares hurtful experiences from her childhood, calling attention to the invisible wounds caused by cruel words and the teasing she encounters at school and at home. Her mother is abusive, and her father is no longer in her life. As a result, Moore develops a rich fantasy life, and she often focuses her fantasies on fathers, romanticizing the relationships between other daughters and their fathers. Because her father has been absent from her life since she was young, Moore knows very little about him besides what she has been told by her mother. For example, she knows that her father is a heavyset man, and she finds that interesting. Moore is curious to discover what else they may have in common. Moore’s imagination leads her to believe that complete strangers may be her father. She hopes her father may be out looking for her as she is doing for him. Moore believes that he is the missing piece to her confusing puzzle. She even imagines a make-believe husband who has some of the same characteristics as her father. The multiple father fantasies in Moore’s memoir signify her desire to connect with a man who will love her unconditionally. She believes her father is the key to her ability to accept herself, even though her fantasies often contribute to her self-hatred and loneliness.