

Double trouble

ISBN: 1 85775 669 X

Author: Hazel E. McHaffie

Published: 2005

Price: £11.99 each

Publisher: Radcliffe Publishing, Oxford

Living Literature Series

'Paternity'

ISBN: 1 85775 652 5



These two books form part of the Living Literature Series published by Radcliffe Publishing. The author Hazel McHaffie is well known to neonatal and paediatric staff for her inspirational work as a Research Fellow in medical ethics at Edinburgh University lecturing widely both in the UK and overseas. Her professional life started in nursing and midwifery and she is therefore particularly well qualified to write novels of medical interest. Hazel has woven and moulded her extensive knowledge of ethics, moral dilemmas and clinical concerns with great skill into real life, everyday, stories of drama and of tragedy. *Paternity* and *Double Trouble* tackle the topic of male and female infertility

revealing the potential for pain, distorted relationships and far reaching consequences both medical and moral.

In today's healthcare systems there is an ever growing technology, used in a variety of ways for treatment and in providing care, and also perhaps in more mundane areas of the healthcare services e.g. the provision of electronic patient records. All raise ethical problems for the people receiving care and of course for the staff providing the service for patients in whatever speciality. These issues are often complex and daunting for those involved. These two novels by Hazel McHaffie bring some of these issues into the wider arena while not trivialising or underestimating

the challenges faced by today's society. But by using familiar situations and a language that is refreshingly clear, she takes the reader on a reflective journey to question and even to challenge preconceived medical ideas.

I agree with the series editor Brian Hurwitz that these books 'are accessible and compelling and will be enjoyed by general readers as much as by philosophers and health professionals.' I would however go further and suggest that these stories should be used by lecturers teaching nurses, midwives, doctors and social workers as a text for debate and discussion in the healthcare arena.

Barbara F Weller
Nursing Editor