Underneath the Roses Where I Remembered Everything

This poetry collection by Molly Case, a registered nurse working at King’s College Hospital in London, focuses on vulnerable moments from a nurse’s perspective. It opens with The Park Next to the Hospital, which seamlessly evokes past experiences and the laying down of memories.

My favourite piece is Welcome to Paradise, which cleverly interweaves a nursing student’s first day on placement, with the clock ticking and the day unfolding.

Although many of the poems focus on adult nursing, particularly around London, readers are also taken to Ireland and France. Molly’s Nursing the Nation poem, which gained critical acclaim after she delivered it to the RCN congress in Liverpool in 2013, is featured: ‘So listen to us, hear us goddam roar, you say we’re not doing enough? Then we promise we’ll do more.’

As the book concludes with the title piece Underneath the Roses Where I Remembered Everything, we see a reflective poet focusing on nostalgia and storing memories.

Molly is a spoken-word artist, and a multiple slam poetry winner. She has performed at various festivals including Glastonbury and was invited to Buckingham Palace to meet the Queen as part of the Contemporary British Poetry celebrations.

This debut collection would most likely interest those in general practice, or in dementia support rather than a district nurse, or one specialising in learning disability.

Molly Case | Burning Eye Books | £9.99
100pp | ISBN: 9781909136632

Reviewed by Rob Mackenzie, retired learning disability nurse

Introducing the Social Sciences for Midwifery Practice: Birth in a Contemporary Society

This well-edited book, with contributions from experts in the field, is a must-read for all midwives and those with an interest in understanding how social and political matters influence reproduction and childbirth.

Evidence-based text emphasises the importance of compassionate, humane care, and shows how understanding the context of women’s lives can affect childbirth outcomes and experiences.

Sociology, psychology, anthropology, the law, social policy and politics with their varying perspectives on maternity and reproductive health are covered in this book.

Patricia Lindsay and Ian Peate (Eds) | Routledge | £27.99 | 186pp | ISBN: 9781138015548

Yana Richens, consultant midwife at University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and professional global adviser at the Royal College of Midwives

Facilitating Spiritual Reminiscence for People with Dementia: A Learning Guide

This short text is an ideal introduction for students and professionals with little experience of engaging with people with dementia, or to advance existing skills and knowledge.

A communication method, spiritual reminiscence treats the person as a spiritual being, and seeks to promote more meaningful engagement.

A pragmatic read, it offers a step-by-step guide to communicating with people living with dementia, via a six-week group work programme.

Separated into two short sections, one addresses the philosophy and theory behind the book through narrative, examples of dialogue and questions for the reader to reflect on. Part two presents suggested topics, advice and examples of dialogue on which to base spiritual reminiscence group work, week by week.

Although designed to be used in conjunction with another of the authors’ books, this work alone provides ample learning opportunities presented in a highly accessible and readable way.

The discussion and suggestions around communication skills are particularly useful.

This is an enjoyable book for anyone involved in the care of those living with dementia, and would also be helpful as a quick reference to those carrying out varying types of group work on the condition.

Elizabeth MacKinlay and Corinne Trevitt | Jessica Kingsley Publishers | £22.99 | 112pp
ISBN: 9781849055734

Reviewed by Marianne Blake (student), MRes Health and Social Care, University of Dundee

Key: Excellent: Excellent: Very good Good: Average Poor: Poor: Poor: Poor: