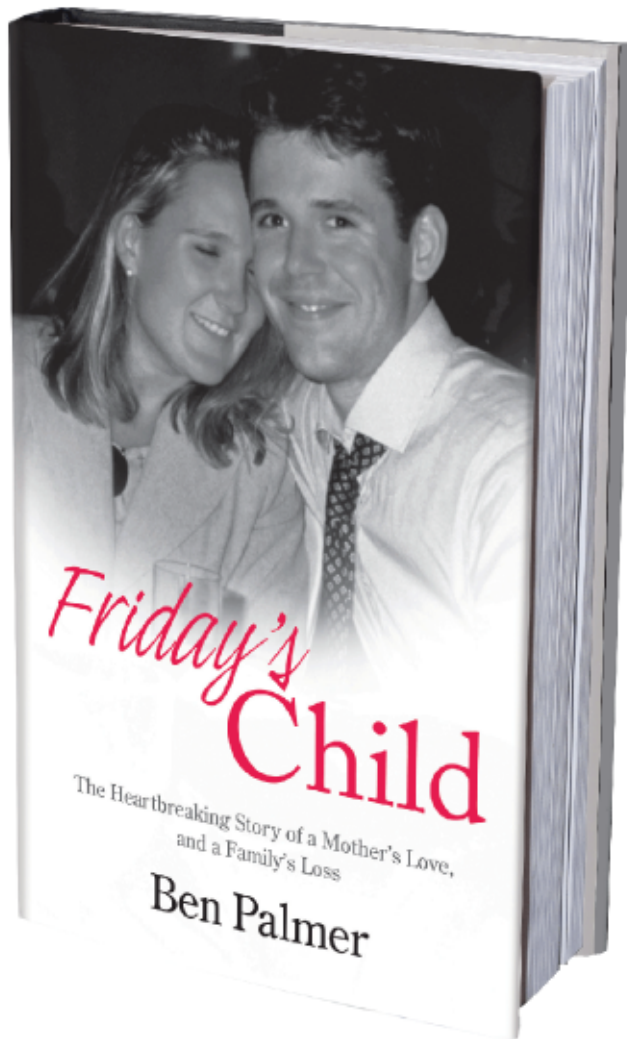


Friday's Child

The Heartbreaking Story of a Mother's Love and a Family's Loss



In the summer of 2004, Ben Palmer was overjoyed when his wife Jessica gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. Emily was their first daughter and a little sister for their three-year-old son Harry. They had everything they had ever wanted.

Six days later, Jessica died of childbed fever, an archaic illness that causes blood poisoning, a condition that can be easily detected and prevented.

This is Ben's raw, moving account of dealing with his grief while raising two small children as a single parent, and of how he successfully sued the NHS for negligence. As he struggles to comprehend his loss and to care for their two young children, he is overwhelmed by shock, anger, despair and guilt, before finally finding hope in the future, thanks to the love and support of his friends and family.

A story of living with a cruel and needless loss, this is also a story of two people who loved each other for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; till death tragically parted them.

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www.jessicatrust.org.uk/fridays-child/

Childbed fever is an infection of the womb in new mothers which can lead to septicaemia.

If you think it is a disease of the past, you're wrong.

Childbed fever infections are rare, but they can happen to anybody, and can be fatal: 14% of maternal deaths are due to septicaemia.¹

The symptoms of infection are usually easy to recognise and, if caught at an early stage, generally respond well to antibiotics.

But if left untreated infection can cause organ failure & death - even in young, fit mothers.

For you and your family's sake

please, make sure you're aware
of the symptoms, and of the importance of prompt treatment

Possible symptoms of childbed fever in a new mum

- Headache, feeling generally unwell
- Sore throat
- Raised temperature
- Fast pulse (100+ beats per minute)
- Fast breathing
- Offensive vaginal discharge
- Rash
- Vomiting and/or diarrhoea
- Abdominal/leg pains

If you have two or more of these symptoms, especially if they are getting worse, or if you are in any doubt, please call your GP or midwife, or go to hospital immediately.



Jessica's Trust

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¹ Lewis, G (ed) 2007. The Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH). Saving Mothers' Lives: reviewing maternal deaths to make motherhood safer - 2003-2005. The Seventh Report on Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths in the United Kingdom. London: CEMACH.

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raising awareness of childbed fever