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Voice of Youth Advocates Book Reviews

Boll, Rosemarie. **Second Trial**.
Second Story Press, 2010. 240p.
\$11.95
Trade pb. 978-1-897187-72-2.

Danny is unwilling or unable to accept the fact that his father is abusing his mother, although experts at the trial say his father will likely kill her next time. She has made excuses and kept the beatings a secret for many years. Even after the latest altercation, when Danny hears his father threaten to shoot her and finds her badly injured at the bottom of the stairs, he still wants to believe that it is an aberrant event rather than a growing danger. Paul, Danny's father, is always encouraging and engaging him, finding activities and interests to pursue together, although this is not the case with his sister, Jennifer. Unfortunately, Danny hasn't taken note of the fact that in addition to constantly putting his mother down, Paul pushes away and discourages her friends and family. Now the justice system is involved, and with the help of friends in legal and social services, his mother takes him and his sister to live in a new city with new identities. Danny can't accept all that he has lost and rebels at every turn. This first-time author provides a thoughtful account of life amid the world of domestic abuse, where children can feel confused when adults are not who they pretend to be. Sadly, this topic affects too many families, so it's timely and helpful to have this insightful literature for assignments and general interest in both public and school libraries.

—Ava Ehde.

3Q • 3P • M • J • S

Codes:

3Q Readable, without serious defects.

3P Will appeal with pushing

M Middle School

J Junior High

S Senior High