'Listen for the Singing'

Written for youngsters, book's spirit appeals to readers of all ages

by Shirley Whittington Reading Listen for the Singing, Jean Little's newest book for children, was a double pleasure for me. The background - of story that readers of Toronto in the forties - is a Further, I've met Jean to a line from In Flan-Little, and have been impressed with her warm and beautiful spirit - a fly..."

spirit that shines through all her writing.

Although Listen for The

Singing was written for youngsters, it's the kind any age will respond to. The title is a reference ders' Fields. "The lark, still bravely singing,

The principal of Anna for the singing." Solden's school tells her, "Faith is when you hear story, is facing

Anna, the heroine of the

Book review

the bird singing before terrifying personal the egg is hatched...listen

challenge when the story

Counselling specialist to present one day seminar in Barrie on death and dying finding friends during the first few days of school, who give her the help she

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WEEK

"Dying has to do with contact Mrs. Margaret Sound - Phone (519) 376- bargaining, depression, living," according to Dr. Watson, Health Sciences Mwalimu Imara of Division, Georgian Boston who, by popular College, 43 Colborne St. associated with Dr. authority on death and demand, will pay a return W., Orillia, Ontario L3V Elizabeth Kubler-Ross dying and the author of War is declared, and for visit to the Georgian Bay 2Y5 - Phone (705) 325area in September. "How we are living is

how we are dying," the specialist in counselling the dying and bereaved told an audience of almost 700 in Barrie last fall Death touches all and like birth, is a natural and universal experience, he said. Yet, we live in a death-defying society. Most people die alone, and death has become the 20th Century pornography.

Dr. Imara will present a one-day seminar of Death and Dying on September 22nd at Georgian College in Owen Sound and a two-day workshop on Counselling the Dying and Grieving, September 23-24, at Blue Mountain Resorts near Collingwood. Both events are being presented by the Health Sciences Division of Georgian College.

Registration is limited and pre-registration with the accompanying fee is required by September 8. The fee for the Owen Sound seminar, which includes lunch and coffee, is \$18. Fee for the Blue Mountain workshop (including meals) is \$55. Package rates for the latter, including double or single accommodation, are also available.

For registration forms and further information,

FIRST AID TIP



RESPIRATION

points almost vertically upwards f asualty's nostrils tight to om escaping . Take a a flaw in your procedure or 2) there



2705. In Grey-Bruce, contact Mrs. Carole seminar Dr. Ross' theory Morrison, Health Sciences Division, Georgian College, 1198

since 1967 and will discuss in detail during the of the five stages terminal patients go through after learning of their plight -Sixth Ave. W., Owen denial, anger,

and acceptance. Dr. Ross Dr. Imara has been is a world-renowed such well-known books as "On Death and Dying."

Reading is only possible if she holds her book inches from her face. Blackboards, even from the front of the classroom. are impossible for her. She cannot read typed examinations. She cannot thread a needle, and the challenges posed by classes in Phy Ed are almost insurmountable. "The trouble is," Anna explains to a friend, "that sometimes I don't know

when I need help because I don't see what I'm not seeing, so I don't know I'm not seeing it."

But something even more momentous happens to the family during that September in 1939. Anna's family, recently emigrated from Ger-

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opens. She is about to many, this is a personal enter high school - a big tragedy. Her father step for any youngster, weeps. And her beloved but Anna is almost blind. Aunt Tania is in Hamburg, where she keeps house for a liberal Jewish newspaper editor. Her fate is predictable.

Anna's older brother joins the navy, and temporarily retreats into a sorrowing shell of self

Through all the troubles realizes that "sitting alone and sorrowing would not help...the only way to hold onto her sanity and help her family through this dark time was to behave as normally as possible."

By behaving as normally as possible, Anna brings her mother out of her solitary grief, and leads her brother out of his self-protective shell. Together, they listen for the singing.

Jean Little herself has a

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severe visual handicap, and she says of her own childhood: "I was treated by my parents as a child first...and a handicapped child only when it became necessary."

This is exactly how Little treats her Anna, in Listen For The Singing.

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Anna suffers the doubts results. Ed classes. Algebra is a

and insecurities common to all young adolescents. She has her braids cut, submits to a "Perm" and is horrified at the frizzy She tries desperately to find an excuse not to take Phys

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mystery to her. She struggle with some kind cheats, by copying a of conflict...their parfriend's homework. Only when she is found out does the subject.

brilliant brothers and

ticular disability necessarily being a part she come to terms with of their life, but not the whole story ever.' Listen To the Singing

Throughout, she suffers under the handicap of a quietly beautiful bo having been preceded at Youngsters will find it the high school by absorbing and interesting. And after they have gone to bed, parents, Jean Little has said may well pick the book up about her writing, "In my and find great pleasure in books the children it also.

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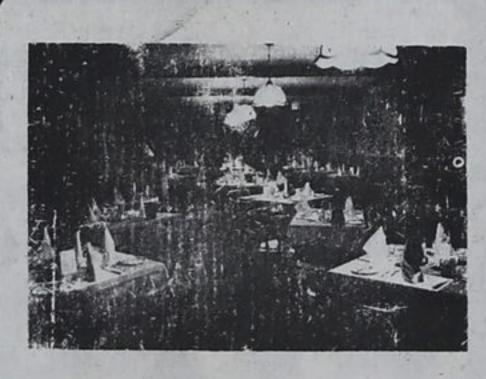
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