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Julie-Marie Strange
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Fatherhood and the British Working Class, 1865–1914

A pioneering study of Victorian and Edwardian fatherhood, this book investigates what being, and having, a father meant to working-class people. Based on working-class autobiography, the book challenges dominant assumptions about absent or 'feckless' fathers, and reintegrates the paternal figure within the emotional life of families. Locating autobiography within broader social and cultural commentary, Julie-Marie Strange considers material culture, everyday practice, obligation, duty and comedy as sites for the development and expression of complex emotional lives. Emphasising the importance of separating men as husbands from men as fathers, Strange explores how emotional ties were formed between fathers and their children, the models of fatherhood available to working-class men, and the ways in which fathers interacted with children inside and outside the home. She explodes the myth that working-class interiorities are inaccessible or unrecoverable, and locates life stories in the context of other sources, including social surveys, visual culture and popular fiction.

JULIE-MARIE STRANGE is Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Manchester. She is author of *Death, Grief and Poverty, 1870–1914* (Cambridge, 2005).

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The working-class family: Alfred Hartley, calico print labourer, and his wife, Sarah, with children, Alfred and Albert, c.1907.

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*For
David William Strange
Who worked hard for his children*

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <i>Acknowledgements</i> | page viii |
| Introduction: O Father, where art thou? | 1 |
| 1 Love and toil: fatherhood, providing and attachment | 21 |
| 2 Love and want: unemployment, failure and the fragile father | 49 |
| 3 Man and home: the inter-personal dynamics of fathers at home | 82 |
| 4 Front stage values, back stage lives: family togetherness, respectability and ‘real’ fathers | 111 |
| 5 Funny talk: laughter, family and fathering | 145 |
| 6 The fond father: protection, authority, reconciliation | 177 |
| Conclusion: discovering fatherhood | 211 |
| <i>Bibliography</i> | 216 |
| <i>Index</i> | 231 |

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ix

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