

Nov. 1, 1969

Marques BOOKS

FOR YOU DEPARTED, by Alan Paton. Charles Scribners Sons. \$5.95.

For the mate remaining after death ends a 40-year partnership, there seems an inescapable path and schedule for grief. Aids to make the period endurable often are couched in platitudes difficult to apply to a real lost person.

"For You Departed" seems to have corrected and supplied that need, probably without intending to, for its concern is with the author's own separation from his mate, not all others in the world.

Its power has many reasons. It is unusual for a husband to write a personal memorial to his wife, and it is even more rare for the bereaved to be completely honest about the departed.

ALAN PATON is no ordinary man, and he is not ashamed of emotion as his memorable "Cry, The Beloved Country" attests. He had no ordinary career, beginning as a schoolmaster in Natal, pioneering in improving reformatory conditions for 13 years, emerging as an international writer and fighting futilely against apartheid in South Africa.

No ordinary marriage did he have, either, to Doris Francis, six years his senior. When he met her she was married, but her husband died shortly, and the two agonized over propriety and her ability to love again. She was not without fault, but she was steadfast and she shed warmth in ever-widening radius.

Like many a woman before and since, she found it hard to accept that her husband loved his vocation as much as he loved his bride. She thought him erudite, while he confessed only to "a lively, jackdaw mind, with traces of eagle and owl."

She, a lackadaisical Anglican, and he, an uncommitted Christadelphia, found the "morality of affirmations rather than prohibitions" of the Anglican church suited the Christian con-

An adult fantasy about our smothering crowded or crippled" or unable to breathe "tiffut Island" (Doubleday & Company. birds direct them to an enchanted, unexodus of courageous edifices from ca sculptress Rutherford has underlined a lived structures and moved them to te type plates.

victions central to their activities.

THEIR PARTNERSHIP is celebrated in lyric passages alternating with those on present daily fight against a fear of living on alone, which would only corrupt the remembrance.

When his grief is finally done, and he's ready to fall in love again with life, he need never shrink again from the memories.

Alan Paton's Dorrie has a memorial in which she stands breathing again, and others bereaved have a solace of unquestionable assistance.