



## The Ministry of Special Cases

by Nathan Englander

Faber & Faber, £7.99

When their teenage son

Pato is taken by Argentina's military government, Kaddish and Lillian Poznan find themselves fighting not just the system but each other in their attempts to get him back. Always a tight-knit family, the Poznans become even more isolated as paranoid friends keep their distance. Full of humour and tinged with cruelty and frustration, Nathan Englander's story is entertaining. What makes it so involving, however, is the astuteness with which the characters' psychological worlds are described.

*Jo Caird*