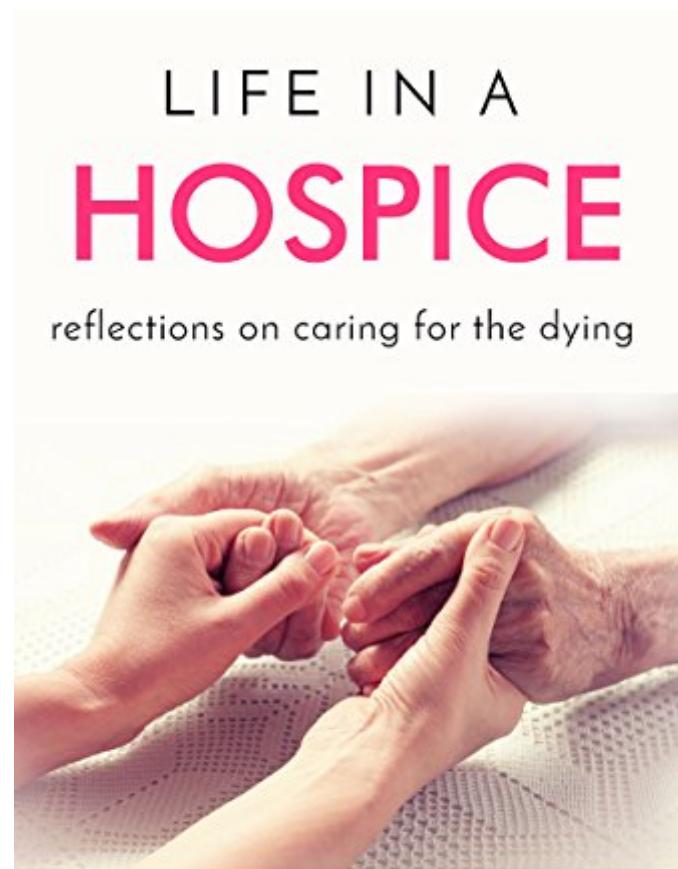


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# Life In A Hospice: Reflections On Caring For The Dying



Ann Richardson

FOREWORD BY TONY BENN



## **Synopsis**

End of life care at its best Dying, it's an uncomfortable topic. None of us likes to think about what our last days will be like. But if we do think about them at all, we want them to be full of peace and tranquillity, with the chance to say proper goodbyes to those we love. Life in a Hospice takes you behind the scenes in end-of-life care, where you will see the enormous efforts of nurses, doctors, chaplains and others - even a thoughtful cook - to provide the calm that we all hope for. Perhaps you are looking for end-of-life care for someone you love. Perhaps you are wondering if this is the job for you. Or you just feel like being inspired by humanity at its best. This book will be for you. **HIGHLY COMMENDED** by the British Medical Association, 2008 "The simple reflections on complex areas of care resonate long after you have finished reading the book." Cancer Nursing Forum Newsletter, Royal College of Nursing "An easy-to-read book, which will surprise many readers with its lightness of touch, humanity and refreshing tone. I would recommend it to anyone who has worries about their own or a relative's care at the end of life." Dr Nansi-Wynne Evans, GP, BMA Medical Book Competition

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

As a medical ethicist in a teaching hospital, I am moved by the candour of staff, specifically when they talk about the difficulties experienced and what they do to cope. It makes the mission and work real. There is nothing academic in the understanding we have after reading about what people do, why they do it and what it actually means to patients and their families. We are in the experience. Very helpful for the people who actually do the work. It makes legitimate what we think and feel, but are reluctant to admit to. âfÃ¢â ¬Ã ¦ let alone speak about.

The book is on a subject that should be of universal interest, death, although most people do not care to think about it, and about how hospice care makes the process less painful, physically and psychologically, for the person who is doing it and for that person's friends and family. It is a skillfully organized series of interviews with friends and family of the dying patients, caregivers, and administrators, easy to read and full of unforgettable, deeply personal stories.

Ann has completed a work, in this book, that shows her commitment to her craft. She cares about all aspects of hospice from the patient, family and workers such as nurses, chaplains, etc. A good death is relative to the culture. In "Legends of the Fall", the narrator, a Native American, in the 1800's, felt the death of the main character by a Grizzly bear, was "a good death".

Ann Richardson has written a book on hospice care that should be read by all medical people and anyone facing end-of-life issues with family or friends. I thought I knew quite a bit about how a hospice works, having had a brother-in-law who was in hospice care. I learned a lot. A hospice is not a sad place, it's a place of peace for living until the end comes and a comfort for families. It's interesting reading what staff have to say about working in a hospice. A very important book on the subject.

Ann Richardson has looked at the world of the hospice from the inside out, documenting the experiences of professionals, managers, staff and family. Her approach to this topic is both unique and thorough, an excellent resource for anyone curious about how hospices function.

What a relevant book. No matter what walk of life or age, all of us will at some stage have to care for our dying parents, and it is therefore relevant for all of us to know what is going on behind the doors of hospices. I was interested in reading this book because I have an elderly mother, aged 86. She is

doing fine, but I am sure the moment will come, sooner or later that I will have to take care of her, so decided to delve into the subject of end-of-life care. Not that I want to work in a hospice, but I would like to get a feeling for what it is like. And well, I was pleasantly surprised that the author Ann Richardson covers all possible subjects. Not only about the caring itself, but also about the daily rhythms, the family, children of those who are about to die, the anxieties. All in all, I can wholeheartedly recommend this book.

Ann Richardson did an excellent job with this book. For some, hearing the word "hospice" may seem intimidating. However, this book is about living; it depicts the lives of individuals who are devoted to selflessly aid fellow human beings who are facing their darkest time. I thoroughly enjoyed reading *Life In A Hospice*, because it teaches poignant life lessons we all should be aware of in order to be our best selves. I highly recommend it!Louise

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