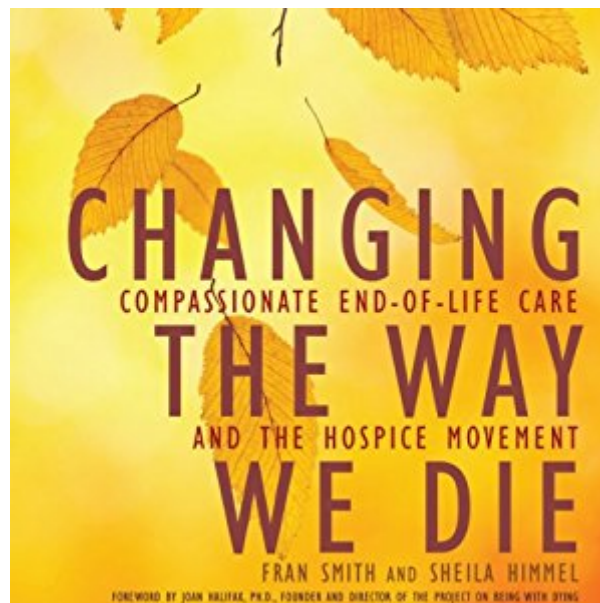




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Changing The Way We Die: Compassionate End-of-Life Care And The Hospice Movement



Synopsis

There's a quiet revolution happening in the way we die. More than 1.5 million Americans a year die in hospice care - nearly 44 percent of all deaths - and a vast industry has sprung up to meet the growing demand. Once viewed as a New Age indulgence, hospice is now a \$14 billion business and one of the most successful segments in health care. *Changing the Way We Die*, by award-winning journalists Fran Smith and Sheila Himmel, is the first book to take a broad, penetrating look at the hospice landscape, through gripping stories of real patients, families, and doctors, as well as the corporate giants that increasingly own the market. *Changing the Way We Die* is a vital resource for anyone who wants to be prepared to face life's most challenging and universal event. You will learn: Hospice use is soaring, yet most people come too late to get the full benefits. With the age tsunami, it becomes even more critical for families and patients to choose end-of-life care wisely. Hospice at its best is much more than a way to relieve the suffering of dying. It is a way to live.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book gives good info re: history of hospice in US, but I found myself skimming forward to case studies. Having worked for our local hospice for 8 years, I was already familiar with some of the background information. I hear lots of ads on radio for the "for-profit" hospice organizations, and now understand the differences. I will certainly find a non-profit one when and if I need their help, thanks to this book.

Ms. Smith covered this topic thoroughly in the best way possible for me....through history, stories of real people, circumstances and events. Fran advised copious discussion about end of life scenarios without recommending. My sense is to struggle with end of life conversations now is grease for the wheel when those decisions play out. A gift to everyone involved. Making these toughest decisions and laying out the guidelines for them, when the sky is blue, could make for better navigation when the sun is gone and seas are heavy. Maybe avoiding that terrible space....not sure it can be...am I doing this for her?... or for me...either way. Aj

Two fathers died; two daughters grieved *After the Last Goodbye* with unanswered questions. As former colleagues, they did what accomplished journalists do. They reported for two years and found answers in the stories of other daughters and sons and parents and spouses. After you read their book, you will encourage your father, your mother, your sibling, your child to read it and then talk about it. You will check out hospice availability in your area. You will throw away the boilerplate advance directive your lawyer attached to your will. You will write your own *After the Last Goodbye* a first draft, subject to revision.

A must read to understand the hospice movement and how to best navigate the very emotional inevitable fact that we are mortal.

I love reading books by journalists. They cover a lot of territory in an engaging way. This book will not make you an expert, but through storytelling, it's a good start. Plenty of resources mentioned in the book that you can follow up on.

Death and dying don't have to be taboo. Speak with your loved ones "gently" as this subject matter may be a safe subject for some and scary as hell for others. Any advance planning that is shared are steps in the right direction and will make it easier in the long run. Book was very informative on the birth of and trials of hospice. Bottom line it is all about the patient, the family and what they want or need during the time of crisis. Pre-planning can help loved ones avoid having to "guess" about what the patient needs or wants during their journey. It allows all involved to focus on the patient instead of having to stop and do the paperwork during a time when they could be enjoying the final days together.

I would recommend this book to any of my family and friends and certainly to any one associated with Hospice. I appreciate more the importance of talking about death and dying. I loved the comment that in our society we prepare for and celebrate the beginning of life, but approach the subject of death with dread or not at all.

This is an excellent overview of hospice care and the movement behind it. If you have wondered "what is hospice?" This will give you excellent insights. I encounter hospice quite a lot as a pastor and so hearing the history and philosophy, as well as the experiences of patients and their families in this book, has helped me to have a better context and understanding in my ministry.

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