Hospice and the Palliative Care Movement

The Art of Dying: How to Leave this World with Dignity and Grace, at Peace with Yourself and Your Loved Ones by Patricia Weenolsen (2010) This book touches on a variety of end-of-life concerns from the practical to the spiritual to help the dying make the most of the remainder of their lives and find meaning in death. [NHCPL]

Being with Dying: Cultivating Compassion and Fearlessness in the Presence of Death by Joan Halifax (2008) The author founded the “Project on Being with Dying” which helps dying people face death with courage and trains professional and family caregivers in compassionate and ethical end of life care. [NHCPL]

*** Changing the Way We Die: Compassionate End-of-Life Care and the Hospice Movement by Fran Smith and Sheila Himmel (2013) Journalists Fran Smith and Sheila Himmel 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.

Compassion in Dying: Stories of Dignity and Choice ed. by Barbara Coombs Lee (2003) The author is the president of Compassion in Dying, a nonprofit organization that provides legal activism, public education, and client services to expand and protect the rights of the terminally ill.

*** Books I personally think are exceptional either in content or readability or both. Worth buying.

Death without Denial, Grief Without Apology: A Guide for Facing Death and Loss by Barbara K. Roberts (2002) Roberts gives you a good idea of what to expect from hospice and the experience of having your loved one die at home through hospice. [NHCPL]

Fragments on the Deathwatch by Louise Harmon (1999) During the deathwatch for her father, Harmon, a lawyer, grew upset at the inhumanity of the medical and legal professionals toward the patient’s loved ones. This is a first person exploration of medical and legal issues our culture needs to begin dealing with.

Healing Touch: True Stories of Life, Death, and Hospice (2008) Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Richard Russo and five other Maine authors prove that the close of life need not be filled with darkness when hospice help is at hand. [NHCPL]


Hospice Voices: Lessons for Living at the End of Life by Eric Linder (2013) The author has been a hospice volunteer since 2009. He reveals the thoughts, fears, and lessons of those living the end of their lives in the care of others. This one is a great read. [NHCPL]

The Last Adventure of Life: Sacred Resources for Living and Dying from a Hospice Councilor by Maria Dancing Heart (2008) Full of poems, prayers and meditations as well as excellent and exhaustive resources and a bibliography section. [NHCPL]

Lessons for the Living: Stories of Forgiveness, Gratitude, and Courage at the End of Life by Stan Goldberg (2009) The author, a cancer survivor himself, signed up as a hospice volunteer to spend time at the bedsides of the terminally ill. Here he shares stories of the people he met. [NHCPL]

Living at the End of Life: A Hospice Nurse Addresses the Most Common Questions by Karen Whitley Bell (2010) A comprehensive guide that is well organized covers the scope of issues around hospice care with stories, resources, and practical suggestions on dealing with the day to day aspects of dying. [NHCPL]

The Modern Art of Dying: A History of Euthanasia in the United States by Shai J. Lavi (2005) In attempting to gain control over death, the author maintains we may unintentionally have ceded control to policy makers and bio-scientific enterprises.

The Needs of the Dying: A Guide for Bringing Hope, Comfort, and Love to Life's Final Chapter by David Kessler (2007) Kessler was co-author on two of Kubler-Ross's later books and here continues her legacy with a gentle and compassionate work that provides a vocabulary for family members and the dying to communicate.

*** Books I personally think are exceptional either in content or readability or both. Worth buying.

This bibliography was prepared by Rebecca Taylor, Funeral Consumers Alliance – Coastal Carolina. Notation of “NHCPL” means the New Hanover County Public Library. Please check your local public library, or request titles by Interlibrary Loan. Virtually all titles are also available from online bookstores, like amazon.com, often in "used" and other inexpensive editions.

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