



Life in a Hospice: Reflections on Caring for the Dying

Ann Richardson

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Highly Commended, BMA Medical Book Awards 2008

This book is about hospices, seen through the eyes of the people who work in them. Their individual voices, perspectives and stories invite readers into the day-to-day complexities of hospice life. There is growing public and professional attention to end of life care and the way dying patients and their families are treated. How can hospices make the process dignified and peaceful as possible? What sort of people dedicate their careers to helping the dying? What difficulties are they up against in providing this care, and what makes it all worthwhile? This inspirational book provides vivid, real-life accounts of hospice life from managers, doctors, nurses, carers and support staff. The thought-provoking narratives provide vital insights into the type of work undertaken in a hospice setting. They examine the differences between hospice and hospital care, and explore the challenges, personal motivations and the many ways hospices strive to meet the needs of patients and their families with sensitivity and respect. "Life in a Hospice" is enlightening reading for all healthcare professionals in palliative care, including volunteer, administrative and support staff. It is also highly recommended for nurses and others in caring roles considering a move into hospice work. Therapists, counsellors and religious leaders will discover poignant and encouraging insights, and people with a family member approaching the end of life will find the book reassuring and informative.

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