Death: A Selective Bibliography

compiled by Jim Van Buskirk (updated December 2025)

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General
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Afterlife and Near-Death Experiences

Albom, Mitch. *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* (2003)
"An astoundingly original story that will change everything you've ever thought about the afterlife--and the meaning of our lives here on earth."

Alexander, Eban. *Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife* (2013)
“Brings a unique perspective to the sacred world combining a glorious, personal vision of spiritual consciousness with patient, insightful scientific inquiry.”

Assante, Julia. *The Last Frontier: Exploring the Afterlife and Transforming Our Fear of Death* (2012)
This exploration of the afterlife and communication with the dead, by a professional psychic and a professional scholar, addresses questions about God, heaven, and hell, give evidence for existence beyond death, and share historical accounts, religious scholarship, near-death experiences, and after-death communication.

Atwater, P.M.H. *Complete Idiot's Guide to Near-Death Experiences* (2000)
An overview of information on near-death experiences and belief in the afterlife, including personal accounts, case studies, and religious viewpoints, as well as advice on coping with personal experiences.

Atwater, P.M.H. *We Live Forever: The Real Truth about Death* (2004)
Delves into the truths and myths about death that may shed new light on the truth about life and living. Other books by this prolific author, include *Beyond the Light* (1994), and *Future Memory* (2013).

Barrett, Sir William. *Death-bed Visions: The Psychical Experiences of the Dying* (2013)
This veteran of over half a century in psychical research and a member of the Society for Psychical Research (SPR) has observed and documented a variety of different types of psychic phenomena and activity. His work has been credited with demonstrating the existence of the invisible and unseen spiritual world, including the survival of consciousness after the death of the physical body.

Crawford, April. *Parting Notes: A Connection with the Afterlife* (2002)
An incredible collection of channeled letters from people who have passed over to the other side.

Crookall, Robert. *Events on the Threshold of the Afterlife* (1967)
A collection of case studies offering "Clues" as to" the greatest of all enigmas".

Doughtery, Ned. *Fast Lane to Heaven: Celestial Encounters that Changed My Life* (2001)
The author's near-death experience opened the door to encounters with various aspects of the divine spirit, including the "Lady of Light," later identified as the Virgin Mary.

Eadie, Betty J. *Embraced by the Light* (1992)
An inspirational map of the afterlife framed in the moment of Eadie's death, heavily filtered through her Christian worldview.

Greyson, Bruce and Charles Flynn. *The Near-Death Experience: Problems, Prospects, Perspectives* (1984)

Greyson, Bruce. *After: A Doctor Explores What Near-Death Experiences Reveal About Life and Beyond* (2021)
A physician without a religious belief system shares transformative lessons from four decades of scientific research.

Johnson, Christopher Jay & Marsha G. McGee, eds. *How different religions view death & afterlife* (1998, 2nd ed.)
A practical explanation of the beliefs of 19 different religions, including a comparative section of "questions and answers about death and afterlife".

Junger, Sebastian. *In My Time of Dying: How I Came Face to Face with the Idea of an Afterlife* (2024)
The award-winning war reporter and avowed atheist shares his memoir, a scientific, philosophical, and deeply personal examination of mortality and what happens after we die.

Kagan, Annie. *The Afterlife of Billy Fingers: How My Bad-Boy Brother Proved to Me There's Life After Death* (2013)
One of the most detailed after death communications (ADC)'s ever recorded takes the reader beyond the near-death experience with a vivid, real-time account of Billy's on-going journey through the mysteries of death.

Kovacs, Betty J. *The Miracle of Death: There Is Nothing But Life* (2021)
Claims "that our individual mortality is an illusion, that death and birth are a cycle through which life, the sole reality, continues transformed, but unbroken. And that as more people are turning inward and experiencing the true dimensions of their inner self, a new consciousness is being born on this planet -- a consciousness that we are all part of each other and of the cosmos, and that together we can heal the Earth."

Long, Jeffrey. *Evidence of the Afterlife: The Science of Near-Death Experiences* (2011)
A radiation oncologist and founder (in 1998, with his wife, Jody) of the Near Death Experience Research Foundation (NDERF.org), a forum for near death "experiencers" to share their stories, states "There is currently more scientific evidence to the reality of near death experience (NDE) than there is for how to effectively treat certain forms of cancer."

Metzner, Ralph. *The Life Cycle of the Human Soul: Incarnation -- Conception -- Birth -- Death -- Hereafter -- Reincarnation* (2011)
"A radical empiricist in the tradition of William James" discusses "the experience of life before birth, and the experience of life after death of the physical body."

Monroe, Robert. *Far Journeys* (1992)
The sequel to Monroe's *Journey Out of The Bod*y reflects a decade of research into the psychic realm beyond the known dimensions of physical reality.

Moody, Raymond, Jr., with Paul Perry. *Glimpses of Eternity: sharing a loved one's passage from this life to the next* (2010)
The author of *Life After Life* reveals new results from his life-long investigation of what happens when we die. The stories of Shared Death Experiences (SDEs) are both a comfort and a mystery, giving a new understanding of the journey that we will take at the end of our lives.

Morse, Melvin. *Transformed by the Light: The Powerful Effect of Near-Death Experiences on People's Lives* (1992)
The continuation of a comforting, yet scientific, probe into the mysteries of death, which began in *Closer to the Ligh*t, reveals that people who have had Near Death Experiences manifest a heightened appetite for life.

Neal, Mary C. *To Heaven and Back: A Doctor's Extraordinary Account of Her Death, Heaven, Angels, and Life Again: A True Story* (2012)
An account of the orthopedic surgeon's spiritual journey, after drowning in a kayak accident, as she moved from life to death to eternal life, and back again.

Newton, Michael. *Journey of Souls: Case Studies of Life Between Lives* (2011)
These twenty-nine case studies recall experiences between physical deaths.

Peters, William J. *At Heaven's Door: What Shared Journeys to the Afterlife Teach About Dying Well and Living Better*. An end-of-life therapist shares twenty years of gathering stories of how the living accompany the dying on their journey into the afterlife, referred to as a shared death experience (SDE) or "shared crossing".

Rafter, Jewels. *Guided By the Light: Following Your Angelic Guides* (2016)
A compilation of insights, channeled messages, and Angelic experiences told by intuitives, healers, light workers and everyday people.

Ring, Kenneth. *Heading Toward Omega: In Search of the Meaning of the Near-Death Experience* (1985)

Ring, Kenneth. *Lessons From the Light: What we can learn from the near-death experience* (1998)
A balance of sound research and human insight to reveal the practical wisdom held within this collection of accounts of near-death experiences.

Roach, Mary. *Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife* (2005)
This exploration of the afterlife is loaded with unusual historical facts, oddball encounters and humorous observations.

Schwartz, Gary E. *The Afterlife Experiments: Breakthrough Scientific Evidence of Life After Death* (2002)
"A scientist's personal journey from skepticism to wonder and awe provides astonishing answers to a timeless question: Is there life after death?"

Segal. Alan F. *Life after Death: A History of Afterlife in the Religions of the West* (2010)
Weaving together biblical and literary scholarship, sociology, history, and philosophy, Segal examines the many ways ancient civilizations grappled with the question of what exactly happens to us after we die.

Storm, Howard. *My Descent into Death: a second chance at life* (2005)
A first-person report of a near death experience from the perspective of an atheist who eventual becomes a pastor in the United Church of Christ.

Tucker, Jim B. *Life Before Life: A Scientific Investigation of Children's Memories of Previous Lives* (2005)

A collection of 2,500 cases at the University of Virginia examining research into children's reports of past-life memories.

van Lommel, Pim. *Consciousness Beyond Life: The Science of the Near-Death Experience* (2010)

Weiss, Brian L. *Many Lives, Many Masters: The True Story of a Prominent Psychiatrist, His Young Patient, and the Past-Life Therapy That Changed Both Their Lives* (1988)
A traditional psychotherapist, skeptical when one of his patients began recalling past-life traumas that seemed to hold the key to her recurring nightmares and anxiety attacks, was astonished when she began to channel messages from the "space between lives," containing revelations about Dr. Weiss' family and his dead son.

Whitton, Joel & Joe Fisher. *Life Between Life: Scientific Explorations into the Void Separating One Incarnation from the Next* (1986)
Documents the often elusive periods between incarnations, based on 13 years of research and more than 30 medical case histories, and drawing upon the revolutionary technique of hypnotic regression.

Funerals

Benjamin, Kathy. *Funerals to Die For: The Craziest, Creepiest, and Most Bizarre Funeral Traditions and Practices Ever* (2013)
The rich--and often, dark--history of funeral rites, customs, and trivia from around the globe.

Berman, Rochel U. *Dignity beyond death: the Jewish preparation for burial* (2005)
Examines the rituals of preparation of the dead in the Jewish tradition from the perspective of the volunteers, members of a community organization known as the Chevra Kadisha, or Sacred Society.

Carlson, Lisa. *Caring for the Dead: Your Final Act of Love* (1997)
This comprehensive guide for consumers making funeral arrangements with or without a funeral director contains detailed descriptions of the "tricks of the funeral trade", to avoid unwanted and overpriced goods and services, and how to file a complaint when subjected to unethical funeral home practices.

Carson, Denise. *Parting ways: New Rituals and Celebrations of Life's Passing* (2011)
Investigates a variety of options that revise the impending-death scenario, including living funerals, oral ethical wills, and home funerals.

Gallot, Benoit. *The Secret Life of a Cemetery: The Wild Nature and Enchanting Lore of Père-Lachaise* (2025)
The head curator of the famous Paris cemetery (and son of a grave stonemason) shares his unique perspective on the tourists and mourners as well the foxes, birds, wildflowers and moss sighted amongst the tombstones.

Goodman, Arnold M. *A plain pine box: a return to simple Jewish funerals and eternal traditions* (1981)

Harris, Mark. *Grave Matters: A Journey Through the Modern Funeral Industry to a Natural Way of Burial* (2007)
An environmental journalist examines green burial, including natural cemeteries and domestic graveyards, boats from which ashes and memorial "reef balls" are cast into the sea, and attends a home funeral, follows a family that delivers a loved one to the crematory, and another that hires a carpenter to build a pine coffin.

Jokinen, Tom. *Curtains: Adventures of an Undertaker-in-Training* (2010)
A Canadian journalist in Winnipeg taking "a month's leave to dabble in deathcare" reveals the changing face of the funeral industry.

Laderman, Gary. *Rest in Peace: A Cultural History of Death and the Funeral Home in Twentieth Century America* (2005)
Traces the origins of American funeral rituals, from the evolution of embalming techniques during and after the Civil War and the shift from home funerals to funeral homes at the turn of the century, to the increasing subordination of priests, ministers, and other religious figures to the funeral director throughout the twentieth century. Far from manipulating vulnerable mourners, funeral directors are shown to be highly respected figures whose services reflect the community's deepest needs and wishes.

Lynch, Thomas. *The Undertaking: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade* (1997)
Eloquent, meditative observations on the place of death in small-town life, from the only poet/funeral director in Milford, Michigan.

McKenzie, Kenneth and Todd Harra. *Mortuary Confidential: Undertakers Spill the Dirt* (2010)
This collection of accounts from mortuary professionals is both poignant and funny.

McKenzie, Kenneth and Todd Harra. *Over Our Dead Bodies: Undertakers Lift the Lid* (2014)
More stories from mortuary professionals.

Melville, Greg. *Over my dead body: unearthing the hidden history of America's cemeteries* (2022)
A journalist's wide-ranging history of selected cemeteries, places that mirror the passing eras in history while also shaping it.

Mitford, Jessica. *The American Way of Death* (1963)
The classic exposé of abuses in the American funeral home industry.

Mitford, Jessica. *The American Way of Death Revisited* (1998)
At the time of her death in 1996, Mitford had nearly completed this extensive revision of her 1963 bestseller, with subsequent additions by her husband, lawyer Robert Treuhaft, Lisa Carlson, an activist in the funeral-reform movement, and research assistant Karen Leonard.

Rhoads, Loren. *222 cemeteries to see before you die* (2024)
A guide to the world's most interesting and unusual cemeteries, revised and updated to include 23 additional locations.

Rogak, Lisa. *Death Warmed Over: Funeral Food, Rituals, and Customs from Around the World* (2004)
The death rituals of more than 100 ethnic, cultural and religious groups are arranged alphabetically from "African American" to "Zoroastrianism" including a one-page explanation and a recipe for each culture.

Rubin, Gail. *A Good Goodbye: Funeral Planning for Those Who Don't Plan to Die* (2011).
This practical guide provides the information, inspiration and tools to plan and implement creative, meaningful and memorable end-of-life rituals for people and pets.

Slocum, Joshua, and Lisa Carlson. *Final Rights: Reclaiming the American Way of Death* (2011)
Leaders of the funeral consumer movement expose the pervasive misdeeds of the industry, inform families of their rights, and urge legal reforms.

Salazar, Gloria and Louis. *Grave Reflections* (2011)
Outlines the many funeral options facing families when a death has occurred and explores the factors that motivate our decisions.

Smith, Suzanne E. *To Serve the Living: Funeral Directors and the African American Way of Death* (2010)

An historical account of African American funeral directors as entrepreneurs in a largely segregated trade, among the few black individuals in any community who were economically independent and not beholden to the local white power structure, allowing them to support the struggle for civil rights.

Waugh, Evelyn. *The Loved One: An Anglo-American Tragedy* (1948)
A short satirical novel about the funeral business in Los Angeles, the British expatriate community in Hollywood, and the film industry.

Webster, Robert. *Does This Mean You'll See Me Naked? Field Notes from a Funeral Director* (2007)
A funeral director offers entertaining and quirky stories gleaned from a life lived around death.

General

Abraham, John. *How to Get the Death You Want: A Practical and Moral Guide* (2017)
An Episcopal priest and thanatologist offers a detailed manual for considering end-of-life options.

Alford, Henry. *How to Live: A Search for Wisdom from Old People (While They are Still on this Earth)* (2009)
This witty guide for seekers of all ages offers instant enlightenment through conversations with those who have lived long and lived well.

Anderson, Megory. *Sacred Dying: Creating Rituals for Embracing the End of Life* (rev. & expanded 2003)

Applewhite, Ashton. *This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism* (2016)
In her call to arms against ageism, Applewhite explores the fear of dying.

Arnoldy, Francesca Lynn. *The Death Doula's Guide to Living Fully and Dying Prepared: An Essential Workbook to Help You Reflect Back, Plan Ahead, and Find Peace on Your Journey* (2023)
"If you are preparing for the end of life--or simply looking to bring more meaning to the here and now, this first-of-its-kind workbook imparts valuable insight to nurture, clarity and your internal strength on your journey."

Arya, Pandit Usharbudh. *Meditation and the Art of Dying* (1979)
The author, known as Swami Veda Bharati, "born in the strict tradition of yoga and philosophical teachings of India," offers a "scholarly, insightful work integrates history and philosophical wisdom to span the gap between life and death."

Bahti, Tani. *Dying to Know: Straight Talk about Death and Dying* (2006)
An R.N and the writer/producer of the film *Living Through Dying: The Struggle for Grace,* succinctly offers information and advice from her experienced perspectiv*e.*

Barbato, Michael. *Reflections of a Setting Sun: Healing Experiences Around Death* (2009) The Australian palliative care physician offers a profound perspective on the death experience, including the distinction between hallucinations and deathbed visions.

Barnsdale, Greg. *Do not ignore your mortality: practical advice from a funeral & financial insider* (2023)
A Canadian Certified Executor Advisor, Certified Financial Planner, hospice volunteer, funeral director, and death doula shares basic information in this 100-page overview as well as at https://www.donotignoreyourmortality.com/

Bennett, Myra. *Dying Made Easy(er): Creating Your Happy Ending* (2019)

A hospice nurse and end-of-life guide encourages contemplating dying from many different angles: legal, social, physical, psychological, and spiritual in this informative handbook.

Blainey, Amanda. *Do Death - For a life better lived* (2019)
This practical guide by a social activist and hospice worker invites readers to accept death as a natural part of life, to think about what really matters, and to live more consciously.

Bowker, John. *The Meanings of Death* (1991)
Examining eastern and western religious and secular interpretations of death can reinforce and support the human response.

Brody, Jane. *Jane Brody's Guide to the Great Beyond: A Practical Primer to Help You and Your Loved Ones Prepare Medically, Legally, and Emotionally for the End of Life* (2009)
The beloved New York Times trusted authority on health, offers a guide to everything you need to know–emotionally, spiritually, and practically–to prepare for the end of life.

Brown, Erica. *Happier Endings: A Meditation on Life and Death* (2013)
A spiritual teacher shares stories and reflections on how to pack each day with love and meaning precisely because we will not live forever.

Brown, Laura Krasny and Marc Brown. *When Dinosaurs Die: A Guide to Understanding Death* (1998)
This children's book explains in simple language the many different feelings people may have regarding the death of a loved one and the ways to honor the memory of someone who has died.

Bryant, Clifton D. *Handbook of Death & Dying* (2003)
(Volume 1: The Presence of Death, Volume 2: The Response to Death) This expensive reference set, numbering1144 pages, includes over 100 articles by as many contributors about all aspects of death and dying, including comprehensive bibliographies.

Bryce, Linda. *The Courage to Care: Being Fully Present with the Dying* (2021)
An end-of-life doula and transition coach offers a handbook of practical advice and stories from the bedside and beyond.

Bulkley, Kelly and Reverend Patricia Bulkley. *Dreaming Beyond Death: A Guide to Pre-Death Dreams and Visions* (2005)
A spiritual and intellectual framework contextualizes the practical advice and broader understanding to the role of dreams and dreaming in culture, history, psychology and modern dream study.

Byock, Ira. *The Four Things That Matter Most: A Book About Living* (2004)
"Please forgive me." "I forgive you." "I love you." "Thank you." These simple statements can offer profound moments of grace, so consciously integrate them into our daily lives.

Callanan, Marjorie and Patricia Kelley. *Final Gifts: Understanding the Special Awareness, Needs, and Communications of the Dying* (1992)
Offers families, friends, and caregivers of terminally ill patients suggestions for facilitating a peaceful death with advice on listening to understand their dying needs.

Campbell, Hayley. *All the Living and the Dead: From Embalmers to Executioners, an Exploration of the People Who Have Made Death Their Life's Work* (2022)
A British investigative journalist courageously catapults herself into the belly of the beast, by visiting sites and/or interviewing those in the trenches (sometimes literally) where others might fear to tread. With

sensitivity, humor, and curiosity she allows us to consider our own limits about how we deal with the often avoided, but unavoidable topic of death.

Cochran, Deanna. *Accompanying the Dying: Practical, Heart-Centered Wisdom for End-of-Life Doulas and Health Care Advocates* **(**2019)
The newly emerging role of the "end-of-life doula," a nonmedical role providing practical, emotional, and spiritual support to the dying and their family, can be a powerful solution to the looming crisis in health care as baby boomers and their elders age and die.

Cole, Roger. *Mission of love: a physician's spiritual journey toward a life beyond* (1999)
Realizing a need to reconnect with the passion that first attracted him to medicine, an oncologist elects to work exclusively with terminally ill patients and discovers that talking with them brought comfort to their final days and gave him a sense of enlightenment.

Cordero, Enrique A. *Death, Dying, and Modern Technology: Making Informed Decisions at the End of Life* (2017) revised and updated as *It's Hard to Die! Do I Hold On or Do I Let Go?* (2019)
Offers explanations of the possibilities and outcomes of end-of-life decisions, to help individuals and families plan for what they expect from health care providers.

Corr, Charles A. Donna M. Corr, Kenneth J. Doka. *Death & Dying, Life & Living* (8th Edition, 2018)
This textbook teaches students how to navigate encounters with death, dying, and bereavement from a variety of cultural and religious perspectives.

Crenshaw, James. *Telephone Between Worlds* (1952)
Profiles Richard Zenor, a medium who channeled the master teacher Agasha and founded the Agasha Temple of Wisdom.

Cullen, Melanie with Shae Irving. *Get it Together: Organize Your Records so Your Family Won't Have to* (2014)
This Nolo press title helps one deal with finances, legal documents, online accounts, and medical care.

Dear, Jennie. *What Does It Feel Like to Die? Inspiring New Insights into the Experience of Dying* (2019)
A long-time hospice volunteer, inspired by her mother's illness and death, demystifies the process employing the expertise of doctors, nurses, caregivers, and patients.

De Hennezel, Marie. *Intimate Death: How the dying teach us how to live* (1998)
A psychologist who works with the terminally ill learns how precious the final days of a person's life can be and how deeply moving it is to share these moments with someone else.

DeLeo, Kirsten. *Present through the End: A Caring Companion's Guide for Accompanying the Dying* (2019)
Based on decades of experience caring for the dying and years teaching contemplative care around the world, this Buddhist teacher/counselor shares down-to-earth advice and offers short, simple tools to help handle our emotions, deal with difficult relationships, talk about spiritual matters, practice self-care, listen fully, and more.

Doughty, Caitlin. *From Here to Eternity: Traveling the World to Find the Good Death* (2017)
A sassy investigation of funerary history and culture around the world, including Indonesia, Spain, Bolivia, Japan, Mexico and throughout these United States.

Doughty, Caitlin. *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes and Other Lessons from the Crematory* (2014)
The mortician, death theorist, blogger of the popular Web series "Ask a Mortician" and founder of Order of the Good Death demystifies her experiences working at a crematory.

Duda, Deborah. *Coming Home: A Practical and Compassionate Guide to Caring for a Dying Loved One* (2010)
First published in 1981, this groundbreaking step-by-step guide has been used to provide hospice staff and volunteers information, inspiration and sensitive yet straightforward answers to the possibility of dying at home.

Dugdale, L. S. *The lost art of dying: reviving forgotten wisdom* (2020)
A Yale physician's fascinating and wise exploration of why so many people die poorly and how a medieval bestseller on the art of dying well holds important lessons for today.

Eastwood, Gregory L.
Finishing Our Story: Preparing for the End of Life (2019)
A physician and ethicist provides information about end-of-life choices and issues, including a chapter entitled "May I Kill Myself?".

Ebenstein, Joanna. *Death: A Graveside Companion* (2017)
A compendium of the world's most extraordinary artistic objects concerned with mortality, paired with text by expert contributors. This volume of sinister beauty from high and popular culture examines a range of cultural attitudes toward death.

Ebenstein, Joanna. *Memento Mori: The Art of Contemplating Death to Live a Better Life* (2024)
The internationally recognized death expert and founder and creative director of Morbid Anatomy offers a 12-week program featuring a wealth of personal anecdotes, historical examples, meditations, exercises, journal prompts, and reflections, to better understand and befriend death in our own way.

Egan, Kerry. *On Living* (2016)
A hospice chaplain conveys wisdom on giving meaning to life, from those taking leave of it.

Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Natural Causes: An Epidemic of Wellness, The Certainty of Dying, and Killing Ourselves to Live Longer* (2018)
"A razor-sharp polemic, which offers an entirely new understanding of our bodies, ourselves and our place in the universe, describing how we over-prepare and worry too much about what is inevitable."

Ellison, Koshin Pale. ed., and Matt Weingast, *Awake at the Bedside: Contemplative Palliative And End-Of-Life Care* (2016)
"Pioneers of palliative and end-of-life care as well as doctors, chaplains, caregivers and poets offer wisdom that will challenge, uplift, comfort--and change the way we think about death. Equal parts instruction manual and spiritual testimony, it includes specific instructions and personal accounts to inspire, counsel, and teach."

Fenwick, Peter, and Elizabeth Fenwick. *The Art of Dying: A Journey to Elsewhere* (2008)
Accounts by dying and those with them contextualize the complex and confusing transition from life to death.

Fiore, Edith. *The Unquiet Dead: A Psychologist Treats Spirit Possession - Detecting and Removing Earthbound Spirits* (1987)
A noted psychologist uses case histories to explain how to detect spirit possession, how to protect oneself from entities, how to release one's home from displaced spirits, and how to perform a depossession.

Flynn, Peggy. *The Caregiving Zone* (2006)
The founder and director of The Good Death Institute describes the everyday challenges of caregiving, encouraging us to think about illness and death as incontrovertible realities that can be anticipated and made less burdensome for everyone involved.

Foos-Graber, Anya. *Deathing: An Intelligent Alternative for the Final Moments of Life* (1984)
Likening the process of "deathing" to birthing, the author believes that our attitude toward the death experience must change from trauma and fatalism to joy and readiness.

Giffels, David. *Furnishing Eternity: A Father, a Son, a Coffin, and a Measure of Life* (2018)
By lovingly and with dry humor tracing the process of coffin-making, the "bard of Akron, Ohio" lets the essence of himself and his father be revealed through action.

Gottlieb, Iris. *Everything is Temporary: Illustrated Contemplations on How Death Shapes Our Lives* (2022)
The author and illustrator explores death from the physical, such as the ways one's remains could be handled, to the emotional, including grief and grappling with one's own mortality.

Gordon, Steve and Irene Kacandes. *Let's Talk About Death: Asking the Questions that Profoundly Change the Way We Live and Die* (2015)
The coauthors share the results of a no-holds-barred discussion conducted for several years over email tackling challenging questions about pain, caregiving, grief, and what comes after death.

Gould, Philip. *When I Die: Lessons from the Death Zone* (2012)
Written during the last few months of his life, this inspiring book describes his final journey.

Gray. John. *The Immortalization Commission: Science and the Strange Quest to Cheat Death* (2011)
An investigation of philosophers, journalists, politicians, charlatans and mass murderers, chiefly in Britain and Russia, who felt dangerously driven toward a scientific version of immortality.

Green, James W. *Beyond the Good Death: The Anthropology of Modern Dying* (2008)
This anthropological approach examines the changes in our concept of death over the last several decades.

Grof, Stanislav. *The Ultimate Journey: Consciousness and the Mystery of Death* (2006)
The renowned psychiatrist distills teachings from ancient wisdom and modern science that suggest how to face the process of death and dying.

Hallifax, Joan. *Being with Dying: Cultivating Compassion and Fearlessness in the Presence of Death* (2008)
Inspired by traditional Buddhist teachings, this work is a source of wisdom for those wishing to explore and contemplate the transformative power of the dying process.

Halpern, Susan. *The Etiquette of Illness: What to Say When You Can't Find the Words* (2004)
The psychotherapist, social worker and founder of the New York Cancer Help Program, shares her expertise on how to comfort anyone with a serious physical or mental illness.

Harmon, Louise. *Fragments on the Deathwatch* (1998)
Through literature, philosophy, history, and autobiography, the author. a legal scholar, delicately probes the taboos around discussions of death and considers whether the law can recognize the needs of families and loved ones and protect the space of their grieving.

Harrington, Samuel. *At Peace: Choosing a Good Death After a Long Life* (2018)
Informed by more than thirty years of clinical practice as a hospice trustee and own experience with the aging and deaths of his parents, the author helps patients make appropriate end-of-life decisions.

Harrison, Robert Pogue. *The Dominion of the Dead* (2003)

"Explores the many places where the dead cohabit the world of the living—the graves, images, literature, architecture, and monuments that house the dead in their afterlife among us."

Hayasaki, Erika. *The Death Class: A True Story about Life* (2014)
Uses nurse Norma Bowe's experience teaching college course on death to make the most out of life.

Hebb, Michael. *Let's Talk about Death (Over Dinner): An Invitation and Guide to Life's Most Important Conversation* (2018)
Inspired by his experience with his own father and stories from others who regret not having these conversations, the cofounder of Death Over Dinner--an organization that encourages people to pull up a chair, break bread, and really talk about the one thing we all have in common.

Heilman, Samuel C. *When a Jew dies: the ethnography of a bereaved son* (2001)
(S. Mark Taper Foundation imprint in Jewish studies)

Hendin, David. *Death as a Fact of Life* (1973)
In this examination of dying and death a medical journalist discusses the moral and legal aspects of such advances (now dated) as transplants and freezing.

Henry, Spencer and Madison Reyes. *Obitchuary : the big hot book of death* (2024)
Obitchuary podcasters serve up an entertaining mélange of macabre trivia and outlandish real-life death notices.

Hollis, Jennifer L. *Music at the End of Life: Easing the Pain and Preparing the Passa*ge (2010)
Using the voices of practitioners and patients, explores the role of music-thanatology, differentiated from music therapy, in end-of-life care.

Holloway, Karla F.C. *Passed On: African American Mourning Stories, A Memorial* (2002)
A poignant reflection and thorough investigation of the myths, rituals, economics, and politics of African American mourning and burial practices.

Holloway, Richard. *Waiting for the Last Bus: Reflections on Life and Death* (2018)
The former Bishop of Edinburgh presents a positive, meditative and profound exploration of the many lessons to be learned from the dying.

Inge, Denise. *A Tour of Bones: Facing Fear and Looking for Life* (2015)
Discovering her house is built on a crypt of human skeletons, the author visits other European charnel houses. Her journey into the meaning of bones themselves takes on a new, personal significance when the question of living well in the face of mortality abruptly ceases to be hypothetical.

Iserson, Kenneth V. *Death to Dust: What Happens to Dead Bodies?* (2001)
Using a "Death for Dummies" format, this book's over 800 pages address many, many items of information about death, historically and contemporarily.

Jenkinson, Stephen. *Die Wise: A Manifesto for Sanity and Soul* (2015)
Framing dying well as a moral, political, and spiritual obligation to our ancestors and our heirs, this book encourages us to look at the inevitable in all its painful beauty.

Johns, Fran Moreland. *Dying Unafraid* (1999)
While a hospice volunteer, the investigative reporter interviewed individuals who faced death without fear.

Johnson, Judith. *Making Peace with Death and Dying: A Practical Guide to Liberating Ourselves from the Death Taboo* (2022)
Inspired by the author's spiritual commitment to her dying mother, this book equips readers to encounter death peacefully and well-prepared.

Johnson, Marilyn. *The dead beat: lost souls, lucky stiffs, and the perverse pleasures of obituaries* (2006).
"Surveying the darkest corners of Internet chat rooms, surviving a mass gathering of obituarists, and making a pilgrimage to London to savor the most caustic and literate obits of all, Marilyn Johnson leads us into the cult and culture behind the obituary page."

Jones, Karen. *Death for Beginners: Your No-Nonsense, Money-Saving Guide to Planning for the Inevitable* (2010)
A humorous, concise source of the wide range of options for burial, cremations, organ donation, wills, including practical worksheets.

Joseph, Eve. *In the Slender Margin: The Intimate Strangeness of Death and Dying* (2014)
Poet and palliative care counselor Joseph offers "an intimate invitation to consider death and our response to it without fear or morbidity, but rather with wonder and a curious mind."

Kagan, Shelly. *Death (The Open Yale Courses Series)* (2012)
A philosophy professor examines the myriad questions that arise when confronting the meaning of mortality.

Karnes, Barbara. *Gone from My Sight: The Dying Experience* (1986)
Referred to as the "Hospice Blue Book," this 15-page pamphlet explains in a simple, gentle yet direct manner the process of dying from disease.

Keleman, Stanley. *Living Your Dying* (1974)
"This book is about dying, not about death. We are always dying a bit, always giving things up, always having things taken away…"

Kelly, Suzanne. *Greening Death: Reclaiming Burial Practices and Restoring Our Tie to the Earth* (2015)
Traces the philosophical and historical underpinnings of the Green Burial Movement, captures the passionate on-the-ground work, and explores the obstacles and other challenges getting in the way of more robust mobilization. As the movement lays claim to greener, simpler, and more cost-efficient practices, a tangible way of restoring our relationship to nature is being offered up.

Kelman, Stuart. *Chesed shel emet: The truest act of kindness* (2000)

Kerr, Christopher.
Death is But a Dream: Finding Hope and Meaning at Life's End (2020)
Drawing on interviews with over 1400 patients and more than a decade of quantified data, this hospice doctor reveals that pre-death dreams and visions are extraordinary occurrences that humanize the dying process.

Kessler, David. *Visions, Trips, and Crowded Rooms: Who and What You See Before You Die* (2011) These powerful stories from the bedsides of the dying educate, enlighten, and comfort, as they explain and explore that what might seem like hallucinations are actually something else.

Keyssar, Judith Redwing. *Last acts of kindness: lessons for the living from the bedsides of the dying* (2010).
This lovely book recounts twenty-seven moving true stories from hospitals, residential facilities, and homes, revealing the challenges and rewards that face the dying, their loved ones, and the professionals who care for them and encouraging us to consider our own beliefs about the great questions of life and death.

Kick, Russ, ed. *Death Poems: classic, contemporary, witty, serious, tear-jerking, wise, profound, angry, funny, spiritual, atheistic, uncertain, personal, political, mythic, earthy, and only occasionally morbid.* (2013)
Over 320 poems collected across time, countries, languages, and schools of poetry.

Kingma, Julian, with Steve Offner. *The Power of Choice* (2025)
In this catalogue of a pioneering photography exhibition at SOL Gallery, in Melbourne, Australia, in spring of 2025, award-winning Australian photojournalist Julian Kingma focuses his lens on the lives of terminally ill people who have chosen Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD), inviting public conversation on the still controversial and contentious topic throughout the world.

Koudounaris, Paul. *Memento Mori: The Dead Among Us* (2015)
These photos taken at over 250 sites in thirty countries over a decade are as much a reminder of life, *memento vitae*, as of death, *memento mori.*

Kortes-Miller, Kathy. *Talking about death won't kill you: the essential guide to end-of-life conversations* (2018)
With humor and compassion this practical handbook by a noted palliative-care educator and researcher shows readers how to identify and reframe limiting beliefs about dying.

Kuhl, David. *What Dying People Want: Practical Wisdom for The End of Life* (2003)
Dr. Kuhl addresses end-of-life realities--practical, psychological, spiritual and emotional--through his own experiences as a doctor and through the words and experiences of people who knew that they were dying.

Lamott, Anne. *Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and* Repair (2013)
Explores how we find meaning and peace when life lurches out of balance; where we start again after personal and public devastation; how we recapture wholeness after loss; and how we locate our true identities in this frazzled age.

Leder, Steve. *The beauty of what remains: how our greatest fear becomes our greatest gift* (2021)
The senior rabbi of one of the largest synagogues in the world, who is also the son of a demanding father, shares the many ways death teaches us how to live and love more deeply.

Lee, Barbara Coombs. *Finish Strong: Putting YOUR Priorities First at Life's End* (2019)
A former nurse, physician assistant and attorney and a leading advocate for end-of-life options in her role as president of Compassion & Choices, offers astute, critical, clarifying stories, facts and dialogue to help prepare for one's end-of-life with purpose, grace and dignity.

Levine, Stephen. *A Year to Live: How to Live this Year as if it were your Last* (1997)
Levine provides us with a year-long program of intensely practical strategies and powerful guided meditations to help with this work, so that whenever the ultimate moment does arrive for each of us, we will not feel that it has come too soon.

Levine, Stephen. *Who Dies? An Investigation of Conscious Living and Conscious Dying* (1986)
A classic on spiritual awakening and how the awareness of death process is an essential aspect of becoming fully human and enlightened.

Lifton, Robert Jay. *The Broken Connection: On Death and the Continuity of Life* (1996)
The psychiatrist explores the inescapable connections between death and life, the psychiatric disorders that arise from these connections, and the advent of the nuclear age which has jeopardized attempts to ensure the perpetuation of the self beyond death.

Lind-Kyle, Patt. *Embracing the End of Life: A Journey into Dying & Awakening* (2017)
The idea of death is presented as a journey of three steps—resistance, letting go, and transcendence. Exercises and practices supplemented with online meditations explore chakras, Enneagram, health care directives and living wills to help achieve one's truest, most expansive self.

Lipsenthal, Lee. *Enjoy Every Sandwich: Living Each Day as If It Were Your Last* (2011)
Diagnosed with esophageal cancer, Lipsenthal and his wife, Kathy, navigated his illness, and treatment, discovering that he did not fear death, that even as he was facing his own mortality, he felt more fully alive than ever before.

Lofland, Lyn H. *The craft of dying: the modern face of death* (1978, 2019)
This sociologist's classic and influential book identifies, critiques, and theorizes 1970s death movements, including the Death Acceptance, the Death with Dignity, and the Natural Death movements.

Longaker, Christine. *Facing Death and Finding Hope* (1997)
After her 24-year-old husband was diagnosed with acute leukemia, Longaker devoted her life to ease the suffering of those facing death. She identifies the typical fears and struggles experienced by the dying and their families as "Four Tasks of Living and Dying," using the Tibetan Buddhist perspective on death to provide a new framework of meaning that can be applied to every type of caregiving setting.

Lyons, Anna and Louise Winter. *We all know how this ends: Lessons about life and living from working with death and dying* (2021)
End-of-life doula Lyons and funeral director Winter share stories of the ordinary and extraordinary lives they encounter, and lessons learned about living, dying, love and loss.

Julie McFadden with Margot Starbuck. *Nothing to fear demystifying death to live more fully* (2024)
TikTok star McFadden--known online as 'Hospice Nurse Julie'--shares the valuable lessons she's learned in her fifteen years as an RN in the ICU and in hospice, including a chapter on Medical Aid in Dying.

McKay, Matthew. *Seeking Jordan: How I Learned the Truth about Death and the Invisible Universe* (2016)
Using the technique of Induced After-Death Communication and channeled writing, Clinical psychologist McKay receives revelations directly from his murdered son Jordan about past- and between-lives, karma, soul guides, and more.

Magnusson, Margareta. *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning: How to Free Yourself and Your Family from a Lifetime of Clutter* (2018)
Döstädning (decluttering in Swedish), the process of clearing out unnecessary belongings, can be undertaken at any life stage This joyous guide for putting things in order helps families broach sensitive conversations, and makes the idea of letting go uplifting rather than overwhelming.

Mannix, Kathryn. *With the End in Mind: Dying, Death and Wisdom in an Age of Denial* (2018)
A British palliative care physician "describes the possibility of meeting death gently, with forethought and preparation, and shows the unexpected beauty, dignity, and profound humanity of life coming to an end."

Manser, Kate. *You Might Die Tomorrow: Face Your Fear of Death to Live Your Most Meaningful Life* (2020)
"Remembering that you might die tomorrow is the best inspiration to live today. After experiencing this radical shift in perspective, Kate quit her job at Google to build www.youmightdietomorrow.com, her movement to inspire people at every age to really live before they die."

Martin, Joel and Patricia Romanowski. *We Don't Die: George Anderson's Conversations with the Other Side* (1989)

Gifted with the ability to communicate with spirits "on the other side," Anderson offers documented evidence of his powers through readings and scientific tests.

Meyer, Charles. *A Good Death: Challenges Choices and Care Options* (1998)
A novelist's short (57 pages), eloquent, and compassionate exploration of end-of-life options.

Miller, BJ, and Shoshana Berger. *A Beginner's Guide to the End: Practical Advice for Living Life and Facing Death* (2019)
A hospice physician and an experienced caregiver/journalist offer a detailed action plan for approaching the end of life to help readers feel more in control of an experience that so often seems anything but controllable.

Miller, Daniel. *The Comfort of People* (2017)
A leading anthropologist examines the social worlds of people suffering from terminal or long-term illness. This series of personal stories, based on interviews conducted with patients of an English hospice, informs our understanding of community, friendship, and kinship, as well as loneliness and isolation.

Miller, Richard Louis Miller. *Psychedelic Medicine at the End of Life: Dying without Fear* (2024)
Examining the evolving landscape around end-of-life psychedelic care, a clinical psychologist for more than half a century looks at how LSD, MDMA, psilocybin, and ayahuasca can be vital tools in allowing individuals in all stages of life to confront fears of dying and lead richer lives.

Moller, David Wendell. *Confronting Death: Values, Institutions, and Human Mortality* (1996)
Critiques how modern technology and bureaucracy, along with professionalization, have come to dehumanize the experience of death for both the dying and their survivors.

Monsó, Susana. *Playing Possum: How Animals Understand Death* (2024)
A professor of philosophy explores what other creatures can teach us about how we and other species understand mortality, demonstrating that the concept of death, far from being a uniquely human attribute, is widespread in the animal kingdom.

Morgan, Ernest. *Dealing Creatively with Death: A Manual of Death Education and Simple Burial* (14th rev. ed., 2001)
A practical guidebook offering social, emotional, philosophical, and practical perspectives on a wide variety of issues related to death and dying.

Morningstar, Barbara. *Honoring the Mystery: Uplifting Insights from the Language, Visions, and Dreams of the Dying* (2018)
Using her extensive hospice experience offers perspectives on the "peri-mortal" period of the dying process.

Morris, Virginia. *Talking about Death* (2004)
Demystifies and deconstructs assumptions about the complicated process of dying with refreshingly direct prose, interweaving personal stories with practical matters.

Murray, Sarah. *Making an Exit: From the Magnificent to the Macabre, How We Dignify the Dead* (2011)
A deeply personal quest for her own final send-off leads to series of journeys to discover how death is commemorated in different cultures.

Nhất Hạnh, Thích. *No Death, No Fear: Comforting Wisdom for Life* (2002)
"Our greatest fear is that when we die, we will become nothing." The renowned Vietnamese Thiền Buddhist monk, peace activist, author, poet, teacher, and founder of the Plum Village Tradition, uses Zen parables,

guided meditations, and personal stories to examine our concepts of death, fear, and the very nature of existence.

Neumann, Ann. *The Good Death: An Exploration of Dying in America* (2016)
Offers a fearless examination of how we approach death, includes robust discussion of medical aid in dying, and how those of us close to dying loved ones live in death's wake.

Nogrady, Bianca. *The End: The Human Experience of Death* (2014)
Explores the experience of death from spiritual, historical, physical, and metaphysical perspectives, from the perspective of witnesses, those facing death, and those who have somehow stepped back from it.

Nouwen, Henri. *Our Greatest Gift: A Meditation on Dying and Caring* (1994)
A meditative book on Christian ideals of death as a gift, an opportunity to impart hope to those around us, whether through our own dying or in our caretaking of someone else.

Nuland, Sherwin B. *How We Die: Reflections of Life's Final Chapter* (1994)
The physician draws on his own experience to explain to patient, family and caregivers the clinical, biological and emotional details of dying.

O'Brien, Suzanne. *The good death: a guide for supporting your loved one through the end of life* (2025)
A former hospice and oncology nurse who founded The Doulagivers Institute provides much valuable information for caregivers, both professional and nonprofessional, but unfortunately the book falls short when it comes to addressing end-of-life options.

O'Rourke, Michelle. *Befriending Death: Henri Nouwen and a Spirituality of Dying* (2009)
The words of Dutch-born Catholic priest, professor and writer Henri Nouwen, offer an inspiring and life-transforming guide to the ultimate mystery of human existence.

Ostaseski, Frank. *The Five Invitations: Discovering What Death Can Teach Us About Living Fully* (2017)
The co-founder of the Zen Hospice Project and the Metta Institute, a Buddhist teacher, and a leading voice in contemplative end-of-life care has distilled the lessons gleaned over the course of his career into a powerful and inspiring exploration of the essential wisdom dying can impart about how to forge rich and meaningful lives.

Palmer, Chris. *Achieving a Good Death: A Practical Guide to the End of Life* (2024)
This accessible, thoughtful, and thorough guide is an excellent introduction to the complexity of end-of-life issues.

Pattison, E. Mansell. *The Experience of Dying* (1977)
Dr. Pattison and other contributors from the fields of psychiatry, neurology and pediatrics offer objective and subjective outlooks on the processes of dying.

Pelgrin, Mark. *And a Time to Die* (1962)
Compiled and edited from personal journals and letters by Dr. Sheila Moon and Dr. Elizabeth B. Howes, "...the account of one man's prodigious search for meaning in his own life an approaching death."

Poer, Nancy. *Living Into Dying: A Journal of Spiritual and Practical Deathcare for Family and Community* (2002)
Real-life stories illustrating the different issues and circumstances one can encounter when caring for loved ones and friends at the threshold of death and beyond.

Puri, Sunita. *That Good Night: Life and Medicine in the Eleventh Hour* (2019)

This palliative care physician interweaves evocative stories of her family and the patients she cares for in a meditation on impermanence and the role of medicine in helping us to live and die well, arming readers with information that will transform how we communicate with our doctors about what matters most to us.

Quill, Timothy. *Death and Dignity: Making Choices and Taking Charge* (1993)
Looking squarely at how patients can make crucial decisions and take charge of the end of their lives, this book is a resource for anyone who fears unnecessary suffering and excessive medical intervention at that point.

Ram Dass. *Still Here: Embracing Aging, Changing, and Dying* (2000)
Revised and edited after the author's debilitating stroke, this philosophy for aging teaches how to diminish our suffering despite the aches, pains, and limitations of age.

Ray, Ruth E. *Endnotes: an intimate look at the end of life* (2008)
A 40-year-old gerontologist enters a romantic relationship with an octogenarian widower confronting Parkinson's, exploring past experiences and present relationships within the theories and literature of gerontology, and providing a deeper understanding of autonomy at the end of life.

Richelieu, Peter. *A Soul's Journey* (2011)
The story of a young Englishman in India given the opportunity by an ascended master to travel out of his body and meet wondrous beings on the astral plane.

Roach, Mary. *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* (2003)
Informative and respectful, irreverent and witty, the Salon columnist explains what really happens to a body that is donated to the scientific community.

Roiphe, Katie. *The Violet Hour: Great Writers at the End* (2016)
Investigates the last days of Susan Sontag, Sigmund Freud, Dylan Thomas, John Updike, Maurice Sendak, and James Salter.

Schecter, Harold. *The Whole Death Catalog: A Lively Guide to the Bitter End* (2009)
An illustrated compendium of well researched, refreshingly irreverent facts, anecdotes, practical information, and timeless wisdom, including many references to other resources.

Shields, David. *The Thing About Life is that One Day You'll Be Dead* (2008)
Personal anecdote, biological fact, philosophical doubt, cultural criticism, and the wisdom of an eclectic range of writers and thinkers are woven together into a hilarious family portrait and a meditation on mortality.

Siegel, Marvin. *The Last Word: The New York Times Book of Obituaries and Farewells* (1997)
"A fascinating compilation of more than one hundred of the most colorful, entertaining and touching obits and farewells that have appeared in *The Times* in the last few years."

Singh, Kathleen Dowling. *The Grace in Aging: Awaken as You Grow Older* (2014)
A practical guide, ecumenical in spirit, tone, and language, for those seeking greater meaning and fulfillment as they edge toward life's grand finale.

Singh, Kathleen Dowling. *The Grace in Dying: How We Are Transformed Spiritually as We Die* (1998)
The hospice worker, with training in psychology and an avid interest in Eastern religion, offers an honest, comforting approach to death and dying.

Smartt, Lisa. *Words at the threshold: what we say as we're nearing death* (2017)

Collecting over a hundred case studies with interviews and transcripts. the founder of the Final Words Project decodes the symbolism of the near-death utterances, showing how the language of the dying points the way to a transcendent world beyond our own.

Sogyal, Rinpoche. *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* (1992)
A presentation of the teachings of Tibetan Buddhism based on the *Tibetan Book of the Dead* or *Bardo Thodol.*

Solomon, Sheldon, Jeff Greenberg & Tom Pyszczynski. *The worm at the core: on the role of death in life* (2015)
The product of twenty-five years of in-depth research drawing from innovative experiments conducted around the globe, the authors show the effects of the fear of death and the desire to transcend it.

Speerstra Karen, and Herbert Anderson. *The Divine Art of Dying: how to live well while dying* (2014)
Combining personal stories with solid research on palliative and hospice care, this book investigates the unique moment when seriously ill people choose to turn toward death and provides a well-integrated look at the spiritual dimensions of living fully when death is near.

Stark, Andrew. *The Consolations of Mortality: Making Sense of Death* (2016)
There are four great consolations for mortality: that death is benign and good; that mortal life provides its own kind of immortality; that true immortality would be awful; and that we experience the kinds of losses in life that we will eventually face in death. A professor of management and political science searches the collective literary, philosophical, and cultural traditions for the psychological truth of these consolations.

Tanaka, Ken with David Ury. *Everybody Dies: A Children's Book for Grown-Ups* (2014)
A macabre and darkly humorous look at mortality in the vein of the classic Japanese children's book *Everybody Poops*.

Tisdale, Sallie. *Advice for Future Corpses (and Those Who Love Them): A Practical Perspective on Death and Dying* (2018)
More than a how-to manual or a spiritual bible, this is a graceful compilation of intimate anecdotes from cultures, traditions, and literature around the world, based on the deaths Tisdale has witnessed, recounted with a calm, wise, honest and humorous hand.

Tolstoy, Leo. *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* (1886)
The novella, ostensibly about the death of a high-court judge in 19th-century Russia, is also about the consequences of living without meaning.

Toolis, Kevin. *My Father's Wake: How the Irish Teach Us to Live, Love, and Die* (2018)
The author and filmmaker describes his own father's wake and explores the wider history and significance of this ancient and eternal Irish ritual.

Van Scoy, Lauren. *Last Wish: Stories to Inspire a Peaceful Passing* (2012)
A physician offers a thoughtful resource to plan for end-of-life medical treatment including defining everyone's quality of life and urging communication.

Volandes, Angelo E. *The Conversation: A Revolutionary Plan for End-Of-Life Care* (2016)
A Harvard Medical School physician recounts the stories of seven patients' very different end-of-life experiences, demonstrating that what people need most is not new technologies but conversation.

Walsch, Neale Donald. *Home with God: In a Life that Never Ends* (2006)

The final installment of the series *Conversations with God*: "through his profound and personal dialogue with God, Walsch explores the process by which all human beings end their days here on Earth and begin their new life in God's Kingdom..."

Wasserman, Emily. *Gravestone designs: rubbings and photographs from early New York & New Jersey* (1972)
Black and white images document the special craft of gravestone cutting, which flourished in the American Colonies from 1650 to 1700.

Weenolsen, Patricia. *The Art of Dying: How to Leave this World with Dignity and Grace, at Peace with Yourself and Your Loved Ones* (1996)
Using case histories and exercises, a psychologist offers advice on "what to expect and how to prepare, plan, maintain control, rehearse, and gradually transform ourselves from a physical existence to a spiritual one."

Weinstein Miriam. *All Set for Black, Thanks: A New Look at Mourning* (2016)
A collection of humorous personal essays about death, through a wry, resilient, wise lens.

Weiseltier, Leon. *Kaddish* (1998)
Beside his father's grave, a diligent but doubting son begins the mourner's kaddish, and realizes he needs to know more about the prayer. So begins the spiritual journal of a man commanded by Jewish law to recite a prayer three times daily for a year and driven, by the ardor of inquiry, to explore its origins.

Welch, H. Gilbert. *Less Medicine, More Health: 7 Assumptions that Drive Too Much Medical Care* (2015)
Fascinating and amusing stories backed by reliable data challenges patients and the health-care establishment to potentially save money and improve health outcomes for all.

Willi, Mary Beth. *Learning How to Let Go: Simple Answers about Hospice and End of Life Care* (2003)
This hospice worker's short booklet describes to expect towards the end of life, as a tool for those with loved ones in hospice or receiving palliative care.

Williams-Murphy, Monica, and Kristian Murphy. *It's OK to Die* (2011)
This practical guide by an ER doctor offers insights and suggestions on how prepare for the inevitable.

Winik, Marion. *The Big Book of the Dead* (2019)
Approaching mourning and memory with intimacy, humor, and an eye for the idiosyncratic, this collection of portraits of the dead, often called obituaries, is an unusual, richly populated memoir of compressed narratives. This volume combines the *Glen Rock Book of the Dead* and *Baltimore Book of the Dead*, with twelve additional vignettes.

Wyatt, Karen. *7 Lessons for Living from the Dying: How to Nurture What Really Matters* (2020)
A hospice medical director caring for dying patients in their homes shares spiritual insights from her patients around issues of Suffering, Love, Forgiveness, Presence, Purpose, Surrender, and Impermanence.

Zitter, Jessica Nutik. *Extreme Measures: Finding a Better Path to the End of Life* (2017)
This thoughtful first-hand perspective evaluates the balance between her training as an ICU physician and a palliative care physician

Grief

Anderson, Moira. *Coping with Sorrow on the Loss of your Pet* (3rd ed., rev. 2007)
Treats this serious subject with sympathetic feeling, helpful information and guidance.

Brener, Anne. *Mourning and Mitzvah: a guided journal for walking the mourner's path through grief to healing* (1993)

Cobb, Nancy Howard. *In Lieu of Flowers: A Conversation for the Living* (2002)
These vividly evocative stories about encounters with grief opens us up to our own experiences, encouraging us to accept and honor the "divine intersections" where the living meet the dying.

Davis, Greg. *Grieving for Dummies* (2007)
This book deals with a very important subject, grieving loss as a difficult yet transformative process, helping readers who are grieving the loss of a loved one as well as those who want to support them in this process.

Devine, Megan. *It's OK That You're Not OK: Meeting Grief and Loss in a Culture That Doesn't Understand* (2017)
Having experienced grief as both a therapist and as a woman who witnessed the accidental drowning of her beloved partner, Megan debunks the culturally prescribed goal of returning to a normal, "happy" life, replacing it with a middle path: to build a life alongside grief rather than seeking to overcome it. A compelling and heartful book, written with deep insight about the unspoken truths of loss, love, and healing.

Eumia, Molly. *Safe Passage: Words to Help the Grieving* (1992)
"Of all the literature about grief and grieving I was given, this marvelous and simple book hit home the most."

Harvey, Greg. *Grieving for Dummies* (2007)
This compassionate resource, by a hospice care volunteer. provides the plainspoken wisdom needed to move through the phases, stages, and tasks of grieving.

Kessler, David. *Finding Meaning: The Sixth Stage of Grief* (2019)
Motivated by the death of his son, this expert on grief offers observations and suggestions on the importance of this universal and yet individual process.

Kübler-Ross, Elisabeth. *On Death and Dying* (1969)
The classic introduction to the five stages of grief, a series of emotional stages experienced by survivors: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

Lewis, C.S. *A Grief Observed* (1961)
Written after his wife's death, this short book is an honest reflection on the fundamental issues of life, death, and faith amid loss.

Matlin, Stuart M., ed. *The perfect stranger's guide to funerals and grieving practices: a guide to etiquette in other people's religious ceremonies* (2000)
A compendium of 38 religious traditions, specifically focusing on etiquette at funerals and grieving practices.

Samuel, Julia. *Grief Works: Stories of Life, Death and Surviving* (2017)
This grief psychotherapist, who worked with the bereaved for twenty-five years, understands the full repercussions of loss. Full of psychological insights on how grief, if approached correctly, can heal us.

Soffer, Rebecca and Gabrielle Birkner. *Modern Loss: Candid conversations about grief. Beginners welcome* (2018)
"A fresh and irreverent examination into navigating grief and resilience in the age of social media, offering comfort and community for coping with the mess of loss through candid original essays from a variety of voices..."

Young, Kevin, ed. *The Art of Losing: Poems of Grief & Healing* (2010)
An anthology of 150 "devastatingly beautiful contemporary elegies that embrace the pain, heartbreak, and healing stages of mourning."

History

Ariès, Philippe. *The Hour of Our Death: The Classic History of Western Attitudes Toward Death over the Last One Thousand Years* (1981)
The result of almost two decades of study, this classic -- a revision of *Western Attitudes Toward Death* -- traces the changes in attitudes toward death and dying from the earliest Christian times to the present day.

Batchen, Geoffrey. *Forget Me Not: Photography & Remembrance* (2004)
Explores the centuries-old practice of strengthening the emotional appeal of photographs by embellishing them with text, paint, frames, embroidery, fabric, string, hair, flowers, butterfly wings, cigar wrappers and more.

Becker, Ernest. *Denial of Death* (1973)
This classic book builds on the psychological and philosophical works of Søren Kierkegaard, Sigmund Freud, and Otto Rank.

Burns, Stanley B. *Sleeping Beauty: Memorial Photography in America* (1990)
This collection of postmortem photography documents and celebrates photographs of a deceased loved one, a normal part of American and European culture in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Burt, Robert A. *Death is That Man Taking Names: Intersections of American Medicine, Law, and Culture* (2002)
This account of psychological and social forces underlying American cultural attitudes toward death maintains that unacknowledged ambivalence is likely to undermine the beneficent goals of post-1970s reforms, and harm the very people these changes were intended to help.

Faust, Drew Gilpin. *This republic of suffering: death and the American Civil War* (2008)
A history professor's study of the American struggle to comprehend the meaning and practicalities of death in the face of the unprecedented carnage of the Civil War.

Meaker, M.J. *Sudden Endings* (1964)
Primarily an examination of the lives of thirteen victims of suicide -- including Virginia Woolf, Ernest Hemingway, Marilyn Monroe, and Hart Crane -- by an author better known for publishing, under various pseudonyms, many lesbian novels.

Moore, Virginia. *Ho for Heaven: Man's Changing Attitude toward Death* (1946)
Explores international rites and beliefs and symbols which convey the responses of peoples as they changed through the ages.

Mord, Jack. *Beyond the Dark Veil: Postmortem & Mourning Photography from The Thanatos Archive* (2014)
Catalog of a 2013 exhibition at Cal State University Fullerton offers 120 extraordinary and haunting photographs and related ephemera documenting the practice of death and mourning photography in the Victorian Era and early twentieth century.

Noys, Benjamin. *The Culture of Death* (2005)
A thought-provoking book on the cultural change of death in contemporary western culture.

Panofsky, Erwin. *Tomb sculpture: four lectures on its changing aspects from ancient Egypt to Bernini* (1992)
Examples of the art form that has existed since the dawn of civilization, its imagery expressing humankinds hopes and fears in the face of death, and the striving for immortality.

Potter, Peter, comp. *All About Death* (1988)
A compilation of hundreds of thoughts and observations on various aspects of Death in the form of aphorisms and short quotations from great thinkers across the centuries.

Schwartzman, Arnold. *Graven images: graphic motifs of the Jewish gravestone* (1993)
Over two hundred color photographs of Jewish tombstones in 38 European cemeteries with explanatory captions decoding graphic symbols and motifs that illuminate Jewish history and lore.

Smith, Fran and Sheila Himmel. *Changing the Way We Die: Compassionate End-of-Life Care and the Hospice Movement* (2013)
A fascinating exploration of the hospice movement as a philosophy and program that maximizes the quality of remaining life by delivering compassionate care with a holistic approach.

Warraich, Haider. *Modern Death: How Medicine Changed the End of Life* (2017)
Delving into a vast body of social, religious, financial, geographical and medical research, this cardiologist provides an accessibly enriched understanding of how dying has changed historically.

Wright, Roberta Hughes and Wilbur B. Hughes, III. *Lay Down Body: Living History in African American Cemeteries* (1996)
A glimpse into some of the oldest and most fundamental values of African American culture, many of which are preserved only in cemeteries.

Medical

Bigham, Blair. *Death Interrupted: How Modern Medicine Is Complicating the Way We Die* (2022)
A journalist, scientist and attending emergency and ICU physician shares his first-hand experiences of how medicine has complicated the way we die and offers a road map for dying in the modern era.

Butler, Katy. *The art of dying well: a practical guide to a good end of life* (2019).
Inspired by a popular self-help book called Ars Moriendi, or The Art of Dying, written in Latin by an unnamed Catholic monk in the mid-1400s, which taught people how to navigate the trials of the deathbed, using simple rituals of repentance, reassurance, and letting go.

Butler, Katy. *Knocking on Heaven's Door: The Path to a Better Way of Death* (2013)
This eloquent exegesis on taking control of the end of one's life defines a "good death" as one that is free from unnecessary medical intervention and faced with acceptance and dignity.

Byock, Ira. *Dying Well: Peace and Possibilities at the End of Life* (1998)
Beginning with his own father's terminal illness, president elect of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Care details without scientific cant the process of decline that awaits most of us.

Calihan, Martha. *A Death Lived* (2020)
A practicing physician's memoir of dealing with her husband's illness and ultimate death offers a multilayered perspective, both on an emotional level, and as a guide for anyone facing a similar circumstance.

Christakis, Nicholas. *Death Foretold: Prophecy and Prognosis in Medical Care* (2000)

Drawing on his knowledge of bioethics, his experience as a sociologist, and his work as a physician, Christakis explores the issue of medical prognostication through interviews with colleagues, medical school curricula, medical texts, and his own quantitative research.

Creagan, Edward T. *Farewell: Vital End-of-Life Questions with Candid Answers from a Leading Palliative and Hospice Physician* (2018)
With more than forty years' experience at the Mayo Clinic, a physician addresses the end-of-life questions of patients' and their families' end-of-life questions, helping them navigate the last days, and saying farewell with hope, love, and compassion.

Dear, Jennie. *What does it feel like to die? inspiring new insights into the experience of dying* (2019)
Based on conversations with doctors, nurses, and caregivers, families, friends, and patients themselves, a long-time hospice volunteer demystifies the experience of dying.

DeMaine, Jim. *Facing Death: Finding Dignity, Hope and Healing at the End* (2020)
A pulmonary and critical care specialist uses his own experience to explore ethical questions around "heroic" interventions, ensuring advance directives will be followed, the role of spirituality and cultural traditions, conflicts between doctors and families, and ways to leave a moral legacy for our descendants.

Ferrer, Gustavo. *Graceful Exit: How to Advocate Effectively, Take Care of Yourself, and Be Present for the Death of a Loved One* (2018)
A physician guides readers through the medical, legal, financial, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of dying and death.

Gawande, Atul. *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End (*2014)
A practicing surgeon addresses his profession's ultimate limitation, arguing that quality of life is the desired goal for patients and families.
Gutkind, Lee, ed. *The End of Life: True Stories about How We Die* (2012)
"These 22 personal-medical narratives explore death, dying, and palliative care, and reveal the inner workings of a system in which doctors, patients and their loved ones battle to hang on-- and to let go."

Haider, Warraich. *Modern death: how medicine changed the end of life* (2017)
Inspired by Sherwin Nuland and Atul Gawande, recognizing that the most basic aspects of dying are far different than they were decades ago, this physician takes a broad look at how we die, from the cellular level to the very definition of death itself.

Kaufman, Sharon R. *...And a Time to Die: How Hospitals Shape the End of Life* (2006)
A medical anthropologist examines hospitals to investigate how the advent of medical technology capable of sustaining life without restoring health has changed where, when, and how we die.

Kiernan, Stephen P. *Last Rights: Rescuing the End of life from the Medical System* (2006)
With candor, clarity, and an advocate's sense of urgency, investigates why our acute-care system has been so resistant to change and how we can infuse greater humanity to life's final chapter.

Morhaim, Dan. *The Better End: Surviving (and Dying) on Your Own Terms in Today's Modern Medical World* (2019)
Following up on*The Better End: Surviving (and Dying) on Your Own Terms in Today's Modern Medical World* (2012), a practicing physician and Maryland state legislator guides readers through the medical and legal maze of end-of-life care.

Overton, Margaret. *Hope for a cool pillow* (2016)

A physician, daughter and student of American health care argues passionately for planning end-of-life care.

Sabom, Michael B. *Recollections of Death: A Medical Investigation* (2003)
The cardiologist's study convinced him of the reality of out-of-body experiences. He concluded that the mind was an entity distinct from the brain and that the near-death crisis caused the mind and brain to split apart for a brief time.

Mangalik, Aroop. *Dealing with Doctors, Denial and Death* (2019)
A retired oncologist and ethicist explains some of the influences that may prompt physicians to recommend futile treatments for patients facing serious illnesses for which the path to wellness is unclear and describes specific ways of obtaining information to get a clear idea of all available options.

Ramakrishnan, Venki. *Why we die: the new science of aging and the quest for immortality* (2024)
A recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry covers recent breakthroughs in scientific research re immortality, examining the cutting edge of efforts to extend lifespan by altering our physiology.

Memoir

Albom, Mitch. *Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, A Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson* (1997)
Albom rediscovered Morrie in the last months of his former college professor's life and visited the dying older man every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live.

Alexander, Elizabeth. *The Light in the World* (2015)
The African American poet's memoir of her marriage and the sudden death of her husband is by turns sorrowful and joyful, earthy and elegiac, deeply personal and achingly universal.

Barnes, Julian. *Nothing to be Frightened of* (2008)
A memoir on mortality that touches on faith and science and family.

Bloom, Amy. *In Love: A Memoir of Love and Loss* (2022)
This poignant and powerful memoir recounts the author's journey with her husband, suffering from Alzheimer's disease to Dignitas in Switzerland.

Buchwald, Art. *Too Soon to Say Goodbye* (2006)
After the longtime humorist checked into a Washington, D.C. hospice in early 2006, he confounded medical prediction and rallied enough to write one more book of short, comic, sometimes slightly morbid vignettes.

Buist, Erica. *This Party's Dead: Grief, Joy and Spilled Rum at the World's Death Festivals* (2021)
Grieving for her recently deceased father-in-law, a British journalist travels to seven death festivals around the world (Nepal, Madagascar, Indonesia, Sicily, Japan, Mexico, and New Orleans) to understand how other cultures deal with death.

Caputo, Yvonne. *Dying With Dad: Tough Talks for Easier Endings* (2022)
Emphasizing the importance of end-of-life planning, Caputo recommends Five Wishes for facilitating conversations.

Carter, Zoe FitzGerald. *Imperfect Endings: A Daughter's Tale of Life and Death* (2010)
After twenty years of living with terminal illness, Zoe's mother decides to end her life, asking her three daughters for their assistance. The decision drags on for months as her mother changes her methods and schedule, stirring up old memories, sibling rivalries, and questions about family loyalty.

Chast, Roz. *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant*? (2014)
Through four-color cartoons, family photos, and documents, the New Yorker cartoonist's memoir of her aging and dying parents is both comfort and comic relief.

Chen, Pauline W. *Final Exam: A Surgeon's Reflections on Mortality* (2007)
A physician struggles to reconcile the lessons of her training with her innate knowledge of shared humanity and to separate her ideas about healing from her fierce desire to cure.

Cohen, Benoit. *Wonderful* (2025)
When the French producer, filmmaker, and screenwriter's father died in September 2010, under circumstances that might put him in legal jeopardy, he was unable to recount the story. Now that the statute of limitations has lifted, he has set down, in novelistic form, two different scenarios detailing the event.

Didion, Joan. *The Year of Magic Thinking* (2005)
This taut, clear-eyed memoir of grief chronicles the year following the death of her husband, fellow writer John Gregory Dunne, from a massive heart attack.

Dowie, Mark. *Judith Letting Go: Six Months in the World's Smallest Death Cafe* (2024)
An award-winning journalist recounts his short friendship with renowned teacher and poet Judith Tannenbaum as she prepares to hasten her own death using California's Medical Aid in Dying.

Gubar, Susan. *Memoir of a Debulked Woman: Enduring Ovarian Cancer* (2012)
"The renowned feminist scholar explores the physical and psychological ordeal of living with illness."

Hitchens, Christopher. *Mortality* (2012)
These seven essays first appeared in *Vanity Fair* concerning Hitchens' struggle with esophageal cancer to which he succumbed in December 2011. An additional chapter consists of unfinished "fragmentary jottings," as well as a foreword by Graydon Carter and an afterword by Hitchens' widow, Carol Blue.

Humphry, Derek. *Good Life, Good Death: The Memoir of a Right to Die Pioneer* (2017)
Before his wife's terminal illness ravaged his life, Humphry was a successful journalist, who went on to found the Hemlock Society, pioneered Oregon's Death with Dignity Act, and write the bestselling books *Final Exit* and *Jean's Way*.

Kalanithi, Paul. *When Breath Becomes Air* (2016)
This memoir by an Indian-American neurosurgeon and writer about his life and battle against stage IV metastatic lung cancer was posthumously published.

Kennaway, Guy. *Time to Die* (2019)
Beginning with his 88-year-old mother's call for his assistance, Kennaway's memoir uses his experience as a map through the moral, legal, emotional, intellectual and practical maze of leaving life on one's own terms.

Kona, Bongani, ed. *Our Ghosts Were Once People: Stories on Death and Dying* (2021)
The collection of personal stories, chiefly by South Africans, offers voices reflecting on a range of deaths from individual losses to large-scale catastrophes.

Kozol, Jonathan. *The Theft of Memory: Losing My Father, One Day at a Time* (2015)
A memoir of his father's life and work as a nationally noted specialist in disorders of the brain and his ability, at the onset of Alzheimer's disease, to explain its causes and then to narrate his slow descent into dementia.

Marsh, Henry. *And Finally: Matters of Life and Death* (2023)
A neurosurgeon's unflinching and deeply personal exploration of death, life and neuroscience following his diagnosis of advanced cancer.

McCrum, Robert. *Every Third Thought: On Life, Death and the Endgame* (2018)
Twenty-one years after *My Year Off,* his memoir about his near-fatal stroke, death has become McCrum's contemporaries' every third thought. Using the words of his favorite authors, he traverses a year, toward death.

Monninger, Joseph. *Goodbye to clocks ticking how we live while dying: a memoir* (2023)
Three days after teaching his last class, an avid outdoorsman in robust health is diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. When a drug offers a temporary reprieve, he begins to live life to the fullest and to write about the following year of grace.

Moorjani, Anita. *Dying to be Me: My Journey from Cancer to Near Death, to True Healing* (2012)
Influenced by traditional Hindu religious and cultural customs, Moorjani was unprepared for her Near-Death Experience from cancer, candidly sharing what she has learned about illness, healing, fear, and "being love."

Morrison, Blake. *And when did you last see your father?* (1993)
An English poet and essayist reflects on the life and death of his father, a blunt and extroverted physician admired by his patients. Morrison deals with his grief by eulogizing his father as a human being as flawed as himself but beloved by his son.

Pausch, Randy. *The Last Lecture* (2008)
A computer science professor recently diagnosed with terminal cancer offers "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams" about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment.

Riggs, Nina. *The Bright Hour: A Memoir of Living and Dying* (2017)
"An exquisite memoir about how to live—and love—every day with "death in the room," from a poet, mother of two young sons and direct descendant of Ralph Waldo Emerson, in the tradition of *When Breath Becomes Air*."

Taylor, Cory. *Dying: A Memoir* (2017)
Written in the space of a few weeks, at the age of sixty while dying of melanoma-related brain cancer, Taylor offers a clear-eyed account of what dying teaches: the tangle of her feelings, remembering the lives and deaths of her parents, and why she would like to be able to choose the circumstances of her death.

Thorn, Beverly E. *Before I Lose My Own Mind: Navigating Life as a Dementia Caregiver* by (2025)
Remarkably forthcoming about the ups and downs of her emotional years-long journey supporting her husband, this clinical psychologist concludes each chapter with "facts and insights" and "resources".

Ware, Bronnie. *The top five regrets of the dying: a life transformed by the dearly departing* (2015)
A memoir of her life, work as a palliative care nurse, and how she was transformed through the regrets of the dying people she cared for.

Yalom, Irvin D. and Marilyn Yalom. *A Matter of Life and Death* (2021)
Renowned psychiatrist Irvin Yalom, and his wife, esteemed feminist writer Marilyn Yalom, after her terminal diagnosis [she uses California's physician-attended death with dignity], reflect on how to love and live without regret. With the wisdom of those who have thought deeply, and the familiar warmth of teenage sweethearts who've grown up together, they investigate universal questions of intimacy, love, and grief.

Karofsky, Judy. *Diselderly Conduct: The Flawed Business of Assisted Living and Hospice* (2025)
An expert in real estate and personal and corporate finance chronicles in exacting detail the experiences of her active, nonagenarian mother in six assisted living facilities over the final years of her life. Her cautionary tale provides a window into the workings of such establishments, frequently understaffed, unregulated, and fraught with malfeasance.

Right to Die

Battin, Margaret Pabst. *The Ethics of Suicide: Historical Sources* (2015)
One of many titles by the American philosopher, medical ethicist, and author, dealing extensively on ethical aspects of assisted suicide.

Brewer, Colin. *O, Let Me Not Get Alzheimer's, Sweet Heaven: Why many people prefer death or active deliverance to living with dementia* (2019)
For those who would like to take some control over the end of their lives before cognitive decline does its worst, a British physician supplies detailed guidance on advance decision-making and living wills.

Brewer, Colin and Michael H. K. Irwin, editors. *'I'll see myself out, thank you' : the arguments for medically-assisted rational suicide* (2015) From a distinctly British perspective, three dozen essays cover every aspect of assisted suicide from the legal and religious issues to the deeply personal experiences of patients and carers, presenting a reasoned libertarian argument for people with terminal conditions, or poor quality of life due to illness or treatment, to be allowed to be helped to kill themselves.

Buchbinder, Mara. *Scripting Death: Stories of Assisted Dying in America* (2021)
Investigates the issues surrounding medical aid in dying by chronicling two years of ethnographic research documenting the implementation of Vermont's 2013 Patient Choice and Control at End-of-Life Act.

Cohen, Lewis M. *A Dignified Ending: Taking Control Over How We Die* (2019)
A psychiatrist and palliative medicine researcher reveals a self-determination movement that empowers people to shape the timing and circumstances of their deaths, decriminalizes laws threatening those who help them, and passes assisted dying legislature.

Cohen, Lewis. *Winter's End: Dementia and Dying Well* (2024)
This meticulously researched book by a physician, based on nine months of audiotaped interviews with 57-year-old Dan Winter and his husband, subsequent interviews after Winter's death, as well as interviews with approximately one hundred palliative medical practitioners, legal scholars, bioethicists, social workers, nurses, neurologists, psychiatrists and other experts provides a personal perspective on end-of-life options.

Côté, Richard N. *In Search of Gentle Death: The Fight for Your Right to Die with Dignity* (2012)
Based on five years of intensive primary source research and more than one hundred interviews with pioneers, activists, physicians, nurses, hospice workers, and patients, this book explores the pioneering, highly pragmatic and practical work carried out by the international death-with-dignity movement over the last forty years.

Clark, Cynthia & Carol Cram. *The Many Faces of MAID: What to Expect When Someone You Know Chooses Medical Assistance in Dying* (2023)
A compilation of interviews from seventeen Canadians with direct experience of a loved one choosing a medically assisted death.

Docker, Chris. *Five Last Acts: The Exit Path: The Arts and Science of Rational Suicide in the face of unbearable, Unrelievable Suffering* (2013)

This 752-page work examines in detail the many issues around self-deliverance, from a British perspective.

Engelhart, Katie. *The Inevitable: Dispatches On the Right to Die* (2021)
An intimate, incisive, and wide-ranging book about the doctors, patients, and activists at the heart of the Right to Die movement.

Fitzgerald, Jeanne and Eileen M. Fitzpatrick. *A Better Way of Dying: How to Make the Best Choices at the End of Life* (2010)
Two sisters -- a lawyer and a doctor -- offer a five-step Compassion Protocol to leave caretakers concrete, unambiguous, and legally binding instructions about one's last days.

Gorsuch, Neil M. *The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia* (2006)
Assessing the strengths and weaknesses of arguments for assisted suicide and euthanasia, the U.S. Court of Appeals Judge builds a moral and legal argument against legalization, based on a principle that the idea that human life is intrinsically valuable, and that intentional killing is always wrong.

Green, Stefanie. *This Is Assisted Dying: A Doctor's Story of Empowering Patients at the End of Life* (2022)
A transformative and compassionate memoir by a leading pioneer in medically assisted dying who began her career in the maternity ward and now helps patients who are suffering explore and then fulfill their end-of-life choices in Canada.

Hannig, Anita. *The Day I Die: The Untold Story of Assisted Dying in America* (2022)
In lucid prose this anthropology professor unpacks the complex and controversial process of medical aid in dying.

Hartogh, Govert den. *What Kind of Death: The Ethics of Determining One's Own Death* (2023)
From legal, moral and practical perspectives a Dutch professor of Moral Philosophy examines physician-assisted death and end-of-life decisions.

Humphry, Derek. *Final Exit: The Practicalities of Self-Deliverance and Assisted Suicide for the Dying* (1991)
This controversial book by the founder of the Hemlock Society in California and past president of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies.

Jamison, Stephen. *Assisted Suicide: A Decision-Making Guide for Health Professionals* (1997)
Written with compassion and understanding, this is the first work to offer physicians and mental health professionals specific, concrete guidelines on counseling and assisting patients who are considering suicide.

Jamison, Stephen. *Final Acts of Love: Families, Friends, and Assisted Dying* (1995)
A compassionate guide to making a most difficult choice, a member of the Euthanasia Research and Guidance Organization and consultant to the Hemlock Society of Northern California offers specific guidelines for making a well-reasoned, intelligent, and humane decision, without advocating a specific course of action.

Mancini. Barbara. *Cruel Death, Heartless Aftermath: My Family's End-of-Life Nightmare and How to Avoid It* (2019)
Despite having legal advance directives in place, a simple act of compassion led the author's 93-year-old father to a medically intensive, painful death in the hospital and left her an accused felon, facing 10 years in prison.

Meisel, Alan Meisel, Kathy L. Cerminara, and Thaddeus M. Pope *The right to die: the law of end-of-life decision-making* (3rd edition, 2004)
This comprehensive edition for general practitioners, and elder law, health law, and health care professionals analyzes statutory and case law pertaining to passive and active hastening of death.

Mitchell, James B. *Understanding Assisted Suicide: Nine Issues to Consider* (2007)
A Professor of Law at Seattle University School of Law and a Reform Jew uses his own experience watching both his parents die, to ask fundamental questions about death, dying, religion, and the role of medicine and technology in alleviating human suffering.

Nitschke, Philip, and Fiona Stewart. *The Peaceful Pill Handbook* (2006)
Australian doctors provide very specific information on assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia, including hypoxic death using an exit bag and various drug options. Also available in digital format.

Orfali, Robert. *Death with Dignity: The Case for Legalizing Physician-Assisted Dying and* Euthanasia (2011)
Using data from Oregon and the Netherlands, the author puts a fresh slant on perennial debate topics such as "slippery slopes," "the integrity of medicine," and "sanctity of life," making a compelling case for legalized physician-assisted dying.

Preston, Tom. *Doctor, Please Help Me Die* (2013)
After a thorough discussion of end-of-life issues in America, a physician presents a strong argument for why every citizen who is dying has an inalienable right to die peacefully, and why every physician has an ethical obligation to assist patients who want to exercise this right safely, securely, and painlessly.

Portwood, Doris. *Common Sense Suicide: The Final Right* (1978, 1984)
This no-nonsense book, pioneering, yet remarkably current, argues that the elderly in poor health have many perfectly good reasons they might choose to kill themselves, as the author herself eventually did.

Rehm, Diane. *When My Time Comes: Conversations About Whether Those Who Are Dying Should Have the Right to Determine When Life Should End* (2020)
Using interviews with terminally ill patients, and with physicians, ethicists, spouses, relatives, and representatives of those who vigorously oppose the Right to Die movement, the renowned talk show host offers a balanced look at the divisive issue. Soon to be a public television documentary of the same name.

Rollin. Betty. *Last Wish* (1985)
A daughter's memoir of the struggle to come to terms with her terminally ill mother's decision to die, and an examination of the ethical, spiritual, and technical aspects of assisted suicide.

Schwarz, Judith and Timothy Quill, Paul T. Menzel and Thaddeus Mason Pope, eds. *Voluntarily Stopping Eating and Drinking: A Compassionate, Widely Available Option for Hastening Death* (2021)
Designed for members of the medical, nursing, and social work communities, as well as attorneys, educators, ethicists, and members of the lay public – including those wanting to explore a wide range of future end of life options. It addresses the inadequacies of currently available VSED information, provides clinically realistic descriptions and explores clinical, ethical, legal, and institutional benefits and challenges.

Shacter, Phyllis. *Choosing to Die: A Personal Story: Elective Death by Voluntarily Stopping Eating and Drinking (VSED) in the Face of Degenerative Disease* (2017)
This memoir and guidebook follows the journey taken by the author after her husband, Alan, decided to VSED to avoid living into the late stages of Alzheimer's disease. How they prepared themselves with proper medical and legal guidance, every detail of what happened during the nine-and-a-half days it took for him to die, and how the experience transformed Phyllis.

Shavelson, Lonny. *A Chosen Death: The Dying Confront Assisted Suicide* (1995)

An emergency-room physician and photojournalist in Berkeley, Calif., advocates physician-assisted suicide as an option for people who want to end the agony of a prolonged illness-but only after all other options, including hospice care, have been explored.

Tate, Nikki. *Choosing to Live, Choosing to Die: The complexities of assisted dying* (2019)
Written for teenagers, this straightforward resource from a Canadian perspective, is an excellent introduction to the topic of assisted dying starting with the author's own experience with her mother. Exploring the controversial issue from multiple, nuanced perspectives -- including legal, religious, philosophical, linguistic, ethical, and historical -- readers are encouraged to keep an open mind and to reach their own conclusions.

Terman, Stanley A. *The Best Way to Say Goodbye: A Legal Peaceful Choice at the End of Life* (2007)
Overwritten at nearly 500 pages, this psychiatrist explores various aspects of "voluntary death by dehydration" (VDD) aka "voluntary refusal of food and fluid" (VRFF) aka "terminal dehydration" aka Stopping Eating and Drinking (STED) and Voluntarily Stopping Eating and Drinking (VSED).

Van Buskirk, Jim. *There at the End: Voices from Final Exit Network: A Celebration of 20 Years* (2024)
This collection of 44 first-person accounts explores the perspectives of FEN volunteers supporting clients' right to die for the past 20 years.

Wanzer, Sidney and Joseph Glenmullen. *To Die Well: Your Right to Comfort, Calm and Choice in the Last Days of Life* (2007)
The former head of Harvard University Law School Health Services and leader in the right-to-die movement joins with a Harvard Medical School faculty member to advocate measures that allow patients to control decisions about end-of-life treatment and ensure a peaceful death.

Warnock, Mary and Elisabeth MacDonald. *Easeful Death: Is There a Case for Assisted Suicide?* (2008)
Starting from a British perspective, an even-handed assessment of arguments for and against the legalization of assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Ziegler, Deborah. *Wild and precious life* (2016)
A moving memoir by the mother of Brittany Maynard, the 29-year-old California woman who, after being diagnosed with brain cancer in 2014, moved to Oregon to take advantage of death with dignity there.

Spirituality

Chodron, Pema. *How We Live Is How We Die* (2022)
The beloved Buddhist nun, in her 85th year, offers wise words on working with the countless changes in our lives to find more freedom and less fear, including her thoughts on the bardos -- the Tibetan teachings on what happens between this life and the next -- and how they are relevant in each moment of our life now.

Chodron, Pema. *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times* (2000)
This collection of talks by the Buddhist author between 1987 and 1994 is a treasury of wisdom for going on living when we are overcome by pain and difficulties.

Clements, Alan E. *Facing Death: A Conversation with Reverend Bodhi Be* (2022)
A free-flowing personal conversation inspired by the knowledge "We all know we're going to die but we don't know when."

Diamant, Anita. *Saying Kaddish: how to comfort the dying, bury the dead, and mourn as a Jew* (1998)

Halkin, Hillel. *After One-Hundred-and-Twenty: Reflecting on Death, Mourning and the Afterlife in the Jewish Tradition* (2016)
"A richly nuanced and deeply personal look at Jewish attitudes and practices regarding death, mourning and the afterlife as they have existed and evolved from biblical times to today."

Holecek, Andrew. *Preparing to Die: Practical Advice and Spiritual Wisdom from the Tibetan Buddhist Tradition* (2013)
Maintaining that spiritual preparation for death can completely transform our relationship to the end of life this book addresses practical concerns, including advance directives, green funerals, the signs of death, warnings about the funeral industry, the stages of grief, and practical care for the dying as well as heart-advice from twenty of the best-known Tibetan Buddhist masters now teaching in the West.

Horvilleur, Delphine. Living with our Dead: On Loss and Consolation (2024)
From France's most prominent female rabbi, a powerful reflection on our relationship to death and an invitation to accept loss and vulnerability as essential and enriching parts of life.

Lamm, Maurice. *The Jewish Way in Death and Mourning* (1969)
This rabbi's classic work leads the family and friends of the deceased through the most difficult chapter of life-from the moment of death through the funeral service, the burial, and the various periods of mourning.

Rosenberg, Larry. *Living in the Light of Death: On the Art of Being Truly Alive* (2000)
Using the Buddhist text the Five Subjects for Frequent Recollection, we are encouraged to become intimate with the inevitable facts of growing older, getting sick, and dying.

<u>Documentaries</u>

Girsh, Faye & Sally Hall
An Alternative to Medical Aid in Dying - Final Exit Network (50 min., 2020)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKceLXnIzA8

Barens, Edgar. *Prison Terminal: The Last Days of Private Jack Hall* (40 min. 2014)
This powerful HBO documentary chronicles the final months in the life of a terminally ill maximum-security prisoner and the hospice volunteers, they themselves prisoners, who care for him.

Bernhagen, Mike and Terry Kaldhusdal
Consider the Conversation: A Documentary on a Taboo Subject (60 min. 2011)
Consider the Conversation 2: Stories about Cure, Relief, and Comfort (86 min. 2014)
Explores some of the unintended consequences of American medicine's success and sheds light on the important role of the patient/doctor relationship and communication.

Bruno, Ellen. *Sky Burial* (12 min. 2005)
Follows the ritual of "jha-tor", the giving of alms to birds in a northern Tibetan monastery – where bodies of the dead are offered to the vultures as a final act of kindness to living beings.

Dillingham, Gay. *Dying to Know: Ram Dass & Timothy Leary* (95 min. 2015)
An intimate portrait celebrating two complex controversial cultural icons in an epic friendship that shaped a generation, instigated by Leary's impending death.

Rob Epstein, Rob and Jeffrey Friedman. *End Game* (40 min. 2018)

A rare glimpse into the intimate, usually private, conversations as several patients deal with difficult end-of-life decisions. B.J. Miller, hospice and palliative care specialist at University of California San Francisco Medical Center, and the Zen Hospice Project, gently facilitates questions to which the answers are unknown.

Jennings, Thomas. *Being Mortal* (50 min. 2015)
Based on Atul Gawande's book, this Frontline documentary showing how many doctors and patients struggle to talk honestly and openly about end-of-life issues.

Kirkpatrick, Russ. Susan (90 min., 2025)
Follows Susan Suchan, initially misdiagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's, then later with FTD, Frontotemporal Dementia, with a Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) disorder, as she and her extended family as they deal with the changes in Susan's personality, behavior, and language abilities.

Krauss, Dan. *Extremis* (24 min., 2016)
This intense documentary packs a lot into its succinct 24 minutes, closely following the family of two patients, as physicians Jessica (*Extreme Measures*) Zitter and Monica Bhargava wrestle with care options.

Luckow, Sandra. *Vanishing: A Love Story* (107 min., 2025)
The filmmaker follows writer Cai Emmon's final six months, including interviews with her family, friends and physicians after a diagnosis of Bulbar-onset ALS band as they support her wishes to use Medical Aid in Dying.

Lopez, Trina. *A Second Final Rest: The History of San Francisco's Lost Cemeteries* (46 min. 2005)
The hidden history of how acres of burial grounds in the center of the city were unceremoniously closed, the bodies (mostly) exhumed and relocated to Colma.

Moyers, Bill. *On Our Own Terms* (348 min. 2011)
The renowned journalist interviews dozens of terminally ill patients in this four-part program to explain the complex concepts and choices that surround "a good death."

Navasky, Miri and Karen O'Connor. *The Undertaking* (60 min. 2007)
Thomas Lynch is a writer, poet, and funeral director in a small central Michigan town where he and his family have cared for the dead and the living -- for three generations.

Richardson, Peter. *How to Die in Oregon* (107 min. 2010)
The powerful and poignant film follows several terminally ill patients as they exercise the state's historic and controversial Death with Dignity Act, which legalizes physician aid-in-dying.

Schlitz, Marilyn and Deepak Chopra. *Death Makes Life Possible: Transforming the Fear of Death into an Inspiration for Living and Dying Well* (58 min. 2015)
Sparked by her own near-death experience as a teenager, Cultural anthropologist and scientist Schlitz explores the nature of consciousness and the mysteries of life and death from a variety of perspectives and world traditions.

Shen, Patrick. *Flight from Death* (85 min. 2004)
Explores human beings' innate and subconscious fear of death and portrays the impacts of that fear on our behavior, specifically regarding violence.

Westrate, Elizabeth. *A Family Undertaking* (60 min. 2004)
This POV episode explores the growing trend of the home funeral movement.

Wilson, Tim. *Griefwalker* (70 min. 2008)

Stephen Jenkinson, once the leader of a palliative care counselling team has made it his life's mission to turn the act of dying from denial and resistance into an essential part of life.

Browne, Amy, and Tony Hale, Jeremy Kaplan, Brian Wilson. *A Will for the Woods* (93 min. 2014)
Determined that his last act will be a gift to the planet, musician and psychiatrist Clark Wang prepares for his own green burial.

Feature Films

- *A Guy Named Joe*
- *Always*
- *Between Two Worlds*
- *Cabin in the Sky*
- *Death Becomes Her*
- *Death Watch*
- *Defending Your Life*
- *Departures*
- *Ghost*
- *Harold and Maude*
- *Heaven Can Wait*
- *Heaven is for Real*
- *Here Comes Mr. Jordan*
- *It's a Wonderful Life*
- *Life after Death*
- *On Borrowed Time*
- *Our Town*
- *Paddleton*
- *Sixth Sense*
- *Stairway to Heaven*
- *Stir of Echoes*
- *The Loved One*
- *The Room Next Door*
- *Topper*
- *What Dreams May Come*
- *Witchboard*

Websites

http://www.agingwithdignity.org/
"Five Wishes helps you express how you want to be treated if you are seriously ill and unable to speak for yourself. It deals with all a person's needs: medical, personal, emotional and spiritual."

Before I Go You Should Know
https://www.hppc.org/assets/2226/before_i_go_you_should_know.pdf
Developed by the Funeral Consumers Alliance, this is a place to record your wishes as to funeral or memorial ... Get it all in order and then be sure to tell others where you put it.

https://www.compassionandchoices.org/

This nonprofit organization is committed to helping have the best death possible… offering free consultation, planning resources, referrals and guidance, and…working to protect and expand options at the end of life.

http://theconversationproject.org/
"The Conversation Project is dedicated to helping people talk about their wishes for end-of-life care."

https://www.ramdass.org/the-edge-of-awakening/
The Dying Project begun by Ram Dass serves and trains people to create spiritual environments for dying.

http://www.engagewithgrace.org/
"To help ensure that all of us – and the people we care for – can end our lives in the same purposeful way we lived them."

http://www.geripal.org/
GeriPal (from **Geri**atrics and **Pal**liative care) a blog forum for discourse, recent news and research, and freethinking commentary.

http://getyourshittogether.org/
After her husband died unexpectedly, Chanel Roberts had to deal with finding passwords, accounts, and myriad details of her husband's affairs. She offers a straightforward guide to help avoid the stress.

gowish.org
Go Wish provides an easy, entertaining way to talk about what is most important. The cards help find words to talk about what is important if one were to be living a life that may be shortened by serious illness.

http://livingdying.org/
Promotes healing of body, mind, and spirit inspired and motivated by the preciousness of human life and by the fact that we will all die, we do not know when.

http://www.orderofthegooddeath.com/
"The Order is about making death a part of your life…. Accepting that death itself is natural, but the death anxiety of modern culture is not."

http://www.pallimed.org/
Founded in 2005 by Drew Rosielle, MD to track palliative care articles from various journals, the blog also reviews media coverage of hospice and palliative care issues.

http://www.prepareforyourcare.org
Designed to help people and their loved ones prepare for medical decision making.

https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/changing-the-way-we-die
Fran Smith and Sheila Himmel blog about compassionate end-of-life care and the hospice movement.

http://www.sevenponds.com/
A "contemporary resource for those who wish to celebrate memory and personalize the end-of-life."

https://www.mywonderfullife.com/
"Plan the funeral you've lived for: Plan your funeral * Leave letters for loved ones *Note where important things are located *Share stories and memories * Upload favorite photos * Write your obituary * Design your own memorial marker"

https://www.dyingmatters.org/
Dying Matters is a coalition of individual and organizational members across England and Wales, which aims to help people talk more openly about dying, death and bereavement, and to make plans for the end of life.

http://leaving-well.org/
The Leaving Well Coalition exists to ensure every person in Utah can live well to the end of life by sharing the conversation about their values, making their wishes known and receiving the end-of-life care they desire.

http://lostallhope.com/
This comprehensive resource includes information on methods to commit suicide, statistical information, and resources for assistance alleviating depression.

More resources:

Advance Care Directive
https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/ProbateCodeAdvanceHealthCareDirectiveForm-fillable.pdf

Advance Care Planning Information for Patients and Families, including What Matters Most? Free Online Advance Directive Workshop, UCSF: MERI Center for Education in Palliative Care at Mt. Zion
https://meri.ucsf.edu/advance-care-planning

Academy of Aid-in-Dying Medicine: developing, improving, and supporting best practices for the care of patients considering or completing aid in dying
https://www.aadm.org/

American Bar Association Toolkit for Healthcare Planning: Medical Power of Attorney: it gives an agent the authority to make medical decisions for you if you are incapacitated. Living Will: it allows an individual to state preferences for medical treatment, focusing on end-of-life decisions. Advance Directive: it includes the instructions collected in a Living Will and in a Medical Power of Attorney. https://tinyurl.com/3aa4kezw

Compassion & Choices improves care, expands options and empowers one to chart their end-of-life journey.
https://compassionandchoices.org/

The Conversation Project, a public engagement initiative of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. helps people talk about their wishes for care through the end of life
https://theconversationproject.org/

Death doulas provide companionship, comfort, and guidance to those facing a terminal illness or death. We offer resources to help the dying person, and their family and loved ones, make informed decisions.
International End of Life Doula Association: https://inelda.org/
National End-of-Life Doula Alliance: https://www.nedalliance.org/

End of Life Choices California: to inform all Californians about the choices they have at the end of their lives and help them achieve a peaceful death.
https://endoflifechoicesca.org/

Final Exit 2020 This resource, available only as a digital download, contains information on using drugs and using inert gas, such as helium and nitrogen. https://www.finalexit.org/

Final Exit Network: to educate qualified individuals in practical, peaceful ways to end their lives, offer a compassionate bedside presence and defend their right to choose.

FinalExitNetwork.org

Five Wishes easy-to-use legal advance directive document written in everyday language, covers personal, spiritual, medical and legal wishes, allowing families or caregivers to know exactly what you want. https://www.fivewishes.org/

Get Palliative Care provides comprehensive palliative care information for people living with a serious illness. https://getpalliativecare.org/

The Good Death Society discusses a wide range of right-to-die issues, from legislation to advance directives to other countries' approach to the right to die and anything else deemed relevant to end-of-life freedom. https://www.thegooddeathsocietyblog.net/

Health Care Proxy aka "health care surrogate" or "durable medical power of attorney"
Alliance of Professional Health Advocates https://aphadvocates.org/

Managing Moves & More: Help with decluttering, downsizing, packing/unpacking, specializing in helping older adults who have lived in their homes for many years and are facing the move of a lifetime. https://www.managingmoves.com/

National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys dedicated to improving the quality of legal services provided to older adults and people with disabilities.
https://www.naela.org/

The Peaceful Pill Handbook Published by Exit International in both print and online versions. The online edition is updated regularly and includes instructional videos. This resource is more expensive, a bit more technical, and contains information on several different self-deliverance methods, rating each for reliability, availability, and peacefulness. www.peacefulpillhandbook.com

Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) gives seriously ill patients more control over their end-of-life care, including medical treatment, extraordinary measures (e.g. ventilator/feeding tube) and CPR. https://capolst.org/

Prepare for your Care helps empower people and their family, friends, and caregivers to obtain and understand medical information and to make informed medical decisions. https://prepareforyourcare.org/

Vial of Life vialoflife.com
Designed to speak for you when you can't speak for yourself. The vial contains important medical information that can assist emergency personnel in administering the proper medical treatment.