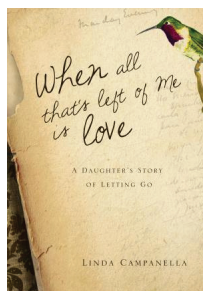




BOOKS

When All That's Left of Me Is Love. Linda Campanella. Mustang, OK: Tate, 2011, softcover, 232 pages, \$17.99.



This book shares Campanella's journey through the last year of her mother's life, from diagnosis to death. Although it was known early that her mother had a limited life expectancy, Campanella's writing emphasizes living, loving, and letting go. The book highlights personal accounts and events that were meaningful to the author, her mother, and the entire family. Anticipating death was only a part of the story; other parts focused on providing the uplifting aspects of celebration and continuing the special bonds during this journey.

The intended audience for this book is broad—any healthcare professional or lay community member caring for someone who may be in the later stages of an illness. Medical terms and jargon are used, but understandable and written in the context for someone without a medical background. As an oncology nurse, I consider this an important read to help understand the thoughts, feelings, and experiences that patients and caregivers endure. As a daughter, it also is inspiring to see how others made the last months of life memorable and peaceful for a parent or loved one.

Strengths of this book include the expression of the author's thoughts and love in text and excerpts of actual letters and e-mails shared during this time. The theme of communication was a common thread throughout the book. Another strength was the focus on celebration of life, on good and bad days, and simple things that can provide comfort and lasting memories.

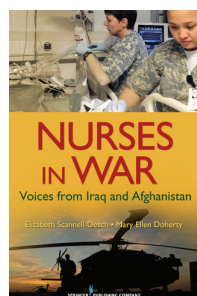
The book was easy to read, and alternating the text with e-mail letter excerpts gave the book rhythm. It may be difficult

for some families to imagine the cooperation, support, and presence that the author was able to have. Sharing what did work may, in turn, help others.

The varied acceptance, involvement, understanding, and processing of a serious illness by individual family members was enlightening. The author communicated openly and often with her mother, siblings, and others. Although everyone may not have the same thoughts and feelings, communicating verbally and electronically can provide clarity of facts and opportunities to express feelings.

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Nurses in War: Voices From Iraq and Afghanistan. Elizabeth Scannell-Desch and Mary Ellen Doherty. New York, NY: Springer, 2012, softcover, 296 pages, \$35.



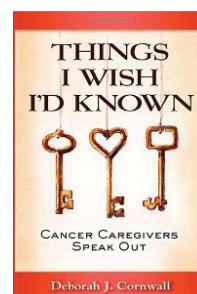
Scannell-Desch and Doherty have written a compelling story about nursing during a war, and the protagonists of this nonfiction book are the nurses themselves. The book is built on three qualitative research studies that examined the lived experience of military nurses in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars from 2003–2010. The first study recounts the experiences of 37 U.S. military nurses deployed during a time of war. This first group was used to specifically look at health and hygiene experiences and examine parental separation for nurse-parents during deployment. Context is given through the historical significance of Florence Nightingale's work during the Crimean War and other major wars, most notably the Vietnam War.

After the introductory materials, the authors wisely and skillfully step out of the way and let the nurses do the talking. Chapters begin with a brief summation narrative, and then direct quotes are used from a variety of nurses. The various locations the nurses were

assigned are described clearly in non-military terms. Work in fast-forward surgical teams, forward-mobile surgical hospitals, combat support hospitals, detainee hospitals, local hospitals, flight nursing, aeromedical evacuation, and an aeromedical staging facility are represented. By far the vast majority of experiences are trauma nursing, although examples of the daily care or sick calls expected with a large group of people are included. Although not focused specifically on oncology nursing, the book features human beings and nursing in another dimension, providing a fascinating inside look at military deployment.

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Things I Wish I'd Known: Cancer Caregivers Speak Out. Deborah J. Cornwall. Sarasota, FL: Bardolf and Company, 2012, softcover, 247 pages, \$19.95.



Patients with cancer often describe their lives in terms of “before cancer” and “after cancer.” A key element in successfully navigating the world “after cancer” is a personal caregiver or group of caregivers. In this book, Cornwall provides a thoughtful, organized guide for caregivers.

Cornwall is a management consultant, oncology social worker, American Cancer Society volunteer, and breast cancer survivor. She was motivated to write this caregiver “how-to” book after her own cancer treatment experience and interactions with patients and caregivers through her volunteer work. She interviewed 86 people from 18 states and shares the things they had to learn “the hard way” when dealing with the business of cancer. The book is filled with valuable practical information and interesting real-life examples from her caregiver interviewees.