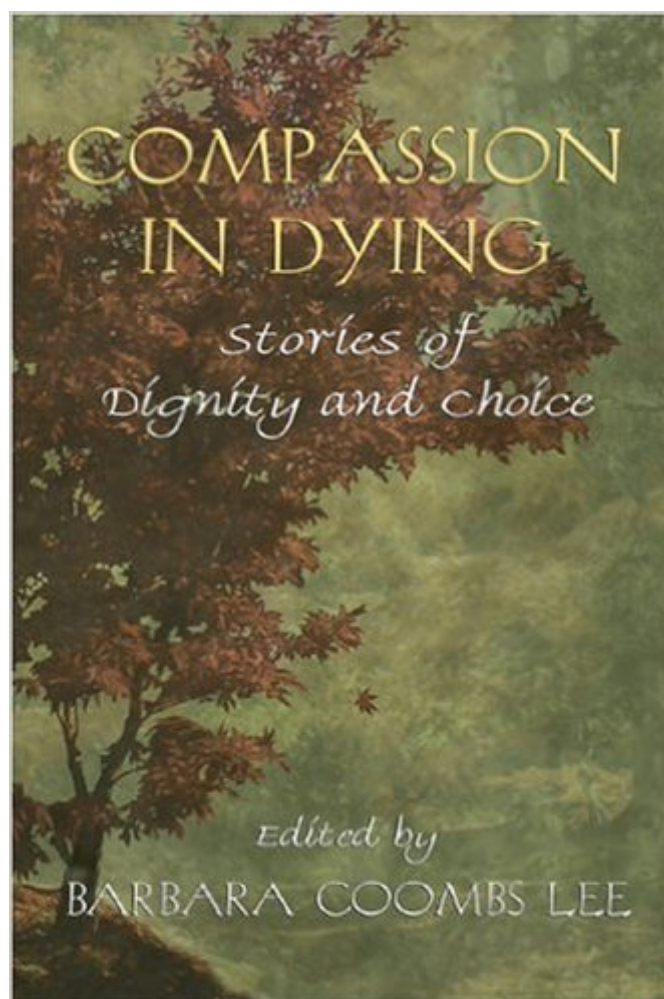


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Compassion In Dying: Stories Of Dignity And Choice



Synopsis

Since 1993 the nonprofit organization Compassion in Dying Federation has been advocating for a social revolution that seeks more humane and caring options for dying individuals---including end-of-life choice. From its inception, this group has worked to support and counsel individuals on how to achieve a peaceful and humane death. Many amazing stories have unfolded from individuals who have turned to Compassion in Dying, and specifically, those seeking end-of-life choice with Oregon's Death with Dignity Act. These stories are from individuals who sought to use the Death with Dignity Act. Most individuals have felt empowered by choice and control in how they die; whether or not they opt to use the prescribed meds to end their lives; and often experience renewed hope. Publication of this book is in conjunction with Compassion in Dying Federation's 10th anniversary. NewSage Press also published former Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts' book, *Death Without Denial, Grief Without Apology*, which includes some information on Oregon's unique Death with Dignity law.

Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: NewSage Press (October 28, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 093916549X

ISBN-13: 978-0939165490

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.4 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #330,392 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in [Books > Law > Health & Medical Law > Right to Die](#) #5 in [Books > Law > Estate Planning > Living Wills](#) #358 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Death](#)

Customer Reviews

Barbara Coombs Lee, editor *Compassion in Dying: Stories of Dignity and Choice* (Troutdale, OR: NewSage Press, 2003) 137 pages (ISBN: 0-939165-49-X; paperback) (Library of Congress call number: not given in book) Barbara Coombs Lee (when she put this book together) was President of the Compassion in Dying Federation. Later this organization was merged with End-of-Life Choices to form Compassion & Choices, which she now serves as President. This book consists mostly of several stories of patients in Oregon who chose to shorten the process of their dying using the

Oregon Death with Dignity Act. Usually a picture of the person or whole family begins each story. And often family members give their own accounts of the complex processes that ultimately led to a decision for voluntary death. All of the statements written by others support the decision for death. Oregon was the first state that allows physicians to prescribe drugs for patients to take to bring their lives to a peaceful and painless end. This book is probably the only book so far to tell their stories. (In 2009, Washington state also authorized the use of life-ending drugs.) When many of these deaths took place, Oregon was in the national news because of its controversial right-to-die law. Thus, some of the patients were given considerable news coverage for their decisions to shorten the process of their dying--to choose a timely death. But all of these deaths seem to have been wisely decided, based on the information provided in this book. The patients were all in the process of dying from well-known diseases.

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