On His Own Terms: A Doctor, His Father, And The Myth Of The Good Death

Ebook
People die the way they live, showing the same weaknesses and strengths in illness as they did in health. This is what Joseph Sacco learned when his ailing father died from lung cancer in 1988. A recent Resident in a Bronx hospital, Dr. Sacco was well-versed in the technical aspects of death, but had never personally confronted it. He was, at first, frustrated by his father’s refusal to accept lung cancer and impending death. Finally, Dr. Sacco confronted his own sincerity, both as caretaker of his father, and as a doctor. His insight came too late to help his father, but he asks readers to question the popular conception that acceptance is necessary for a good death. The final lesson of the book is that caretakers are responsible for encouraging the dying in their own path, rather than to impose any preconceptions.

Book Information
Paperback: 150 pages
Publisher: Caveat Press (January 2006)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0974524522
Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 5.6 x 0.4 inches
Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces
Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars  
Best Sellers Rank: #3,106,964 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  
#98 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Cancer > Lung Cancer  
#1538 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > West  
#4558 in Books > Self-Help > Death & Grief > Grief & Bereavement

Customer Reviews
An interesting approach to an impending death...though Elizabeth Kubler-Ross defined the five necessary steps to acceptance of dying, Dr. Sacco suggests that denial though the whole process is an acceptable and often beneficial way of dealing with the process.

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