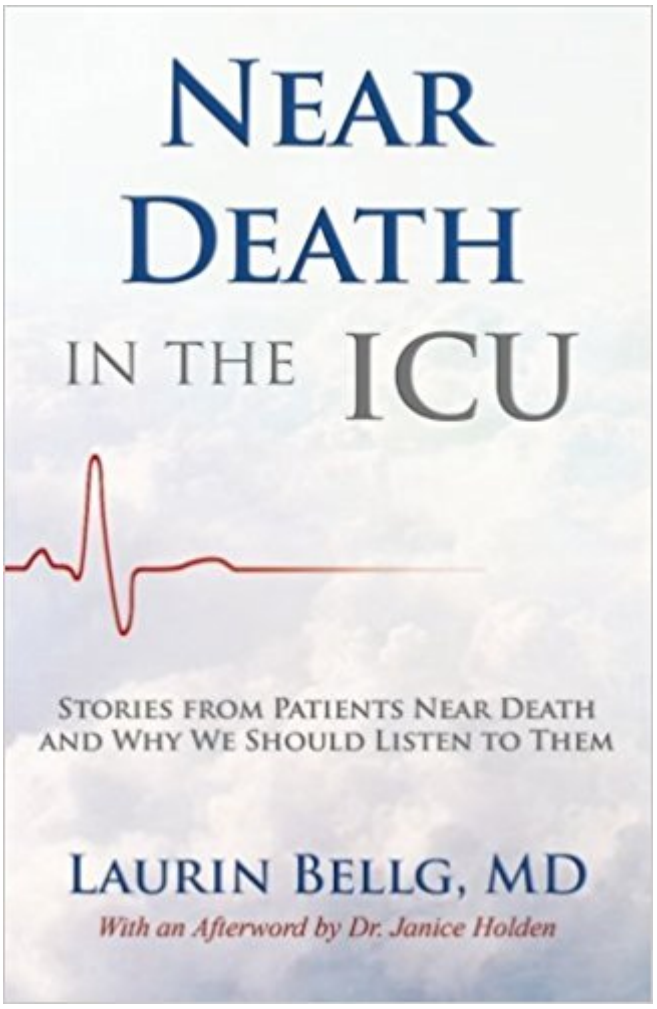
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Near Death In The ICU



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Synopsis

A phenomenalÃ Â collection of medical patient accounts of encounters with the mysteriousÃ Â during severe illness and life-threatening injuryÃ Â from the voice of the physician who took care of them.Ã Â Both touching and thought-provoking, this book invites you to reconsider what happens when we die, and in doing so,Ã Â challenges you to ponder that perhaps we are much more than our earth-bound physical bodies.Ã Â Ã Â Near-death experiences are often profoundly meaningful, yet when they are reported, they are frequently met with skepticism and dismissal by medical caregivers and family members. But do we have to fully understand these events to honor the transformative role they often play in the lives of those who experience them?Ã Â For nearly twenty years, Dr. Laurin Bellg has been present at the bedside of critically ill and dying patients. As she has worked to create an accepting and supportive relationship with them, her patients have shared with her the mysterious experiences they sometimes have during moments of crisis of apparently seeing beyond our physical world. In telling their engaging, powerful and sometimes humorous stories, Dr. Bellg invites the reader to consider that bearing witness to a patient's near-death experience is a respectful and meaningful part of medical care, a way for families to support their loved ones, and an important part of the patient's healing, Do we need to prove they are something more than the result of illness, medication or a dying brain to acknowledge their power to impact lives in a positive way?.

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Customer Reviews

"No one has addressed so well the need to offerÃ Â a helpful response to those reporting a

near-death experience...Dr. Bellg's book addresses the heart of the matter."- Janice Holden, Ed.D., Chair, Dept. of Counseling and Higher Education, University of North Texas, Editor of Journal of Near-Death Studies"My time with Dr. Bellg's book wasÃ Â profound: inspiring, comforting, and a gentle reminder of so much that I can easily forget. Also, it helped me to pause for reflection on some of my own personal journey."Ã Â - Patricia A. Muehsam, M.D., Founder of Transformational Medicine"Laurin Bellg writes beautifully - I couldn't put the good down...(her) writing is clear, well-organized andÃ Â reaches both the lay person and the most sophisticated surgeon...The book leads the reader on a fascinating journey, exploring the different aspects of near-death experiences andÃ Â demonstrating the need to keep an open mind about the phenomenon, because we don't know the whole story yet."Ã Â -Ã Â Robert Mays, researcher in near-death studies and board member at the International Association of Near-Death Studies"Near Death in the ICUÃ Â will beÃ Â a book worth waiting for. I've read many of Dr. Bellg's stories in various publications and can't wait to see them together in one collection." -Ã Â J Stratton"This will be an exciting,Ã Â life-affirming account of phenomena of consciousnessÃ Â that will change how you think about death - and life!" Ã Â -Ã Â Eric Sanderson

EXCERPT"I can't find the damn bleeder!" he heard the surgeon say in frustration."Keep the blood coming. If you can't get it fast enough, then I want plasma! Now!" The surgeon's panic was only barely veiled by his intense determination not to lose this battle.Ã Â Dr. John heard it all; he saw it all. He was astonished at how aware he was as he looked on. Then a sound distracted him and his attention was drawn to the slowing of his heartbeat on the monitor near his head. At the same time, he felt himself drifting farther away from the drama of his surgery. The last thing he recalled of that scene was the surgeon cursing and yelling out that they were losing him and his own solitary thought, "I must be dying."Ã Â His next awareness found him completely and peacefully enveloped in what he could only describe as a soft shroud of mist with tiny points of light blinking in and out quickly as they moved all around him. He felt completely weightless and peaceful, void of any fear. The feeling of love was immense, almost unbearable, and recalling it now, Dr. John's voice became fragile as he paused to fight back tears.Regaining his composure, after a few moments he continued. He described floating in such a beautiful and bright place of total peace that he lost all thoughts and concerns related to anything connected to his physical existence. He was aware of nothing except how good it felt to be there where he was - wherever that was. How long he lingered in this space, he could not say because time had immediately lost meaning for him. Ã Â Suddenly, though, he heard a very distinct voice say gently

but firmly, "You can't stay, John. It's not your time to die." Whether the voice was male or female, he couldn't determine, but it was commanding and he did not protest its directive. Instinctively, he knew it would be pointless to argue.Still feeling peaceful and detached, he felt himself descending and slowly his body came back into view as the mist surrounding him dissipated and he could once more hear the clamor and tension of the operating room. Hovering above the scene, he watched the weak representation of his pulse on the monitor slowly gain strength as the resuscitation efforts of the surgical team reclaimed their hold on Dr. John's physical body.Ã Â

Dr. Bellg exemplifies the best in medical practice. Near Death in the ICU gives voice to ICU patients who report near death experiences, out of body experiences, and afterlife communications. As a scientist, Dr. Bellg is careful not to explain what she considers beyond the scope of modern day science. Yet, she honors the NDE as something important, if not sacred, rather than outright dismissing them from a position of materialistic scientism.Dr. Bellg’s case presentations are varied and beautifully described. She even adds some of her own mystical experiences to the mix. Moreover, she faithfully conveys testimonies of transformation from people coming from all walks of life. What stands out from other NDE books, Dr. Bellg provides the unique context of working in the ICU. Her careful description of emergency room and follow-up procedures adds a context of realism to otherwise abstract, mystical experiences. Dr. Bellg’s objective stance towards also add credibility to otherwise easily dismissed testimonies. If anything else, Near Death in the ICU teaches people to honor the truth of others, regardless of their own beliefs. These lessons seem to be especially aimed toward the medical community. I believe that her stance is much needed, especially when more and more people are being revived from brief periods of death. Too many patients are dismissed by doctors, often leading to self-doubt and shame. Likewise, too many hospice patients are loaded up with anti-psychotic medications, often impeding their joyful transition into death. As a psychologist, I note vast differences between the qualities of afterlife communications and genuine symptoms of mental illness. Dr. Bellg’s book helps rectify this tragedy.For all the reasons stated and more, I highly recommend Near Death in the ICU. Although written by a physician, she uses layman’s terms making the book easy to read. The book is smart, intriguing, and potentially transforming for the reader.

This book meant a lot to me. Nearly twenty years ago I lost my 38 year old brother to AIDS, then a year later my mother to heart disease. My father had died from cancer when I was 19. When I was

all that remained of my first family I was beyond devastated. I had always considered myself an agnostic at best so losing all of my first family was unthinkable, they were just gone. I have always been an avid reader so I embarked on a course of private study of everything I could find that related to death, dying, out of body experiences and reincarnation. Some of the physics books, in particular quantum science, gave me hope as it explained that energy never dies, so it offered a possibility that something of a human may continue after the death of its body. But the big question for me was the part that makes us "us," our conscious mind, does it survive? I found little to offer hope that our unique personality survives death. I read many other books, some by doctors, that seemed to offer more information on out of body experiences that were encouraging. A few intriguing books explored children who seemed to recall past lives, but most of the books seemed to take a spiritual angle or assumed the reader was on board with their core belief. Dr. Belleg's book was different. She careful to present the facts of her encounters without drawing any overt conclusions. I admired her skill at explaining our western culture of medicine is so proof based that anything falling outside their remit of science becomes impossible to consider, and any doctors who claim to believe otherwise risk ostracism or even expulsion. When Dr. Bellg began asking her "unusal" question, that is asking patients "Did anything unusual happen to you?" It provided a safe, affirming way for people to talk about anything without fear or embarrassment. Allowing patients to relate their experiences to a doctor, an authority figure, was not just sensible, it was something every healer should practice without fail. This book is the last I need to read on the subject. I know I'll never have absolute proof, but this book gave me what I needed to believe in the likihood of the survival of consciousness after the death of its body. Thank you, Dr. Belleg for writing this book, I feel a weight has been lifted from my shoulders. It is beautifully written and worth much more than the small price I paid.

This honestly written book from a completely clinical perspective of a professional physician. Reading between her lines, offers hope that there is more to life than the termination of death. Lifts the veil of tears to reveal that there is an afterlife. Death is not the end of our souls, according to her observations and sensitive understanding of her patients in an Emergency Care Unit. Many of those who were technically dead, revived and brought back to earthly life, recounted incredible remembrances of their spiritual experiences from the beyond. This is an important book to read, beyond materialism and gives hope and solace to their loved ones. An objective read to the most important event in our lives. Our deaths.

The first thing one may notice about this remarkable book is its elegant writing. My journey through its well organized chapters and forthright, unpretentious language was pure pleasure Moreover, this book is respectful of both the scientific and mystical views of near-death experience, and rather than camp out on one side or the other, Dr. Bellg invites dialog and suggests that both positions can listen and learn from each other. I strongly recommend this book to all readers interested in the subject of near-death phenomena.

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