


A Chosen Death: The Dying Confront Assisted Suicide

By Lonny Shavelson

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In a moving examination of one of the most troubling issues of our time, Lonny Shavelson puts a human face on the legal and ethical discussions that surround assisted suicide. By recounting with great intimacy and compassion the personal histories of five terminally ill people, he exposes the depth and complexity of this explosive issue.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Shavelson, 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. He describes how he helped a friend commit suicide to shorten her struggle with terminal brain cancer. He also tells of his involvement in other cases of euthanasia, either as passive observer or as adviser to people who chose to end their lives and to their troubled families. These include a gay circus trapeze performer afflicted with AIDS; a quadriplegic frustrated in his quest for romantic love; and mystery writer Mary Bowen Hall, a victim of metastatic breast cancer. Shavelson's graphic photographs of his subjects at various stages of their ordeals add an unusually immediate dimension to this sensitive, helpful guide.

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From The New England Journal of Medicine

"The personality and varied talents of the author as journalist, photographer, and physician (are evident in this remarkable book, which presents moving and thought-provoking accounts of assisted death. . . . Shavelson challenges the simplistic thinking characteristic of much of the debate on this subject."

Review

"A compassionate, brilliant book. . . . Regardless of one's opinion on assisted suicide, as a literary documentary A Chosen Death is almost perfect. Shavelson writes with a combination of intelligence, simplicity, and emotion that, on a visceral level, gently forces these five very different people straight into our lives." -- *Erika Taylor, Los Angeles Times Book Review*

"Shavelson . . . 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.* . . . [A] sensitive, helpful guide." (*Publishers Weekly*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeffrey Lockwood:

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Bertha Wood:

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Henrietta Belcher:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of recommendations to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to your account is A Chosen Death: The Dying Confront Assisted Suicide this e-book consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented how can the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. Often the writer made some exploration when he makes this book. Here is why this book ideal all of you.

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