

The Caregiving Wife's Handbook: Caring for Your Seriously Ill Husband, Caring for Yourself

Diana B. Denholm

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A month after proposing marriage, Diana Denholm's husband was diagnosed with colon cancer and later congestive heart failure. Following a heart transplant several of her husband's body systems began failing forcing Diana to become his primary caregiver for more than a decade. *The Caregiving Wife's Handbook* is a step-by-step communication guide to help women maintain emotional, physical and financial health in their unique role as caregivers to their dying husbands.

Women are suffering physical, emotional and financial burnout as the United States' leading caregivers. Of the 65 million caregivers in the U.S., 66% are women, and these numbers will only increase as the population ages. And while statistics and resources abound for caregivers in general, very little exists for women in their unique role as caregivers to their dying husbands.

Traditionally, caring for a dying husband has been seen as a "wifely duty." Most wives don't label themselves, and aren't labeled by others, as caregivers. But advances in medical technology are making this distinction an imperitive since women are under more stress as caregivers than at any other time in history. Although there are generic similarities in caretaking, caregiving for a dying husband is distinctly different, and the longer the dying process, the more complex the problems.

When a husband is in the process of dying for many months or years the experience is quite different than a husband's sudden death. On top of dealing with the tragedy, the wife must figure out how to make life work. Sometimes a woman is married to the love of her life and sometimes not. Some marriages strengthen, while others disintegrate. Some women are in abusive relationships and find the abuse continues, and even increases, during these times, while others find, much to their surprise, that they become the abusers. Still some will start or increase substance abuse and others will have affairs to get by.

The Caregiving Wife's Handbook aims to help women get through their husbands' illness and death with compassion, emotionally whole and without regret by helping them communicate clearly—and in steps—about issues affecting this unique caregiving relationship.

Without specific direction, many women find themselves over the top with stress as their lives change radically. As a board certified medical psychotherapist and primary caregiver, Diana Denholm recognized the need for a step-by-step process to help women communicate with their husbands to avoid irreparable damage and regret.

In The Caregiving Wife's Handbook, you will learn:

To ask questions you may not realize you need to ask

The issues that bother you and a method for categorizing them

How to make and prepare for a date to talk about difficult topics What to do if your husband won't talk To create "understandings" with your husband How to deal with his family You will also learn survival tips from the case histories of Joyce, Fran, Tina, Jean, Susan, and Mary. Their experiences will help you: Choose roles you should take and those you should avoid Understand what is "normal" in what you're experiencing and feeling Take care of yourself so you can survive and even have fun Implement do's and avoid don'ts to make your life simpler Balance with greater ease Other topics addressed are: Sex life/intimacy Current and future finances Fatigue Sleep Household duties Job responsibilities Irresponsible behaviors Unrealistic expectations... The challenges of this time are endless and extreme and the reality often isn't the beautiful and revered journey often portrayed. When a husband is dying of a long-term illness, the gift of time can allow us to prepare and say all the loving things we need to say, but it can also provide a lot of time for severe stressors

and problems to develop. These problems and stressors can be debilitating for the caregiver and provide too many opportunities to say and do things we might regret. *The Caregiving Wife's Handbook* will give you the tools and support needed to get through your husbands' illness and death with compassion, emotionally

What you should and shouldn't discuss with your husband

whole and without regret.

Let *The Caregiving Wife's Handbook* support you amidst the grief—all the way through the Final Chapter.



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Micheal Taylor:

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Ramona Wrenn:

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Jesse Fox:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them household or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read any book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent the whole day to reading a guide. The book The Caregiving Wife's Handbook: Caring for Your Seriously Ill Husband, Caring for Yourself it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book provides high quality.

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