

Another interesting facet that this science journalist covers is the history of the pacemaker and of other medical procedures. She also talks about the birth of the hospice movement, and how vital that group has been to helping people--families and patients--to have much better end-of-life experiences.

The book is not all doom and gloom. There are some beautiful letters Katy's father wrote to her after his stroke, some remarkably well-written and perceptive notes. As dementia set in, others were still perceptive, but bizarre: with repeated words, lack of sentences, and odd use of words. Katy had to piece together their meaning.

This is the story of how medical care of the elderly affected one family. It also documents how adult children often must parent their parents. What a difficult transition that is.

Another book that emphasizes communication and humane care for the elderly is Dennis McCullough's *My Mother, Your Mother: Embracing Slow Medicine?the compassionate approach to caring for your aging loved ones.*

Posted by Dory L. on November 7, 2013

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