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Critical Care

A New Nurse Faces Death, Life, and Everything in Between

Theresa Brown

An oncology nurse writes powerfully and honestly about her experiences during her first year on the job, shedding light on issues of mortality and meaning in our lives

"At my job, people die," writes Theresa Brown, capturing both the burden and the singular importance of her profession. *Critical Care* chronicles Brown, a former English Professor at Tufts University, on her first year as an RN in medical oncology and the emotional ups and downs she encounters in caring for strangers. In contrast to other medical memoirs that highlight the work of doctors, this book focuses on the critical role played by nurses as health care providers.

Brown walks readers through the rigors of chemotherapy, reveals the odd things that can happen to people's bodies in hospitals, and throws in some humor with her chapter titled, "Doctors Don't Do Poop." During her first year on the hospital floor, Brown is seriously injured but her recovery allows her to take a new perspective on the health care system, giving her a better understanding of the challenges faced by her patients.

Ultimately, *Critical Care* conveys the message of learning to embrace life in times of health and sickness. "The antidote to death," Brown says, "is life." Brown writes powerfully and honestly about her experiences, shedding light on the issues of mortality and meaning in our lives.

Marketing Campaign

- National and regional media campaign
- National review attention
- National radio interviews, including NPR
- Cross-promotion with *New York Times* "Well" blog
- Op/Ed campaign
- IndieBound outreach
- Academic and library marketing
- Online marketing with medical and patient care sites and blogs

Author Bio

Theresa Brown, RN, lives and works in the Pittsburgh area. She received her BSN from the University of Pittsburgh, and during what she calls her past life, a PhD in English from the University of Chicago. Brown is a regular contributor to the *New York Times* blog, "Well." Her essay, "Perhaps Death is Proud; More Reason to Savor Life" was included in *Best American Science Writing 2009*. *Critical Care* is her first book. She lives with her husband, Arthur Kosowsky, their three children, and their dog.