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Knocking on Heaven's Door: The Path to a Better Way of Death

By Butler, Katy.

Scribner. 1 Paperback(s), 2013. soft. Book Condition: New. (Books for a Better Life Award Winner and a Finalist for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize) In one of the most talked-about books of 2013, Katy Butler a science writer as well as a lay-ordained Buddhist there expands her 2010 New York Times Magazine article "What Broke My Father's Heart: How a Pacemaker Wrecked a Family's Life," which won top awards from the National Association of Science Writers and the Association of Health Care Journalists. When does death stop being a curse and become a blessing? Where is the line between saving a life and prolonging a dying? And why does modern medicine deny individuals and families the right to make those choices? Five years after retired Wesleyan University professor Jeffrey Butler suffered a debilitating stroke, Katy Butler faced the reality that the father she had so admired was living in anguish as his mind succumbed to dementia but his pacemaker kept his body living on. Meanwhile her mother a successful portrait photographer and illustrator, and still "lucid and bright as a sword point" was sacrificing every day of her remaining life as her father's full-time caregiver. Butler traces the tangled web of technology, medicine, and...



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