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Nursing Homes: An Insider's Story



Synopsis

Nursing Homes: An Insider's Story reveals what it's really like to work, live, and die in a long-term care facility. Written by an experienced caregiver, this book illustrates geriatric institutional confinement by way of its unusual structure, content, and origin. For starters, this book is divided into two sections to better show the day-to-day life of staff and residents. The first section is a 4,093-word short story titled "Sundown Palace." Although it's a work of fiction, it will take you through a complete graveyard shift and have you working bedside with seasoned staff. The second section is a 4,236-word narrative titled "Reflection." In this non-fiction section, Sara Snyder reflects on her many years working in elder care as a nursing assistant and, later, as a Registered Nurse (R.N.). It's a gathering of lessons learned and how the experience has so thoroughly informed her life. Furthermore, it details the pre-emptive measures taken so she will not likely live - and die - alone in a nursing home as many residents do. Note: Because this author believes everyone has a story to tell, the "Reflection" section also explains how (and why) she wrote Nursing Homes: An Insider's Story. It's meant to demystify the writing process enough to start some readers writing and telling their story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was intrigued by the title and am glad I purchased this book. As a child of a parent who has been in and out of nursing homes (some good, some bad) I found Sara's book to be poignant and sobering. It is an honest and raw first person account of an "invisible" yet indispensable nursing home worker. Reading about Sara's experiences has given me empathy towards the workers who care for my parent.

I found this book to be brief but interesting. As a writer myself, I would never have thought to write a book of 26 pages. But I have to say that Sue Snyder certainly got her point across. I have been a resident in nursing homes for almost two decades. During that time (now in my mid-60s) I have witnessed many things. Sue's fictional story (Part 1) which shows what goes on during the aides' typical shift, gave me the aides' side of the story which is much different from mine. I have read absolutely nothing about nursing home aides being classified as the "working poor" although I have always known that home care and aides in nursing homes struggle to keep their place on the economic totem. The author has walked the walk.

I can relate to your book and working in nursing homes, especially in the mid-eighties. Your writing is realistic to the fact the many nursing homes subject our older, wiser population to difficult living situations where workers must prioritize their time, instead of giving the residents the individualized care and attention deserved. After working in the field myself for 20+ years, it is great to see a nurse and now writer reflect on the realities of the role and attempt to make a difference!

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