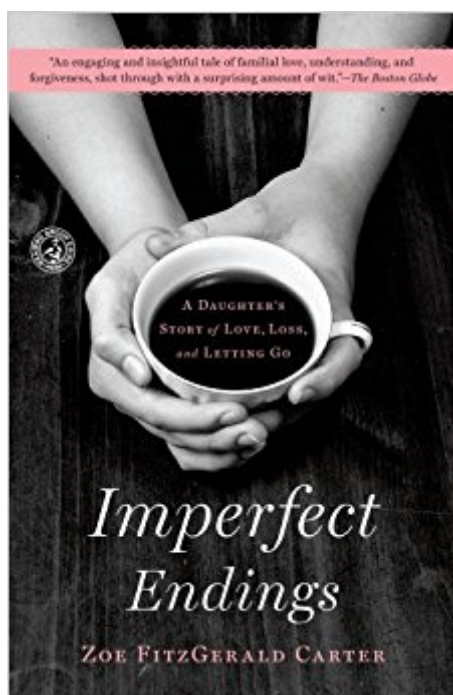


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# Imperfect Endings: A Daughter's Story Of Love, Loss, And Letting Go



## Synopsis

Zoe Carter's busy life on the West Coast with her husband and daughters takes an unexpected detour when her glamorous, independent-minded mother, Margaret, tired of living with Parkinson's disease, decides she wants to end things. As Zoe and her sisters negotiate over whether or not they should support Margaret's choice and who should be there at the end, their discussions stir up old alliances and animosities, along with memories of a childhood dominated by their elegant mother and philandering father. Capturing the stresses and the joys of the sandwich generation while bringing a provocative new perspective to the assisted suicide debate, *Imperfect Endings* is the uplifting story of a woman determined to die on her own terms and the family who has to learn to let her go.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (49 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,569,146 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in [Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Euthanasia](#) #3920 in [Books > Self-Help > Death & Grief > Grief & Bereavement](#) #19139 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships](#)

## Customer Reviews

I couldn't in my wildest dreams have imagined a book like this! A book about a debilitated mother's determination to end her life and enlist the help of her daughters to do so. But here it is, and it's a captivating story told by one of the daughters, Zoe Fitzgerald Carter. For Carter, the experience is emotionally draining. She is repeatedly dragged to her mother's bedside from the opposite coast, the date and method of "self-delivery" continually changing. They meet with a volunteer from the Hemlock Society, the "guide" who would ensure the suicide is effective, and to intervene and finish the job if it is not. The scenes between the mother, her daughters, her caregivers and friends are almost surreal, as the mother's determination grows and she lets more and more people in on her

plan. Carter and her sisters struggle to get their mother to see that her plan endangers their lives, leaving them vulnerable to prosecution and imprisonment. Not only that, but they want her to see that they love her and don't want her to die. Isn't that enough for her? Apparently not, a reality that sends the author into even more tangents of grief. Does her mother not even love them enough to stay around for them? This is an acutely observed and finely written story. I literally could not put the book down. The reader comes to understand everyone's point of view, roots for both mother and daughters, can't imagine how the struggle will end. At first, I was put off by the author's anger, her snarkiness, her brusque treatment of her mother and even her ennui. But then I turned the situation in on myself: How would I react if it were me in her place? No better, I'm sure.

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