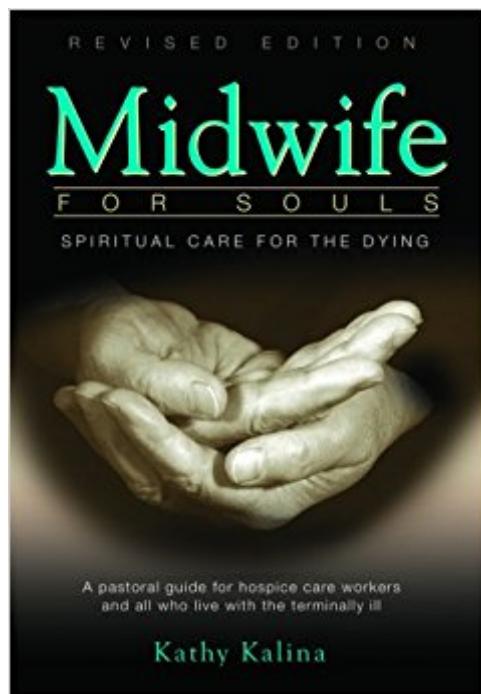


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# Midwife For Souls: Spiritual Care For The Dying



## **Synopsis**

The first edition of this text was so beloved that it sold over 30,000 copies now it's your turn to discover why! Kathy Kalina, describes the physical as well as spiritual signs of the dying process in *Midwife for Souls*. She offers years of qualified experience and spiritual wisdom that will inform and comfort caregivers and loved ones. Caregivers, friends, and family members often feel unsure of what to say or do as they care for the terminally ill. This book provides insight, showing how the support of one's Catholic faith and the power of prayer can be a guide in ministering to a dying person. This book is essential reading for anyone who accompanies others to the edge of life and helps in their birthing to eternal life.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

About the author: Kathy Kalina completed her (A.D.N.) at Tarrant County Junior College, Fort Worth, TX, in 1978, and her BSN at the University of Texas at Arlington in 1987. Kathy is a hospice nurse in Fort Worth, Texas.

A friend bought this and sent this to us as we began the Hospice journey with our mother. I loved it so much I bought copies for other family members. I wish all hospice nurses were like this author, but unfortunately they aren't. However, having this book helps fill in the gaps that certainly can be overlooked in this journey. This book allows the family to know what to expect and how to prepare themselves and the loved one physically, spiritually and emotionally. The priest who came to visit our mother bought one from before he left the house he loved it so much. It is beautiful, helpful,

supportive, I highly recommend this for loved ones, caregivers and a must for anyone working in the hospice field.

Being with someone who is in the stages of dying - even the active stages of the dying process - can be frightening and puzzling. Kathy does a beautiful thing of breaking down the process of dying in a way that is respectful, spiritual and real. The title is appropriate "Widwife for Souls", because although this author is a nurse (and you do not have to be a nurse to be a "Midwife of the soul") the concept centers around helping the physical body birth the soul into the afterlife. It's a great analogy and one that makes for a very concrete image. While this book was published by a Catholic publisher and shares some Catholic information, there is information geared towards all Christians. Comforting, real and useful it provides practical information about the process of dying, and how to prepare oneself to minister or work with those who are dying. The author shares her experiences of learning to love in her ministry (while others may find it depressing) and learning to love deeply - sharing pain, crying with the dying and using the images from the *The Velveteen Rabbit* of becoming so "real" that she gets "her hair loved off". *The Velveteen Rabbit* provides a great adjunct story to this book. The Midwife's job is not to distance herself from the pain felt by the dying - but to experience it, rely on the Grace of God for strength, and see the soul they have been ministering to journey safely to the arms of God. Each time she accompanies a soul on that journey - she becomes "a little more real". (Read *The Velveteen Rabbit*). Hospice, by its very nature, is not about assisting death (Euthanasia) but about helping the body through comfort and helping the soul transition to that place of Eternal repose. It's also about the caregivers and the families. It's about meeting each terminally ill person where they are at without judgement. The author ministers and does a wonderful job in sharing with humor and grace. This is a fantastic book that shares the sacred and sometimes humorous journey of the Midwife and the soul. We are blessed to have such a great accounts documented and shared.

Wife's review: this book came highly suggested when my family and I found out my mom was dying. This author/book is amazing and I recommend it to anyone with a loved one who is dying, especially ones going into hospice. The author talks about what happens physically and probably spiritually when a person is trying to pass on and how it's our job to help "pray them over." It was so helpful to my family I understand what my mom was probably going through and helped us comfort her in her last days/minutes. So beautiful, really helped me personally understand the beautiful process of dying and detachment of the world.

A book about dying that was heartwarming, informative and filled with grace. Even though it was a guide to hospice care workers, it was very fitting to anyone who is with a terminally ill person. I am grateful it was recommended to me and will shout out its praise to all who need guidance as a loved one approaches death.

For anyone going through the dying process with a loved one, this is an invaluable resource. It is written from a Christian perspective and is educational and inspirational. Her stories at the end are priceless - I laughed and cried more than I have in a long time! .

What a beautifully written Catholic book about helping the dying at the end of their lives. I bought this book for my oldest who cares for the elderly, but then bought it for a friend whose mother had just passed away after we discussed somethings that are in the book. I love the idea of having a "midwife" there to help us when we pass.

Midwife for Souls touched my three brothers and I deeply during the final days of our father's life. We were introduced to this book by a Hospice Chaplain who gave us permission to ask any questions that we wanted to about what to expect in the days ahead from moving dad from hospital to hospice care. Her references to this book of what to expect were just what I needed to hear. Kathy's sensitivity, practical compassion and obvious calling to work with the dying was a source of deep strength and comfort to us all as we had not walked this way before. God used this book in helping us to address questions as a family that we do not normally talk about and to provide us with an environment of love and care to share our hearts. Her practical insights from more than 20 years of experience helped us move from the unknown to the known in how to prepare ourselves for the uncertain days ahead of us not only with Dad but four other deaths of parents within a period of two years. Midwife for Souls has been a constant resource for me as a Minister in walking with families who face the loss of a loved one both for those who profess faith and for those who do not. The sensitivity, prayer and comfort that Kathy offers in this book will help you and be a source of God's care to you. God promises to walk with us through every situation and challenge that we face and He will be with you as well. G. Stephen Goode

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