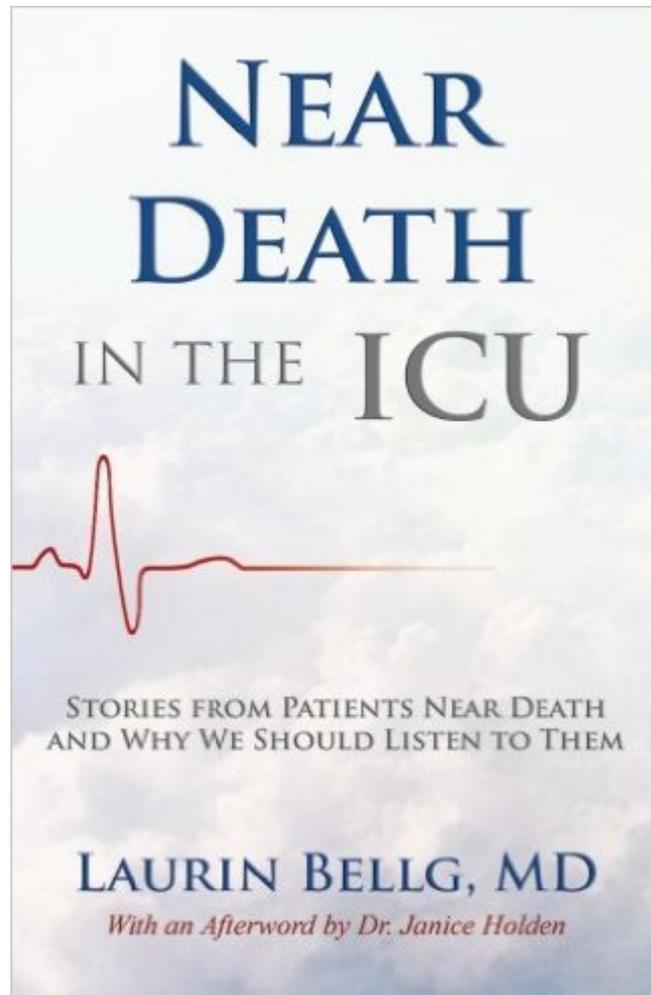


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# Near Death In The ICU



## Synopsis

A phenomenal collection of medical patient accounts of encounters with the mysterious during severe illness and life-threatening injury from the voice of the physician who took care of them. Both touching and thought-provoking, this book invites you to reconsider what happens when we die, and in doing so, challenges you to ponder that perhaps we are much more than our earth-bound physical bodies. Near-death experiences are often profoundly meaningful, yet when they are reported, they are frequently met with skepticism and dismissal by medical caregivers and family members. But do we have to fully understand these events to honor the transformative role they often play in the lives of those who experience them? For nearly twenty years, Dr. Laurin Bellg has been present at the bedside of critically ill and dying patients. As she has worked to create an accepting and supportive relationship with them, her patients have shared with her the mysterious experiences they sometimes have during moments of crisis of apparently seeing beyond our physical world. In telling their engaging, powerful and sometimes humorous stories, Dr. Bellg invites the reader to consider that bearing witness to a patient's near-death experience is a respectful and meaningful part of medical care, a way for families to support their loved ones, and an important part of the patient's healing. Do we need to prove they are something more than the result of illness, medication or a dying brain to acknowledge their power to impact lives in a positive way?.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book meant a lot to me. Nearly twenty years ago I lost my 38 year old brother to AIDS, then a

year later my mother to heart disease. My father had died from cancer when I was 19. When I was all that remained of my first family I was beyond devastated. I had always considered myself an agnostic at best so losing all of my first family was unthinkable, they were just gone. I have always been an avid reader so I embarked on a course of private study of everything I could find that related to death, dying, out of body experiences and reincarnation. Some of the physics books, in particular quantum science, gave me hope as it explained that energy never dies, so it offered a possibility that something of a human may continue after the death of its body. But the big question for me was the part that makes us "us," our conscious mind, does it survive? I found little to offer hope that our unique personality survives death. I read many other books, some by doctors, that seemed to offer more information on out of body experiences that were encouraging. A few intriguing books explored children who seemed to recall past lives, but most of the books seemed to take a spiritual angle or assumed the reader was on board with their core belief. Dr. Belleg's book was different. She careful to present the facts of her encounters without drawing any overt conclusions. I admired her skill at explaining our western culture of medicine is so proof based that anything falling outside their remit of science becomes impossible to consider, and any doctors who claim to believe otherwise risk ostracism or even expulsion. When Dr. Bellg began asking her "unusual" question, that is asking patients "Did anything unusual happen to you?"

I first met Dr. Laurin Bellg at a retreat center where we idly had a conversation about Near-Death Experiences (NDEs) as we enjoyed the sunshine next to a swimming pool. She talked of her work in an ICU where she regularly encountered patients who had had NDEs. She had had no medical training to deal with such events, but she had recognized their importance to patient outcomes early in her career. She explained to me that other doctors often asked her to talk with their patients when the doctors suspected that the patients might have had something unusual happen. When I asked why doctors were uncomfortable discussing such experiences, she mentioned lack of training as the most important factor. Neither she nor I knew at the time that our casual conversation would plant seeds that would blossom into my video, Near-Death Experience, What Medical Professionals Need to Know, and her insightful book, Near Death in the ICU. Dr. Laurin Bellg is that wonderful combination of a highly trained medical doctor, who is also a talented writer and great story teller. She has the courage to look beyond the limits of her scientific training and to see and hear what is actually happening with her patients, even when those events can't be easily explained. In her book we meet Dr. John, who had had two NDEs earlier in his life and now in his 80s is facing death from cancer. His great regret is not sharing his NDEs with his patients who might have been

reassured by his admission. Also, there is Samuel, a veteran so confused and frightened by an NDE during surgery, that he refuses all future surgical procedures, thus leading to his own unnecessary death from a curable condition. These and other stories of patients' NDEs fascinate us as they are related with candor and compassion.

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