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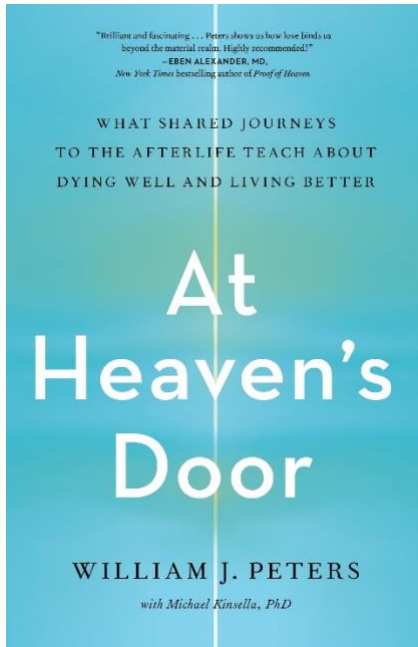
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AT HEAVEN'S DOOR

What Shared Journeys to the Afterlife Teach About Dying Well and Living Better

Simon & Schuster | On sale January 11, 2022

From internationally-recognized end-of-life expert and grief therapist William J. Peters comes a groundbreaking, deeply-researched exploration—rich with powerful personal stories—of the end-of-life phenomena known as a shared death experience. **AT HEAVEN'S DOOR** is an essential guide to a better life and a better death.



“This brilliant and fascinating research about shared death experiences removes the conventional myth of death’s finality and shows how love binds us together beyond the material realm. Highly recommended!”

— **Eben Alexander, MD, Neurosurgeon and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Proof of Heaven***

“A 'must read' for anyone who will die. Read to find the gifts of comfort, peace, and especially the reduction of fear. This book will change your view of dying in a profoundly positive way.”

— **Maggie Callanan, bestselling author of *Final Gifts***

“Peters has built upon my foundational research into shared-death phenomena with this very well-researched and thoughtful look at the transpersonal effects of dying on family, friends, and even healthcare providers. I strongly recommend *At Heaven's Door* for those who want a well-researched look into what exists beyond the threshold.”

— **Dr. Raymond Moody, bestselling author of *Life After Life* and *Glimpses of Eternity***

“*At Heaven's Door* offers moving and tender accounts, real and important, soothing and surprisingly common, that validate and affirm the great mystery that who we are is consciousness. We are spirit beyond our body.”

— **Jack Kornfield, PhD, author of *A Path With Heart***

“A growing body of evidence indicates that the death of the physical body is not the end of human consciousness. In *At Heaven's Door*, William J. Peters makes a vital addition to this all-important conclusion: our existence does not end with bodily death.”

— **Larry Dossey, MD, author of *One Mind: How Our Individual Mind Is Part of a Greater Consciousness and Why It Matters***

William J. Peters

In 2000, the now internationally recognized end-of-life expert and grief and bereavement therapist [William Peters](#) was volunteering at the Zen Hospice Project in San Francisco when something strange happened. He was reading aloud to a patient when suddenly, he felt himself floating in midair, completely out of his body. The patient, who was also aloft, looked at him and smiled. The next moment, Peters felt himself return to his body, but the patient never regained consciousness and died. Perplexed and stunned, Peters began searching for other people who had similar experiences and for answers explaining what had happened.

[AT HEAVEN’S DOOR: What Shared Journeys to the Afterlife Teach About Dying Well and Living Better](#) (January 11, 2022; Simon & Schuster) is the culmination of that work. Peters, who holds degrees from Harvard’s Graduate School of Education and UC Berkeley, has spent nearly twenty years gathering and meticulously categorizing stories of people who have experienced what is known as a “shared death experience” (or SDE).

AT HEAVEN’S DOOR is filled with extraordinary moments—which cut across continents and cultures—of individuals who have shared in the passing of their loved ones, including bereaved parents who experience their children’s entry into the afterlife, spouses departing this earth after decades together, and more. Peters’ research led him to discover that these experiences are open secrets in the hospice and medical communities. In speaking with individuals who have had SDEs, Peters found that SDEs offered more than just a final glimpse of a loved one. People reported feeling more at peace with death, more comfortable managing their grief, and they frequently found greater purpose and meaning in their own lives.

Peters is a leader in this field; he is the founder of the Shared Crossing Project and director of the Shared Crossing Research Initiative, which recently published the first research article on SDEs in the [American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine](#). With AT HEAVEN’S DOOR, he shares his pioneering research and powerful cases with readers for the first time. Readers will learn about the different types of SDEs, the experiences of those who have been lucky to share in the crossings of their loved ones, and practices you can implement in your own life to help make the passing of your loved ones more conscious and connected. He answers questions like, what can explain these shared death experiences? What do these experiences tell us about what lies beyond? And, most importantly, how can they help take away the sting of death and better prepare us for our own final moments? How can we have both a better life and a better death?

We are living through a period of immeasurable loss. More than one in 500 Americans has died due to COVID, creating ripples of bereavement and loss. Death is also finding us sooner; in 2021, US life expectancy fell to its lowest levels in nearly twenty years and experienced the biggest single year drop since the worst days of World War II. Not only are we unable to outrun death, we cannot even keep it at bay.

Peters’ message—both for the dying and those they leave behind—is a balm, comforting and inspiring. He writes, “I hope these stories from ordinary people just like you and me will provide solace for those of you who may fear death, and inspiration for those of you who want to cross this great divide with confidence and courage.”

AT HEAVEN'S DOOR: What Shared Journeys to the Afterlife Teach Us About Dying Well and Living Better

January 11, 2022 from Simon & Schuster

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William Peters is the founder of the Shared Crossing Project and director of its Research Initiative.

Recognized as a global leader in the field of shared death studies, he has spent decades studying end-of-life experiences. Previously, Peters worked as a hospice volunteer with the Zen Hospice Project in San Francisco and as a teacher and social worker in Central and South America. A practicing grief and bereavement therapist, he holds degrees from Harvard's Graduate School of Education and UC Berkeley. His work on end of life is informed by his therapeutic work with individuals and families, personal experiences with death and dying across cultures, and his family's own end-of-life journeys.

Shared death experiences readers will find in AT HEAVEN'S DOOR

Scott T. – SDE with girlfriend's 6-year-old son Nolan

"Mary Fran crossed the divide between the nonphysical world and the physical and scooped Nolan out of his body. Their reunion embrace was exquisite."

Six months after meeting his girlfriend Mary Fran, she and her son Nolan were involved in a tragic car accident. Mary Fran was killed instantly, her son Nolan was on life support, and Scott was beside Nolan's bed in hospital with the entire family. Six days after Mary Fran's passing, Scott had a vision of her coming to scoop up Nolan as he died. Seventeen years after this experience, Scott and Mary Fran's sister realize that they both had an identical experience with Mary Fran and Nolan at the moment of Nolan's death. Scott's experience led him on a quest to connect with that magical meditative space and teach others how to do so. He eventually became the President and Executive Director of the Monroe Institute.

<https://vimeo.com/600461320/92075d06ab>

Elizabeth H. – SDE with unborn son Nicholas

"I initially thought it was a dream, but it didn't really seem like a dream."

Elizabeth is the head of an independent school in West Virginia. Towards the end of her pregnancy with twins Grace and Nicholas, Elizabeth was rushed to hospital. The night before her delivery, Elizabeth experienced a shared death experience featuring a party with her four deceased grandparents looking much younger, beautiful, and dressed up. She felt a calmness communicated from them and that they were going to take care of baby Nicolas, who was stillborn the following day.

<https://vimeo.com/582223120/cc4293a4a5>

Allison A. – SDE with friend Wendy

"Being in her body was getting tough for her I could so feel how fed up she was, and so being released from the body was so good for her. Being 16 and free again was such a relief."

Allison had a remote SDE with her friend Wendy. Allison is absentmindedly shopping in California when she has intense feelings and a sense of her friend Wendy, who was in the UK. She is immersed in the essence of Wendy, followed by a telepathic knowledge that Wendy is apologizing for needing to pass on. Allison feels Wendy's happiness as a 16-year-old version of herself, happy and free. Allison then receives a phone call, while shopping, and knows before answering that Wendy has passed.

<https://vimeo.com/610946131/20eded9714>

Amelia B. – SDE with 13-year-old son, Tom

"It changes everything, doesn't it? It just changes everything. I'm not frightened of death anymore. It changes everything."

Amelia is a lawyer from the UK. Her son Tom was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 10. When he was 13, he passed away in her arms at home with all the family gathered. As Amelia lay with Tom shortly before his passing, she shut her eyes and instantly saw a woman dressed in 1970s attire walking purposely towards her through a tunnel, surrounded by bright light. At the moment of his death, her sister entered the room and saw Tom sitting up looking like he 'was ready to go'. This experience with Tom forever changed how Amelia perceives 'death' and what it means.

<https://vimeo.com/525724530/453b4f595b>