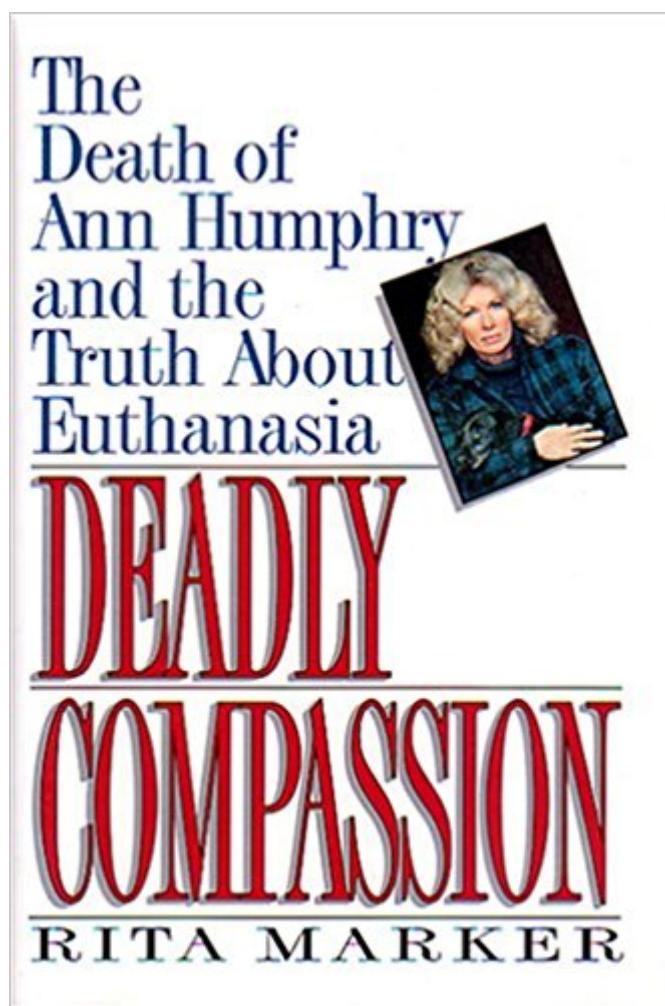


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# Deadly Compassion: The Death Of Ann Humphry And The Truth About Euthanasia



## **Synopsis**

Perhaps the most effective book on euthanasia ever written! It details the shockingly true story of the Ann Humphry, co-founder of the Hemlock Society. She alleged that her husband Derek, co-founder of Hemlock and author of the suicide manual Final Exit drove her to suicide. A thoroughly convincing book!

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

In 1989, when Derek Humphry, a founder of the Hemlock Society and author of Final Exit , learned that his second wife, Ann, like his first, had breast cancer, he left her. Ann committed suicide in 1991, leaving a note in which she accused Derek of driving her to it. She also raised questions about his role in his first wife's death, about which he wrote in Jean's Way (coauthored with Ann), and confessed to misgivings about their joint assistance in the double suicides of her parents. Ann's suicide and allegations shook the Hemlock Society, which advocates the legalization of "assisted death" for those who request it. Marker, director of the International Anti-Euthanasia Task Force, to whom Ann turned when Derek rejected her, may sometimes seem to exploit the Humphrys' troubles to fuel her arguments against euthanasia. But her concern that the distinction between assisted suicide and murder can be thin is vivid and palpable. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

When Ann Humphry, estranged wife of Derek Humphry (executive director of the Hemlock Society and author of the bestselling Final Exit), committed suicide in 1991, her farewell note asked Marker,

an articulate and prominent spokesperson for antieuthanasia forces, to tell her story. This book is the result. The two women became friends in 1989, after Ann, who had lost both her husband and her job when she was stricken with breast cancer, called Marker for help. The breakup of the Humphry marriage was a messy one, involving public statements, lawsuits, and fighting within the Hemlock Society. Marker defends her friend loyally and tells Ann's side of the story convincingly. As cofounders of the Hemlock Society, the Humphrys were well-known leaders of the right-to-die crusade, but Ann's private feelings about euthanasia changed after her participation in her own parents' deaths. She came to see mercy killing not as a compassionate solution to suffering but as a ``deadly deception'' that leads only to more suffering. This view is shared by Marker, who uses Ann's story to trace the recent history of euthanasia and to argue forcefully against it. She fears that the right to die can easily become pressure to die, and she warns that giving physicians ``license to kill'' is a grave mistake. The statistics she cites on physician-induced deaths in the Netherlands--often regarded as a model by euthanasia advocates--are disturbing (e.g., that one thousand patients die each year from ``involuntary euthanasia,'' that is, without giving their consent to die). Marker advocates ``always to care, never to kill,'' and she includes a condensation of a declaration on that theme by an ecumenical group of theologians and philosophers. Both a warm tribute to a lost friend and a cool argument by an experienced opponent of euthanasia--although it leaves many difficult questions unanswered. (Photographs) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

A Good read on assisted suicide. Great writing. I learned a great deal about the campaign to promote euthanasia from this book. Very enlightening.

This book reads like a novel, but is a true story. It is an important book to show how the "right to die" movement is really a "right to murder." It was started by an uneducated, apparently unbalanced individual with the help of his former wife who wrote this book after he tried to force her to die for his convenience. *Deadly Compassion: The Death of Ann Humphry and the Truth About Euthanasia*

This book is not only insightful, but very engrossing and readable. There are three different threads running through the book. First, the author writes of the euthanasia movement's global conferences. She attended several during the time covered in the book, and each get a chapter to recount the proposals, discussions, and personal testimonies of doctors who support euthanasia and who spoke at the conferences. These conferences provide a lot of insight into the euthanasia movement.

For example, several times conference speakers related personal stories of helping patients die that were discomfiting even to a pro-euthanasia audience at the conferences, because the patient's condition or prognosis did not fit the severe descriptions that euthanasia advocates often paint of such cases. There was some pointed discussion at these conferences that is related in the book. Second, the developments in America during this period are discussed at depth in other chapters. First came Living Will laws in many states, Then the Hemlock Society and other groups got euthanasia referenda on the ballots in several states. How this occurred, how the campaigns were debated, and the outcomes are given some coverage. The highly public cases of several patients whose caregivers wanted to remove life support during this period are presented with compassion for the patients that was often absent in media coverage. The story of Jack Kevorkian bursting onto the scene, and the first several cases of assisted suicide that he participated in (and the legal problems he got into in Michigan courts) are an eye-opener. The rest of the euthanasia movement was keeping him at arm's length for much of this era. Finally, the personal story of Ann Humphry is told with great depth and empathy. Ann Humphry had always been on the other side of the issue from Rita Marker, who worked at the International Anti-Euthanasia Task Force. Ann (wife of Derek Humphry and co-founder with him of the Hemlock Society) appeared on some TV debates opposite Rita Marker. Thus, the author was quite surprised to get a phone call from Ann Humphry that was a cry for help. Diagnosed with breast cancer, she felt she was being abandoned to die by Derek and most of the Hemlock Society. Rita and Ann spent quite a bit of time on the phone and eventually got together in person. Ann told a good bit of her life story, including the story of helping her own parents commit suicide years earlier. She had second thoughts about the fact that her mother just went along with her father's idea, and was not in the same dire medical condition as he was. Ann also discusses the assisted suicide of Derek's first wife in England, shortly before Ann and Derek met. The personal empathy and narrative add a great deal to the book's impact. I know of no other book that can provide the reader with this much depth of insight into the euthanasia issue, while being so readable. Highly recommended for anyone interested in a critical issue.

I am so thankful for this book since euthanasia is in the forefront of our society and being implemented so aggressively throughout the world and being adopted by so many doctors that took a Hippocratic oath to protect life not take it! Ann Humphry in my opinion is a hero she realized through her own tragic errors and brokenness the pains of how euthanasia was so wrong and suffered from tremendous guilt about her involvement with her parents deaths that it drover her to take her own life after she survived breast cancer! She was demoralized and shunned from her own

husband and the HEMLOC community totally abandoned by them in a time of need! Ann's confrontation with death changed her idea of dying and now she became a threat to the HEMLOC society and their ideology. Her life stands in a complete contradiction to what they believed so they rejected her and ostracized her as to suggest they would have rather she died than lived and the husband was vicious in his efforts to destroy her health while she was undergoing treatment for her cancer! We all must read this book to understand what we are dealing with in these current times as euthanasia campaign and propaganda are pushing to change the laws that protect us!

feel good . OK, there is do not have any problem. as a gift to Tommy, This is wonderful.....very sharp and feels good in my hand. I just used it for the first time yesterday and it will be my favorite product. It arrived quickly and in great condition. It is a very handsome product. i will purchase it from you next time.

This book blows the lid off the euthanasia and right to die movement, and shines a light on what goes on behind the scenes in the lives of those involved in a public policy issue such as euthanasia. Should be on the shelf of every activist, for or against, and certainly on the shelf of every prosecuting attorney!

Should euthanasia be legalised? Not according to this book; the right to die would soon become the duty to die. Especially as Western governments are facing the problem of a growing ageing population and more and more expensive medical treatments, and will probably decide it would be better for everyone if those who can't take care of themselves could be persuaded to push up daisies. It also addresses the major problem with euthanasia - that you can't legalise it without legalising murder.

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