Table of Contents

Stories of Hope, Faith, Love, and Loss



This book contains 24 stories about people who have addressed issues pertaining to death, love, loss, grieving and the recovery process. It is the sequel and a companion book for my own personal story and the loss of my husband Dr. Jeffrey A. Mintz from AIDS in 1994. My book entitled "Committed To Love" detailed the gamut of emotions and circumstances I had to address and some that many of you may have to face if someone you love has a long term and/or life threatening illness. It is through these stories that I could continue to heal and go on for they speak volumes about remarkable courage, faith, hope and love. It is my wish that these stories help others in the future for this book as well as mine is informational, motivational, and inspirational. These are true stories that include hospice patients, their families, friends, and the professional personnel who assisted them. Their experiences included life altering situations and involved making difficult choices. However, through the most challenging of times, these stories epitomized and represented the strength and faith that is the hospice philosophy. "QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH THE END OF LIFE."

Chapter 1He Was Staying Involved Until The End As He Sang Spanish Hymns To His DyingMother15

Chapter 2He Finally Had The Truth About His Illness And Now He Could Deal With The
Facts Because He Knew Them23

Chapter 3 Their Love, Devotion, And Maintaining A Sense Of Humor Gave Them The Strength To Go On As 2 Sisters Lost Both Parents Within 24 Hours

Chapter 4 Care Giving Comes In Many Forms And Many Ways And For This Man It Was All About His Love For Chocolate Chip Cookies

39

Chapter 5 Feeling Guilty Doesn't Do Any Good-But Sometimes It's The Only Thing You Will Feel And For This Daughter Who Thought She Was Crying Because She Was Weak It Was Just The Opposite 47

Chapter 6After His Tragic Year A Son Questions Whether He Will Ever Have Fun, Laugh, OrFeel Alive Again55

Chapter 7 As A Wife Sat Reading Her Bible Praying For Peace, She Was Caught In A Catch 22
For She Was Cherishing Every Moment While Wishing This Time Was Over
63

Chapter 8A Wife Questions How She Will Start Over After Her Husband's Death and WhatShe Will Do With Her Time Alone71

Chapter 9When A Life Threatening Illness Tested The Power Of His Faith He Envied ThoseWho Truly Believed in God79

Chapter 10 As Her Father Was Dying She Said That It Reminded Her Of Her Child At Birth-It
Was A Complete 360 And The Totality Of The Cycle Of Life
87

Chapter 11There Was No Safe Place or Comfort Zone As A Hospice Nurse Said She WasAfraid To Bring Her Baby Home And A Wife Who Expressed The Same Concerns About HerHusband95

Chapter 12 A Wife Who Feels Like She Is Starving Her Husband To Death But He Doesn't Have The Strength, Energy, Or Appetite To Eat

103

Chapter 13How A Breast Cancer Survivor For 15 Years Was Able To Focus On The PresentAnd Enjoy Every Day That She Had Left111

Chapter 14A Daughter Questions Her Fears As She Faces The Issue Is She More Afraid To
Leave Her Loved One Or To Come Back119

Chapter 15Pain Comes In Many Ways But For This Woman The Physical Pain Of Her IllnessWas So Horrible That She Wanted To Commit Suicide

127

Chapter 16 A Woman With Terminal Lung Cancer Had To Slowly Give Up Everything She Loved But She Managed To Have Fun And Keep Some Control By Having Her Daily Cigarette And Would Smoke Until She Could Never Hold A Cigarette Again

135

Chapter 17How A Hospice Nurse Was Able To Separate Her Personal Life From HerProfessional One As She Dealt With Her Husband's Illness And Death And Came Back ToHospice To Help Others143

Chapter 18A Woman Converted To Catholicism At The Care Center And Said That Until HerLast Breath It Was Never To Late To Make Something Good Happen151

Chapter 19 A Wife Who Had To Talk To Her Sister About Dying Because Her Husband Could
Not Deal With It And She Didn't Understand Why It Was So Hard That They Couldn't
159

Chapter 20 This Man Thought That He Was In Control Of His Emotions After His Mother DiedBut He Had Not Taken The Necessary Time To Grieve And His Emotional Waves Finally CaughtUp With Him 167

Chapter 21 The Effects Of A Long Term Illness Can Be Difficult For The Entire Family And For
This Woman She Didn't Want To Be A Burden To The Ones She Loved Any Longer
175

Chapter 22This Woman Felt That She Caused Her Husband's Illness And Was ResponsibleFor Everything But Her Feelings Of Guilt And Anger Didn't Do Any Good Nor Could It ChangeAnything183

Chapter 23 This Woman Felt That The Treatment Was Worse Than The Disease And She Chose To Have Quality Of Life Rather Than Suffer Through The Treatments

191

Chapter 24A Son Comes To His Father's Deathbed Out Of Respect But It Was Not BecauseHe Loved Him199