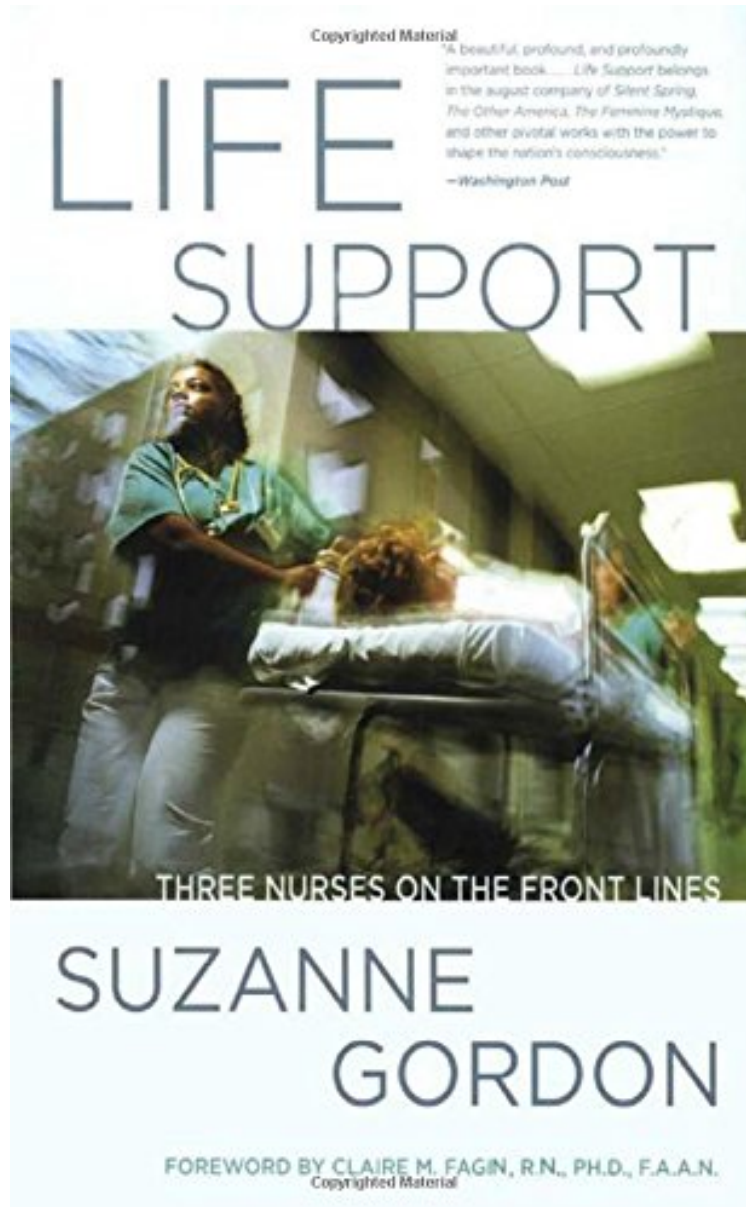


(Free download) Life Support: Three Nurses on the Front Lines (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work)

Life Support: Three Nurses on the Front Lines (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work)

Suzanne Gordon

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Suzanne Gordon : Life Support: Three Nurses on the Front Lines (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Life Support: Three Nurses on the Front Lines (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work):

11 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Physician Recommends Life Support for Peers Patients By A Customer This is a very moving and important book, which should be required reading for all medical students and doctors. Ms. Gordon who spent three years following three extra-ordinary nurses learned (and in the book presents) more knowledge and insights about sickness, pain, caring, and the health care system than my medical residents learn during their three year (internal medicine) residency. Each of the three nurses covers a different part of the health care map (oncology chemotherapy nurse, home health nurse, and inpatient nurse) and illustrates the critical and often invisible role nurses play in health care. What the book does so ably is to highlight these special caring roles, and then place them in the context of what is happening in the U.S. health care system today. Ms. Gordon, an advocate for universal health insurance and consumer accountability starkly contrasts the bright light these and thousands of other of the quiet heroes in nursing, with the dark side of market driven health care that threatens these values and heroism. If for nothing else, the book is worth reading for a useful and interesting history of the practice of nursing, which is interwoven with the stories of these three nurses. Nurses are the essence of quality and this book is a high quality look at their important and endangered role. (Dr. Gordon Schiff internist who directs the Clinical Quality Research Unit at Cook County Hospital in Chicago.)

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. LIFE SUPPORT is a MUST read for all nurses! By A Customer Having been an RN for almost 30 years, there have been many times when my colleagues and I have said, "Weotta write a book! But then reality sets in as we have realized that noone would BELIEVE what we had to say about the health care system and our roles in particular. Bravo to Suzanne Gordon! She tells it like it is with the insight of someone who has been in the trenches and does not suffer from "tunnel vision!" My practice has been validated and the reading of her words was a shot in the arm! Nurses and those who live with, know and love them NEED to read this book and reread it. Pass it on or better yet buy them for your friends and family keeping your own copy for the future. This is a view of the reality of nursing, who we are and what we do, where we fit into the larger health care picture and what the health care system is trying to do to us. "It takes a NURSE to save your life." Marilyn Anne Blythe, RN, CBC Brigham Women's Hospital Boston, MA

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Nurses -- give this book to your legislators on Nurses Day! By A Customer Gordon's book portrays the caregiving process of professional nurses in such clear, lucid terms that readers unfamiliar with nursing will say "Ahhhh, now I understand." With this in mind, nurses should give copies of this book to anyone who needs to know what nurses are and what nurses do. This might be the nurse's neighbors, parents, patients, City Council Chair, Governor, or State and Federal legislators. The reader will see very sophisticated knowledge and skills exhibited by the three nurses providing care to patients in the stories. This book provides clear-cut demonstrations of nurse-delivered services that MUST be reimbursed under the Medicaid, Medicare, and other health insurance programs. It also gives evidence of why nurses in advanced practice must have prescriptive authority, hospital admitting and clinical privileges, be admitted to provider panels of managed care organizations, and be a reimbursable member of a telehealth team.

In this book, Suzanne Gordon describes the everyday work of three RNs in Boston: a nurse practitioner, an oncology nurse, and a clinical nurse specialist on a medical unit. At a time when nursing is often undervalued and nurses themselves in short supply, *Life Support* provides a vivid, engaging, and intimate portrait of health care's largest profession and the important role it plays in patients' lives. *Life Support* is essential reading for working nurses, nursing students, and anyone considering a career in nursing as well as for physicians and health policy makers seeking a better understanding of what nurses do and why we need them. For the Cornell edition of this landmark work, Gordon has written a new introduction that describes the current nursing crisis and its impact on bedside nurses like those she profiled in the book.

.com Health care systems often seem hobbled by rules and scrubbed clean of personality. *Life Support* displays their warmer, messier human side by trailing three outspoken nurses on their rounds. One works with cancer patients, another with homebound elderly, while a third mediates between patients and families, doctors and nurses. Between glimpses of large and small life dramas, author Suzanne Gordon (*Prisoners of Men's Dreams*) considers prejudice and ignorance about nursing. Does lack of ambition or intelligence bar nurses from medical school? Why is their care denigrated, while doctors are elevated? How will sweeping changes in health care affect them and, ultimately, us? Her responses are provocative and far-ranging.

From Booklist Gordon's aptly titled book tells the stories of three nurse practitioners^advanced practice nurses who nursed patients at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital and at the patients' homes. Thanks to a program begun at Beth Israel in the 1970s, bedside nurses are permitted--and encouraged--to increase their education and yet remain bedside nurses; salaries grow step-by-step, so experienced nurses do not have to leave patient care for administrative offices. Stories of many different types of patients add life to Gordon's account of her three subjects' nurse-patient relationships and cogency to these nurses' additional roles as spokespersons for the patients to physicians and administrators. Gordon also examines, in her forceful but levelheaded journalist's style, contemporary nursing as it is affected by managed-care programs and administrative downsizing. Buttressing her points with statistics and arguments garnered from many interviews and the literature, she demonstrates that there has been an appalling downturn in nursing care and misled use of poorly trained assistants by some HMOs and insurance

companies. William Beatty From Kirkus sLavish praise for the nursing profession interwoven with dire warnings about the threat to its future posed by the growth of managed care. At Boston's Beth Israel Hospital, Gordon (*Off Balance: The Real World of Ballet*, 1983; *Prisoners of Men's Dreams: Striking Out for a New Feminism*, 1990; etc.) spent over two years following the daily routines of three registered nurses: Nancy Rumpalik, an outpatient nurse in an ambulatory cancer clinic; Jeannie Chaisson, a clinical nurse specialist on a general medical floor; and Ellen Kitchen, a nurse-practitioner in the hospital's home-care service. Gordon shows us Nancy dealing with angry, frightened patients, Jeannie sharing her wisdom with younger nurses, and Ellen bicycling to the homes of Boston's homebound elderly poor. By describing in detail the work of three highly skilled and experienced RNs- -together they have a total of more than 50 years of experience- -Gordon shows us nursing at its very best. Empathic, sensitive, knowledgeable, and conscientious, they seem exceptional, but Gordon stresses that there are hundreds of thousands like them. Nursing, she reminds us, is the largest profession in health care and the largest female profession in America. The catch is, bedside RNs are an endangered species. Long regarded as physicians' handmaidens, they are now, reports Gordon, seen as expendable luxuries by the managers of for-profit hospitals seeking to maximize their bottom line. Hospital patients are increasingly likely to be tended by unlicensed "patient care technicians" or by temporary and floating staff unfamiliar with either the patients or the hospital's routines. Gordon's paean to nurses thus also serves as a call to arms. In order to protect ourselves, she warns, we must act now to protect the nursing profession. A convincing demonstration that, in a world of impersonal and complex high-tech treatments, a real nurse is the best medicine. -- Copyright 1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.