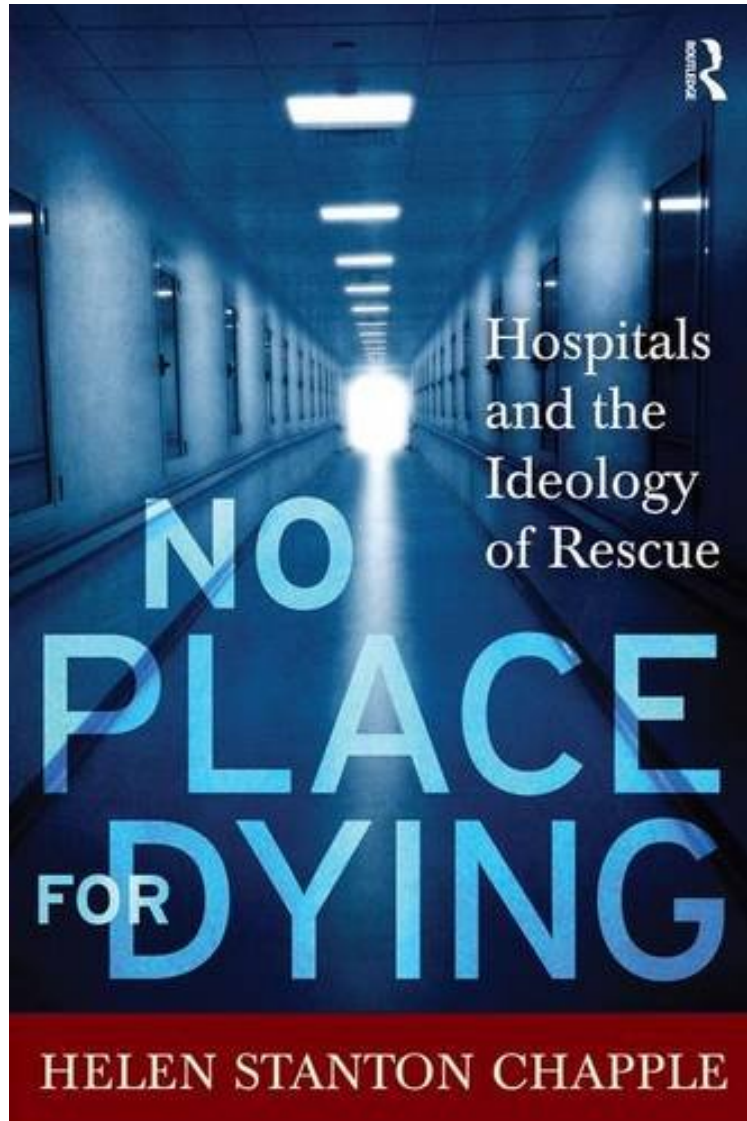


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No Place For Dying: Hospitals and the Ideology of Rescue

Helen Stanton Chapple

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Helen Stanton Chapple : No Place For Dying: Hospitals and the Ideology of Rescue before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised No Place For Dying: Hospitals and the Ideology of Rescue:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent contribution on death and dying in America By Katherine Pettus, PhDDr. Chapple's No Place for Dying is an original and valuable contribution to the conversation Americans are beginning to have about how to spend their last days, months, weeks or years on this earth. As a political theorist

who thinks and writes about citizenship, I read the book with great excitement and interest, and it has spurred some new work on my part about how Americans, as citizens, deal with the time of dying, the institutions of dying, and the event of death. Dr. Chapple writes as both a clinical participant, a concerned citizen, and a scholar, and does it very well indeed, bringing the reader into the world of the hospital with her, and then withdrawing to the position of observer who is familiar with the literature and the debates surrounding end of life care in the US. Although palliative care is making steady and impressive progress as a specialty, thanks to the tireless efforts of a handful of foundations and clinicians who have been promoting it, it remains an underfunded and under-utilized field of medicine. Its star can continue to rise as people realize its intrinsic value, and integrate palliative medicine into mainstream medicine. Only then can the "rescue medicine" theorized and described by Dr. Chapple be appropriately balanced by a holistic approach to suffering, and offer American citizens a true choice about how they would prefer to end their days.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Dan Choi
An awesome book.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Stimulating and provocative--excellent for grad students
By Leah Rogne, Ph.D.
No Place for Dying is a stimulating and provocative contribution to our understanding of care for the dying in the United States today. Riveting, with the sweep, pacing, and complexity of a Russian novel, Chapple's book is scholarly but also accessible to the non-academic reader. It is a call to action for any of us who are concerned about true equality of access to quality healthcare at any stage of life. Chapple's penetrating expose of the rescue imperative of the medical industrial complex should be deeply troubling for all of us who would like to see us move toward a healthcare system that values quality of life, not just quantity. Chapple presents the growing palliative care movement as a step in the right direction, but there are clearly many miles to go before palliative care gains the status it needs in the healthcare complex. As it should be, she leaves us with more questions than answers, as she challenges us to take up the charge to find a way to create--and finance--a truly humane healthcare system that supports a dignified dying. I assigned No Place for Dying to my graduate students in my Sociology of Death course, and they couldn't stop talking about it.

The U.S. hospital embodies society's hope for itself: a technological bastion standing between us and death. What does the gold standard of rescue, as ideology and industry, mean for the dying patient in the hospital and for the status of dying in American culture? This book shows how dying is a management problem for hospitals, occupying space but few billable encounters and of little interest to medical practice or quality control. An anthropologist and bioethicist with two decades of professional nursing experience, Helen Chapple goes beyond current work on hospital care to present fine-grained accounts of the clinicians, patients, and families who navigate this uncharted, untidy, and unpredictable territory between the highly choreographed project of rescue and the clinical culmination of death. This book and its important social and policy implications make key contributions to the social science of medicine, nursing, hospital administration, and health care delivery fields.

"Helen Chapple provides a relentless look at the sequestration of dying in hospitals from ordinary human experiences and from the work that is valued in hospitals. She lets us in on the special language and codes that nurses and physicians use when discussing patients and also the nuanced expressions that rank a dying patient's position down the ladder of importance at a hospital. It shakes our confidence that hospice and palliative care have changed society's perception of and response to dying markedly. We are let into a world with both explicit and tacit understandings that 'more time alive' is all that matters, and into a world where consequences unfold because dying is not a reimbursable code. Thanatologists may conclude that a new Cicely Saunders is needed to face down the hospital culture of avoiding death and of sequestering dying from all else human. From Chapple's book we know, however, that the typical hospital physicians, nurses, administrators, coders, and other staff members argue for the marginalization of dying and of death in order that the hospital may do the work of life-prolonging medicine that makes possible more time alive."

David Balk, Brooklyn College, associate editor for Death Studies