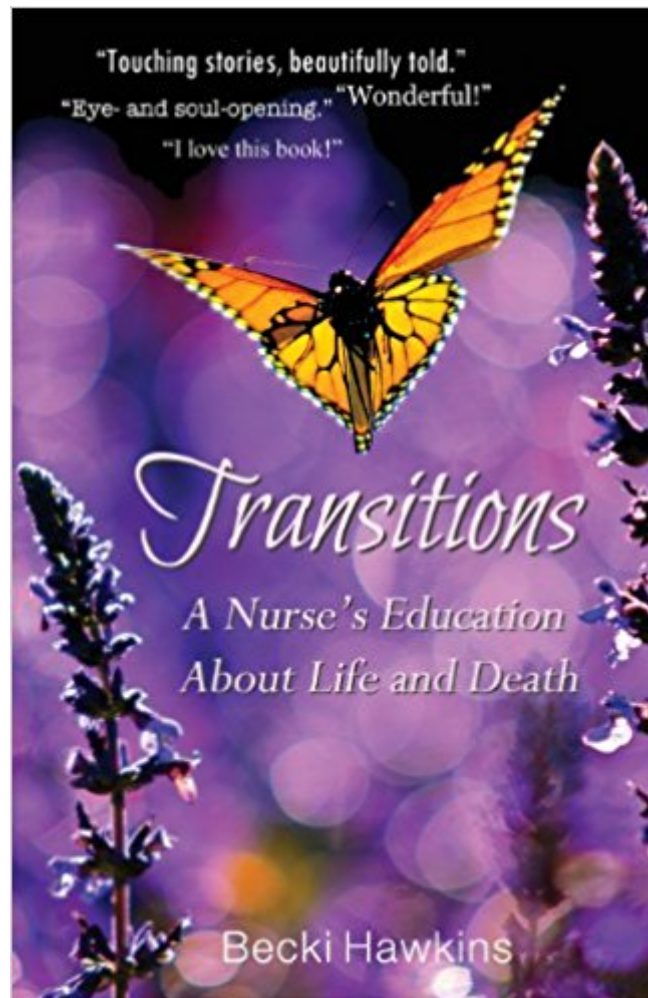




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# Transitions: A Nurse's Education About Life And Death



## Synopsis

Transitions: A Nurse's Education about Life and Death is a collection of stories from Becki Hawkins's patients over the past thirty years of her career. She started off as a nurse's aide, became a registered nurse, and began her career in oncology. A couple of years later she also started seeing hospice patients. She also did outpatient oncology nursing, home health/hospice, became a hospice chaplain, and later a hospice volunteer. She now sees patients on a volunteer basis. She began writing a feature column, "Beyond Statistics," for a local newspaper when her husband told her one evening after her shift at work, "Please don't tell me about it. Write it down." The first article was published in 1986. These stories are the patients' stories and their education to Becki as she visited them about the transitions we make in life and in death. Some of them involve patients in the nursing home, others in the hospital or an outpatient setting, and many others in the patients' homes. Some of the patients were strangers, some were friends, some acquaintances, and some were family. You will find humor, heartbreak, wisdom, and frequent spiritual allusions in Transitions. The author reminds us that life is brief and fragile, and laced with story after story of how each of us is "learning" in this place that one patient named "Earth School."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Becki has a gift for writing touching short stories about a subject many people shy away from. She was the hospice nurse for my very dear family member years ago. I haven't seen Becki since, but will always remember her for her calm, gentle manner, and the compassionate home care she gave to my dying loved one and his family - bewildered, shocked, and grieving as we all were. Her

genuine love for people shines throughout her book. I am a nurse myself now, in part because of the impression Becki left on me. I loved reading her book. If a book about dying can be comforting, yet charmingly written, this is it.

I originally purchased Becki's book after watching a talk she gave (on YouTube) about some of her experiences in hospice care. I loved her perspectives on caring for the dying. She's simultaneously down to earth and yet spiritual/deep, loving and sincere, which made me want to read her book. The book is of simple, short stories of some of the patients she has worked with throughout her years in hospice (she reads some stories from the book in the YouTube talk which I can post here for anyone who is interested). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kl5cu1H4Hss>

Becki Hawkins shares her experiences as a hospice nurse in this wonderful book. She is strong, compassionate and has a great sense of humor. The book is well written and the subject matter held my interest all the way through, Highly recommend.

This books is a wonderful book to help those who have lost loved ones heal. After seeing or hearing what others have experienced and how this nurse tells about the passing of patients, you realize how much better off the person is and how much easier those left behind can accept the passing of a loved one knowing that the person no longer has pain and is at total peace. This nurse helps us accept death and loss of our friends and family. I, myself, watched my mom dying and I would have taken the pain if I could. I also listened to the things she said and only understood the meaning after she was gone. I wish I had read this book before she passed instead of after. I kept looking for someone to tell me something, anything they knew about what takes place but others are so hesitant in saying anything afraid they will say the wrong thing. The doctor treating my mom was more forthcoming than anyone. I still wish there was a peaceful way we could help them pass without it being called "murder".

This is a wonderful book for anyone, not only those in the medical field. The writer's perspective goes beyond that of a health care worker as she describes the human side of transitioning from life to death. It's clear that Becki Hawkins saw her patients as individuals, each one has a unique story. With her open heart, she helps them to not only be physically comfortable, but emotionally comfortable as well. Each one of them teaches her a lesson about life and death and through their stories it's clear that the author, and in turn her readers, takes away some very important life

lessons. Ms. Hawkins writes in a way that any reader can relate to. Her book is about the human experience. Highly recommended.

Have watched her on You Tube & found her experiences & observations fascinating....so I had to get the book to find out more of these stories! She has a great way of telling them.

Such a warm, personal writing style as Becky tells the many touching stories of her patients as a hospice nurse. So many valuable and memorable lessons learned and shared. I recommend this book highly for anyone wanting to understand how to truly live from stories of dying and true love.

Just purchased 3 more copies. Basically, I give them to friends who are going through what I did, cared for my mother 5 years. Ready or not, this book will heal, soothe, and put our divine creator's light in your heart. Hope Becki is using my story & "the beagle in a pink wheelchair" to comfort. Love this woman's ability to convey hope & abolish fear.

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