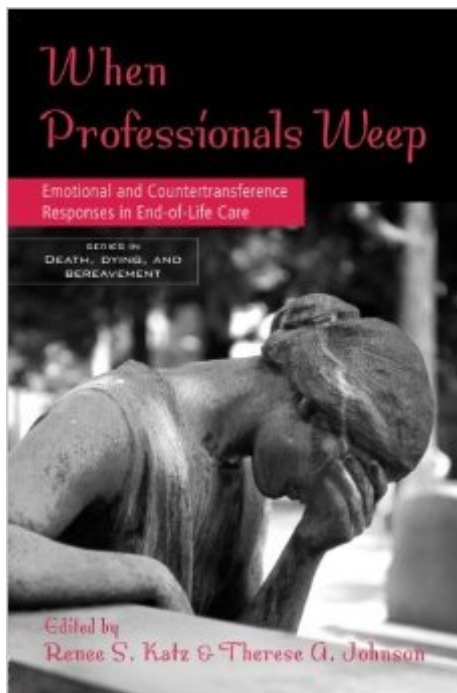


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When Professionals Weep: Emotional And Countertransference Responses In End-of-Life Care (Series In Death, Dying, And Bereavement)



Synopsis

Diverse leaders in the field of death, dying, and bereavement, address the issues surrounding the intersection of the personal and the professional in the unique context of end-of-life care. End-of-life care (EOL) is a specialized area of work that crosses a number of academic and professional disciplines, including social work, counseling, hospice, physical medicine, geriatrics, nursing, counseling, psychology, and clerical work. Professionals who work in EOL have often had deeply moving personal experiences with trauma, death, and loss in their own lives, and almost inevitably bring their own histories, memories, notions, and assumptions to their work. These countertransference responses can be both complex and subtle.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In my experience I have seen little written in depth on the issue of countertransference. As a hospice social worker, it makes me squirm just thinking about how my own countertransference has interfered with effective interventions. "When Professionals Weep" offers specific case examples and analyses which we can apply to ourselves and our work. This book was an eye-opener for me--helping me to become more aware of how I "get in the way" of myself. As people-helping professionals we must keep learning to improve our effectiveness, and this book will help you do just that.

This book is a series of articles addressing the dynamic role of professionals in end of life experiences. Of course these professionals include hospice workers and therapists, however physicians and nurses are also part of the psychological task of dying for patients and their families. This book has a strong Freudian and spiritual bend that is consistent throughout the articles by various contributors. Although this approach is not the "latest flavor" of therapeutic technique, I think the concept of countertransference, the reaction of the professional to the emotions of the patient, is a very useful one in this context. In any case, this book delivers badly needed advice to the world of the ICU and the sterilized death. I found it a helpful frame for thoughts on dealing with this most difficult of topics.

After years of being told to buy this book I finally did and cannot understand why it took me so long. This is a book that probes the depths of physician/professional experience. Well written, a must read for anyone wanting to understand what it is like on the other side of the exam table.

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