



And a Time to Die: How American Hospitals Shape the End of Life

By Sharon R. Kaufman

University Of Chicago Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 412 pages. Over the past thirty years, the way Americans experience death has been dramatically altered. The advent of medical technology capable of sustaining life without restoring health has changed where, when, and how we die. In this revelatory study, medical anthropologist Sharon R. Kaufman examines the powerful center of those changes: the hospital, where most Americans die today. She deftly links the experiences of patients and families, the work of hospital staff, and the ramifications of institutional bureaucracy to show the invisible power of the hospital system in shaping death and our individual experience of it. In doing so, Kaufman also speaks to the ways we understand what it means to be human and to be alive. An act of courage and a public service. San Francisco Chronicle This beautifully synthesized and disquieting account of how hospital patients die melds disciplined description with acute analysis, incorporating the voices of doctors, nurses, social workers, and patients in a provocative analysis of the modern American quest for a good death. Publishers Weekly Kaufman exposes the bureaucratic and ethical quandaries that hover over the modern deathbed. Psychology Today Kaufmans analysis illuminates the complexity of the care...



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