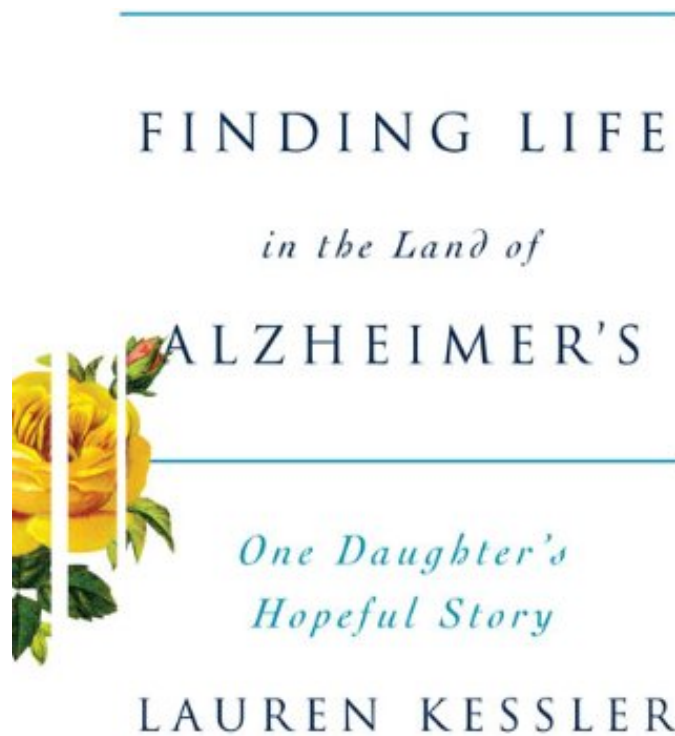


# Finding Life in the Land of Alzheimer's: One Daughter's Hopeful Story

Lauren Kessler

DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



"A miracle of caring, Lauren Kessler manages to humanize the victims and shine a clear, compassionate light on those who struggle to care for them. Anyone affected by the disease has to read this book!"

—BARBARA EHRENREICH,

author of *Nickel and Dimed* and *Bait and Switch*

Previously published as *Dancing with Rex*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#310870 in Books 2008-05-27 2008-05-27 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .55 x 5.40l, .72 #File Name: 0143113682272 pages | File size: 19.Mb

**Lauren Kessler : Finding Life in the Land of Alzheimer's: One Daughter's Hopeful Story** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Finding Life in the Land of Alzheimer's: One Daughter's Hopeful Story:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read - The job of an Alzheimers CNA or RABy yellowdawsI must say that I ordered the book and the cd book and the cd book arrived first. Thus I listened to the 9cds and have not read the book. I have given the book to others to read. Having a parent in a memory care facility, I appreciated information and story. You will gain knowledge and respect for the employees at a memory care facility

after reading this book. I recommend this book to all family members who have a loved one living in a memory care facility. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Learning while caring for the demented. By Arturo A female journalist, feeling guilty about her approach to her own Mother who was afflicted by dementia of the Alzheimer's type (DoAT), chose to work for about three months as a basic-level care-giver in an upscale nursing home for the demented. This book is a work of "non-fiction" that portends to accurately portray (with only a few name changes, for privacy) the working-lives and experiences of the care-givers to whom we entrust the well-being of our demented loved-ones, as well as the behaviors and interactions of the Residents of the facility with each other and the Staff. The result is a very well-written, captivating, saga of the goings-on from the perspective of the employee care-givers. Even for those who think they know a lot about Alzheimer's disease, there is a great deal to be gained from reading this book. It is far more than an ordinary book by "experts" about dementia and its impact on family. It is different and better because of what it is, and what it is not! It is not the pedantic or scientific discourse, or social-statistical, caregiver's self-help manual, or psychologist's handbook. There are many of those available. It is a warm portrayal of the life of the demented Person (note Upper-case "P"), cared-for by non-relatives, but nevertheless, devoted to their clients. It is important reading for family and dear friends of persons with dementia precisely because of the perspective of the "person in the trenches" and how that learning-experience molds the care that is given to the afflicted and bonds the worker to the client. The experience affects the employees and modifies, for the better, their devotion to the difficult and poorly paid tasks before them. Although this reviewer is, by education, training and experience, considered to be better informed on the subject of dementia than most persons, he learned a great deal from this book, about the matters portrayed. This reviewer not only highly recommends it to others, but he purchased several copies to give as a gift to others who have relatives in this circumstance. [NOTE: This book was first published in Hard Cover, entitled, "Dancing with Rose." The text appears to be the same in this soft-cover edition wherein the sub-title has become the main-title.] 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dreadful Alzheimer's By Customer This book, helped me to understand, my mother, and father-in-law, going through the dreadful disease, Alzheimer's!! It is a terrible disease, to watch, your loved ones, die from! I also, ordered, two (2) more books, to send, to my (2), sisters! The book, Dancing with Rose, most definitely, helped all of us! I've also leant my book, to friends, dealing with the same dreadful disease, in their families!

Previously published in Hardcover as Dancing With Rose One journalist's riveting and surprisingly hopeful in-the-trenches view of Alzheimer's Nearly five million people in the United States are living with Alzheimer's. Like many children of Alzheimer's sufferers, Lauren Kessler, an accomplished journalist, was devastated by the disease that seemed to erase her mother's identity even before claiming her life. But suppose people with Alzheimer's are not slates wiped blank. Suppose they experience friendship and loss, romance and jealousy, joy and sorrow? To better understand this debilitating condition, Kessler enlists as a bottom-of-the-rung caregiver at an Alzheimer's facility and learns lessons that challenge what we think we know about the disease. A compelling, clear-eyed, and emotionally resonant narrative, Finding Life in the Land of Alzheimer's offers a new optimistic look at what the disease can teach us and a much-needed tonic for those faced with providing care for someone they love.

From Publishers Weekly The growing number of readers who have relatives with Alzheimer's will warm to Kessler's excellent account of the months she worked as an unskilled resident assistant in an Alzheimer's facility on the West Coast. This facility, which she calls Maplewood, is a state-of-the-art institution, divided into small "neighborhoods" of 14 rooms with private baths, a common space and enclosed patios. The author of several nonfiction books, Kessler (Full Court Press) was attempting to resolve her feelings after her own mother, with whom she had a troubled relationship, died of Alzheimer's; bittersweet memories of her are scattered through the narrative. At Maplewood, Kessler feeds, toilets and converses with residents in varying stages of the illness. Marianne, for instance, an alert and well-dressed woman, appears not to belong at Maplewood. She still regards herself as a successful working woman, and the author treats her as such. Kessler becomes strongly attached to some of the other men and women in her neighborhood, feeling bereaved when several die during her tenure. She comes to regard Alzheimer's sufferers as individuals who can still enjoy life, given the care and recreational opportunities extended at this facility; a powerful lesson in the humanity of those we often see as tragically bereft of that quality. (June 4) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Assigned to write about Alzheimer's disease, Kessler took a page from a handful of notable journalistic predecessors. She chucked her notebook and immersed herself in the atmosphere and culture of an Alzheimer's residential facility near her home. Taking several months out of her cushy journalist's life, she worked there for minimum wage as a resident assistant (RA), the bottom job at the nursing home and one with high turnover. Indeed, many newbies don't return after the two-day orientation, much less make it to the three-month first "anniversary." Despite a high-minded description having to do with care and dignity, the RA's work is on the front line when it comes to residents' (not "patients'") bathing, using the toilet, dressing, feeding, corralling, and cleaning up. Kessler's experience was eye-opening, to say the least, more so because she was still lugging the weighty baggage of guilt she acquired from her response to her mother's

Alzheimer's eight years previously. Invaluable intelligence, especially for anyone considering a residential facility for a loved one. Chavez, Donna a Heartening and thought-provoking. . . . Kessler deftly marries research with hands-on experiences. a "The Seattle Times" a Direct and courageous. . . . Anyone affected by the disease and that's almost everyone has to read this book. a Barbara Ehrenreich, author of "Nickel and Dimed" and "Bait and Switch" Heartening and thought-provoking. . . . Kessler deftly marries research with hands-on experiences. "The Seattle Times" Direct and courageous. . . . Anyone affected by the disease and that s almost everyone has to read this book. Barbara Ehrenreich, author of "Nickel and Dimed" and "Bait and Switch"? Heartening and thought-provoking. . . . Kessler deftly marries research with hands-on experiences.? ?"The Seattle Times" ? Direct and courageous. . . . Anyone affected by the disease? and that's almost everyone?has to read this book.? ?Barbara Ehrenreich, author of "Nickel and Dimed" and "Bait and Switch"