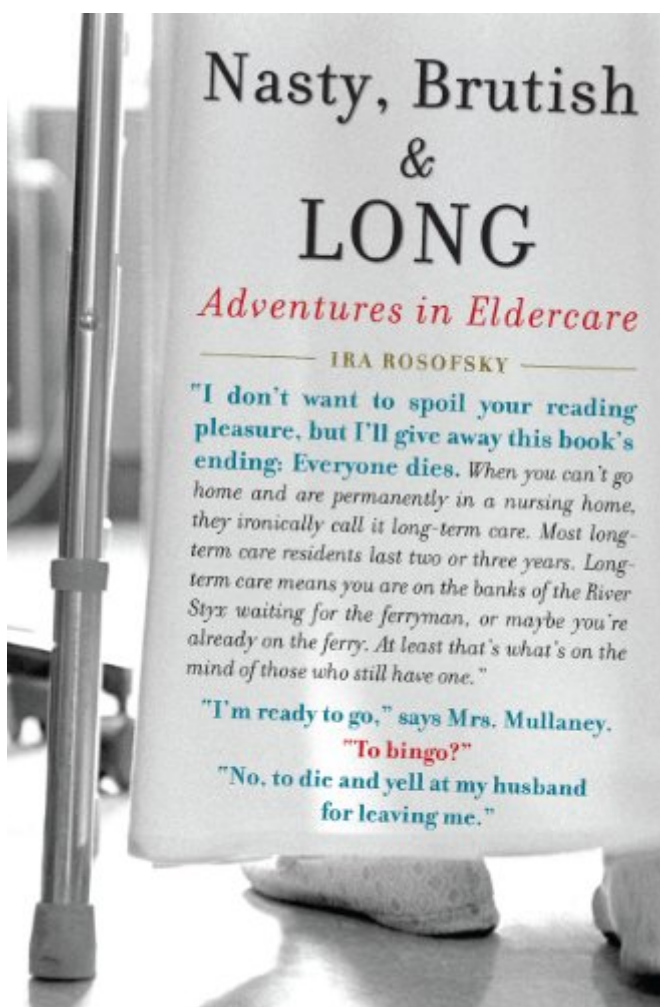


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Nasty, Brutish, And Long: Adventures In Eldercare



Synopsis

Read Ira Rosofsky's posts on the Penguin Blog A candid, humane, and improbably humorous look at the world of eldercare In nursing homes across the country, members of the Greatest Generation are living out their last days. Life is a succession of pokes and prods, medications, TV, bingo, and, possibly, talking to Ira Rosofsky. With a compassionate eye but mordant wit, Rosofsky, a psychologist charged with gauging the mental health of his elders, reveals a culture based not in the empathy of caretaking, but rather in the coolly detached bureaucracy of Medicare and Medicaid.

A portrayal of what is increasingly becoming the last slice of life for many, Nasty, Brutish, and Long is also a baby boomer's poignant meditation on mortality, a reflection on his caregiving for his parents' final days, and an examination of the choices that we, as a society, have made about health care for the elderly who are no longer of sound mind and body.

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Customer Reviews

This book by Ira Rosofsky is very helpful and informative. At the moment I am dealing with my 93

year old mother, whom I have been caring for until her last fall. Her hip broke and then she fell down. She has been in a nursing home since Oct. 2016). I have to say the girls who take care of her are wonderful, but there just isn't enough help. She rings her call bell and sometimes it takes 20 - 30 min for someone to answer her call. I know because I go there every day and I bring her into the bathroom. I am going to bring her home soon.

Loved this book! As someone in their late 60's keeping an eye on their 90+ year old mother in a retirement/assisted living community this book hits home on many fronts. Best of all is the author's wonderful sense of humor. Echo's my sentiments but much, much funnier. Kudos!

This is somewhat of a master work. I'm buying multiple copies to give to others. I'm an accountant who works with elderly folks and their families. I constantly preach about the need for advance planning, delegation of responsibility, etc. My advice is informed by my own experience of having had a mother who lived for 7 full years in a nursing home. I confronted every issue that Dr. Rosofsky details and then some. His mordant humor is what makes the book so good. It's also a wake-up call for those who will eventually come to realize that there are many tragi-comic events that may affect them as caregivers or patients. There are idealized concepts of how elderly care is supposed to work. Sometimes these cliches are blown out of the water in an explosion of reality. I wish I'd written this book myself.

I had enjoyed excerpts from this book on the author's website, but what really works when reading the entire thing is the flow from chapter to chapter. I really like how he integrates his professional and personal experience, and unlike a reporter who's simply done a lot of research, this guy draws upon a wealth of experience. His knowledge of nursing home practices combined with his own thoughts about his oncoming old age and mortality really make this book come alive. I had originally thought this would be a dry examination of the state of nursing homes. But it's really a fun book to read, if you can laugh at what might be in store for you. And reading about his own parents made me feel as if I knew them. This is a good one.

Sad, but very true. Lasting long and helpless is my greatest fear, now that I've lived long. I'm not afraid of dying, just languishing in a "Vegetable Patch," a neglected one at that. Even the nicest of nursing homes is a horror to almost all.

Ira Rosofsky's "Nasty, Brutish and Long" is absolutely Compassionate, Erudite and Concise. Mr. Rosofsky's compassion seems to come not only from his professional commitment to the mental health of the elderly but to the recent passing of his own parents. The book is erudite as the author has researched the nursing homes industry i.e. federal funding, the pharmaceutical industry, the medical professions involved in caring for the elderly et. al. The book is concise weaving in clinical stories, personal anecdotes a consistently humorous tone along with a wonderfully sharp critical analysis of nursing home politics.

This is a well-written, informative and humorous portrayal of every aspect of nursing homes in the U.S. today. It's also grim, depressing, morbid and horrific - but that's because nursing homes are like that. I'm considering the necessity of my 92-year-old mother going to a nursing home, and I'm glad I read this because now I'll do everything I can to keep her out of there. Read this if you want the real story and not the sugar-glazed version.

For anyone who works in the field of geriatrics, or has friends, relatives who are advanced in the aging process, this is a "must read". You may not always agree, or may wince on occasion, but this author relays his story from both a professional and personal perspective of aging in nursing homes. Well worth the read and actually somewhat uplifting.

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