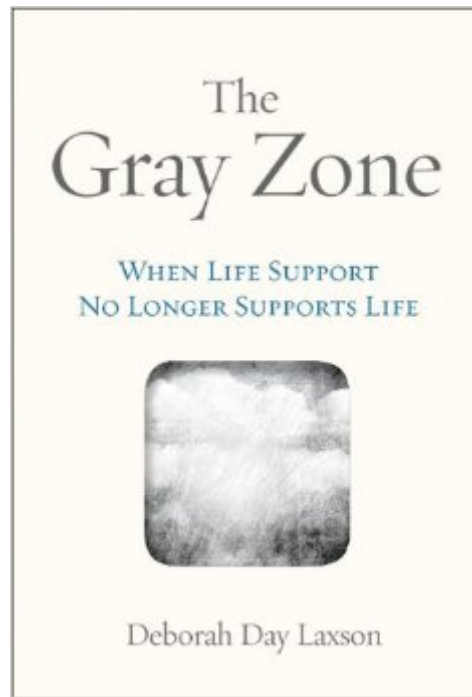


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# The Gray Zone



## Synopsis

The patient is no longer able to speak, and you're responsible for making medical decisions..... It's that fuzzy place where it's not clear if life-support measures are really supporting life and allowing the body to heal, or only masking the reality that death is inevitable. The medical staff gives you options and possible treatments, and then they look expectantly to you. When do you let go and stop? When is enough, enough? You make decisions based on what you know from your medical team and what you know about your loved one's definition of quality of life. You do the best you can. You're in The Gray Zone. It's a really lonely place to be.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (6 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

As a clergy person this gave me a new insight into the lives of those having to decide for a terminal loved one. Part of bringing the presence to a difficult experience is to have some understanding what is happening, which makes it easier to provide love and support. I would recommend this to those who provide spiritual support in times of great need.

Deborah's deeply affecting memoir should motivate every reader to create (or revisit)their Health Care Directive, and to provide their agent as much specificity as possible regarding the medical measures one wants, or is willing to accept, to prolong their life. This is the only insurance that the agony of bearing the burden of such decisions for the one you love can be remotely eased: a clear certainty that emerges from the often dizzying range of medical options. As Deborah writes with such poignant precision: "It's not about us. It's about them and what they want." For that message

alone, she has given the reader an empowering gift.

Recently, I had a conversation with a work colleague. She was angry. Her mom had had a severe stroke, and she and her sister were at odds with how to handle the mother's condition. The situation was a mess, and even involved screaming conflicting orders at the 911 first responders. The irony was that their mother had a healthcare directive in place and had named one of the sisters to be her healthcare agent. Had the two sisters read Deborah Day Laxson's *The Gray Zone*, this drama might have been minimized. They would have both understood that the patient, their mother, had already spoken clearly in her healthcare directive. It was a matter of grasping the importance of their specific role in the mother's care with both sisters ultimately honoring and supporting their mother's wishes regardless of their own personal opinions. I strongly recommend that everyone read *The Gray Zone*. Every family, in some way, walks through the journey of fulfilling a person's wishes regarding the quality of life, with emphasis on the goal of honoring the person's wishes, should medical decisions need to be made on that person's behalf. This book starts that conversation. In cogent, easy-to-read prose, Laxson makes the case clear, before the lonely gray zone sets in.

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