

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THIS BOOK grew out of our personal experiences with loss; the deaths of friends, colleagues, and family members; and our professional commitment to prepare social workers and other professionals to work effectively with individuals, families, and communities grieving loss across the life span. The questions and concerns of the bereaved have made the need for this book clear to us and sustained us when other work and family demands interfered with writing. We are grateful for what we have learned from the bereaved, the students in our classes, and colleagues.

We greatly appreciate the support of numerous colleagues and friends who encouraged us to write the second edition of this book. Their external validation assured us that this book would indeed contribute to the profession and that an updated version was needed and timely. We specifically want to acknowledge Keith Anderson, series editor for the Columbia University Press End-of-Life Care Series and associate professor at the University of Montana School of Social Work, and Stephen Wesley, editor of Columbia University's Social Work Series, for their encouragement to publish a second edition and their support throughout the long writing process. We are grateful for the attention to details, particularly the references and citations as we shifted from APA to Chicago style, provided by Christian Winting, an editor at Columbia University Press; Sarah Corcoran and Alexis Alexander, MSW students at the University of Iowa School of Social Work; Alisa Strayer, MSW, manager of the HealthyGen Center at the University of Washington School of Social Work; and Ben Kolstad, editorial services manager at Knowledge Works Global Ltd. We also express our thanks to Ian Johnson and Erin Harrop, doctoral students at the University of Washington who assisted with literature reviews.

My (NH) special appreciation goes to my son, Kevin, who shows increasing wisdom and empathy for others who experience major losses, and to my daughter, Mani, who taught me about what is important to children who

grieve. I will always cherish my friends and colleagues at the University of Washington and across the country who listened with compassion, sensitivity, and openness during my intense periods of grief and supported my personal and professional growth through the process of living through loss.

I (BK) wish to acknowledge my students who have convinced me of the need for this text through their enthusiastic desire to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to respond to their own and their clients' pain resulting from traumatic events, difficult life experiences, and a variety of social problems. I am encouraged by witnessing the compassion, caring, and commitment of these students. Many of them have chosen their work in order to teach other professionals culturally relevant and developmentally appropriate strategies for addressing grief.

I express my deepest gratitude and affection to my mother, Marge Collins; my sisters, Margie, Barbara, Janet, and Mary; and my brothers, Buddy and Jimmy, for their great influence on my understanding of grief, loss, resilience, growth, caring, and love. My most valued and important source of support is my partner, Jim. Without his tireless encouragement and willingness to be fully engaged in virtually all the responsibilities associated with raising a family and running a household, I would not have been able to carry out my academic activities. My children, Jenner and Clariel, were incredibly patient with my demanding work schedule and allow me to cherish the very rich quality time we spend together.

Finally, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to Domo Geshe Rinpoche, my spiritual teacher.

I (SS) first want to thank Nancy Hooyman; she has been a mentor to me, and I have admired her throughout my career. I also wish to acknowledge the hospice nurses, social workers, and other staff I met early in my social work career who taught me how to help individuals transitioning throughout the dying process and made me the social worker I am today. I also thank the patients and families I have worked with as a hospice social worker and in the medical examiner's department. The opportunity to partner with them during times of horrific pain has shaped me in countless ways, which I continue to reflect upon during my academic career and bring into the classroom. And

thank you to my students who have been willing to open themselves up and explore their emotions associated with death and grief.

I would be remiss if I did not thank my parents who taught me “we start dying the day we are born” and allowed me to struggle with my own fear of death. Finally, I would like to thank my four children, Adeline, Kjirstin, Josephine, and Soren. They never asked to have a mom who has the demands of being an academic and an administrator and who is passionate about social change and justice. I appreciate their patience with me as I have worked long hours and taken on the issues of the world to make a better future for them. These four young individuals make me want to do and be better every day.



LIVING  
THROUGH  
LOSS

