



Selected Bibliography on Near-Death Experiences

Following is a short list of books to help you get started learning about the near-death experience (NDE). Within each category, the resources appear in alphabetical order by author.

Classic

- Moody, R. (1975). *Life after life*. New York: Bantam. The book that began it all. Easy reading, basic.
- Moody, R. (1977). *Reflections on life after life*. New York: Bantam. A must-read companion to the previously listed book in which the author expands on information in the first book and corrects some misconceptions.
- Ring, K. (1985). *Life at death: A scientific investigation of the near-death experience*. The first scientific attempt to describe the NDE itself. Most other researchers have corroborated the findings reported in this book.
- Sabom, M. (1982). *Recollections of death: A medical investigation*. New York: Simon & Schuster. The first prospective study in which for five years the author, an MD, attempted to have every patient interviewed who had recovered from a near-death episode.

General/Introductory

- Atwater, P. M. H. (2007). *The big book of near-death experiences: The ultimate guide to what happens when we die*. Charlottesville, VA: Hampton Roads. A broad, quite comprehensive general overview of the NDE consisting of a mix of fact and opinion.
- Bailey, L. W., & Yates, J. (Eds.). (1996). *The near-death experience: A reader*. New York: Routledge. Comprehensive overview. Cases and interpretations from writers representing various academic disciplines.
- Fenwick, P., & Fenwick, E. (1995). *The truth in the light*. New York: Berkley Books. Results of a study of over 300 NDEs in the United Kingdom conducted by a neuropsychiatrist and his wife.
- Greyson, B. (2000). Near-death experiences. In E. Cardeña, S. J. Lynn, & S. Krippner (Eds.), *Varieties of anomalous experience: Examining the scientific evidence*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. Excellent chapter on NDEs by a foremost NDE researcher who is a psychiatrist and the long-time editor of the *Journal of Near-Death Studies*. Also excellent chapters on NDE-related phenomena such as out-of-body experiences, psi experiences, lucid dreaming, past life experiences, and mystical experiences.
- Ring, K., & Valarino, E. E. (1998). *Lessons from the light: What we can learn from the near-death experience*. Portsmouth, NH: Moment Point Press. The most recent, and probably last, book by one of the foremost near-death researchers. Addresses what non-NDEers can learn from the NDE.

Aftereffects

- Atwater, P. M. H. (2001). *Coming back to life: The after-effects of the near-death experience* (rev. ed.). New York: Citadel. A mingling of observation, analysis, and metaphysical speculation. Experiencers say, "She tells it like it is" about aftereffects and experiencer reactions.
- Ring, K. (1985). *Heading toward omega: In search of the meaning of the near-death experience*. New York: Quill. The classic scientific work documenting changes after a NDE.

Autobiographical/Biographical

- Eadie, B. (1992). *Embraced by the light*. New York: Bantam. One of the most widely read accounts.
- Farr, S. (1993). *What Tom Sawyer learned from dying*. Charlottesville, VA: Hampton Roads. An informative account about one of the participants in Ken Ring's classic research.
- Ritchie, G. (1978). *Return from tomorrow*. Waco, TX: Chosen Books. A classic. The NDEr whose account inspired Raymond Moody to inquire into the phenomenon Moody eventually named the near-death experience.
- Sharp, K. C. (1995). *After the light*. New York: William Morrow. An account by a social worker who also has been active in IANDS.
- Suleman, A. (2005). *A passage to eternity*. Calgary, Alberta, Canada: Amethyst Publishing. Rare account of a Moslem woman's NDE, including her interpretation based on her upbringing in the mystical Shia branch of Islam.
- Several authors. *When ego dies: A compilation of near-death and mystical conversion experiences*. Houston, TX: Emerald Ink. A variety of experiencers tell about their experiences and how those experiences affected them.

Distressing

- Ellwood, G. F. (2001). *The uttermost deep: The challenge of near-death experiences*. New York: Lantern. Though actually a book that addresses in general the implications of NDEs, it contains a very good chapter (#4) on, and subsequent discussion of, "painful" NDEs.
- Rommer, B. (2000). *Blessing in disguise: Another side of the near-death experience*. St. Paul, MN: Llewellyn. Thorough overview of "less-than-positive" NDEs written by an M.D.
- Storm, H. (2000). *My descent into death, and the message of love which brought me back*. Edinburgh, Scotland: Clairview. An autobiographical account by a pre-NDE art professor, post-NDE minister.

Diverse Populations and NDEs

- Alayna. (1997). *Rag doll: A journey of healing and integration*. Suffolk, England: MM Publications (MMPublications@aol.com). Written by a woman whose NDE as an adult helped her resolve the lifelong traumatic aftereffects of childhood sexual abuse.
- Dale, L. (2001). *Crossing over and coming home: Twenty-one authors discuss the gay near-death experience as spiritual transformation*. Houston, TX: Emerald Ink. Gay and lesbian NDErs describe their experiences and aftereffects.
- Morse, M., & Perry, P. (1990). *Closer to the light: Learning from the near-death experiences of children*. New York: Ballantine. A classic book by a pediatrician.
- Rogers, S. (1995). *Lessons from the light: Insights from a journey to the other side*. New York: Warner. An autobiographical account from a woman whose NDE occurred when she attempted suicide.
- VandenBush, B. (2003). *If morning never comes*. North Platte, NE: The Old Hundred and One Press. Description of a rarely-reported military combat NDE told in full context of the Viet Nam war. The author's experience decades ago has poignant relevance to soldiers in combat today.

Hospice and Nearing Death Awareness

- Callanan, M., & Kelley, P. (1992). *Final gifts: Understanding the special awareness, needs, and communication of the dying*. New York: Bantam. Two hospice nurses describe the experiences of dying patients.
- Kircher, P. (1995). *Love is the link: A hospice doctor shares her experience of near-death and dying*. Burdett, NY: Larson. Unique perspective from an author who is, herself, a childhood NDEr.
- Kübler-Ross, E. (1997 reprint ed.). *On death and dying: What the dying have to teach doctors, nurses, clergy and their families*. The classic book that raised American consciousness about the experiences and needs of the dying.

Skeptic's perspective

- Blackmore, S. (1993). *Dying to live: Science and the near-death experience*. London: Grafton/HarperCollins. Explains NDEs as a product of brain function. Provocative.

NDE-Related Experiences

- Cox-Chapman, M. (1995). *The case for heaven*. New York: Putnam. A thoughtful, provocative exploration of cultural presuppositions about heaven and their relationship with the NDE.
- Guggenheim, B., & Guggenheim, J. (1995). New York: Bantam. *Hello from heaven*. Summarizes reports of the incidence and types of after-death communication.
- Kason, Y. (2000). *Farther shores: Exploring how near-death, kundalini and mystical experiences can transform ordinary lives*. Toronto: HarperCollins. Comprehensive description of the varieties of potentially spiritually transformative experiences, their aftereffects, and suggestions for coping. The author, an NDEr who describes her experience in the book, is also a researcher and an M.D.
- Swedenborg, E. (2000, reissue). *Heaven and hell*. West Chester, PA: Swedenborg Foundation, Inc. A description of the spiritual world as experienced by the famous 18th century Swedish mystic.

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