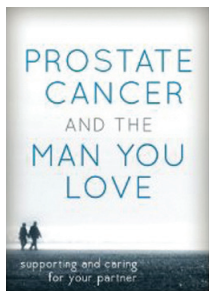


BOOKS

**Prostate Cancer and the Man You Love: Supporting and Caring for Your Partner.** Anne Katz.<sup>a</sup> Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2012, hardcover, 232 pages, \$38.



Every healthcare provider caring for men with prostate cancer should share this comprehensive resource with their patients and families. This book is the first about prostate cancer written

specifically for the partner. As described in the book, prostate cancer is a couple's disease; therefore, partners should understand the disease to lessen their own level of distress and best support the man with cancer. The book is easy to read and discusses prostate cancer in plain language.

The book consists of 11 chapters beginning with the topic of diagnosis and choosing the right doctor. The different prostate cancer treatment options are presented and include new and experimental treatments. In addition, side effects are explained with practical advice on how to manage them. The last half of the book shares valuable information on communication, support groups, end-of-life care, and self-care. The reader will learn helpful strategies for coping with all aspects of the prostate cancer experience. Current and relevant study findings described throughout the book give readers the best evidence for helping their partners and themselves during the cancer journey.

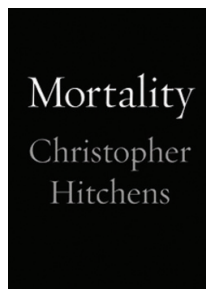
Anne Katz, a PhD-prepared clinical nurse specialist, provides a discerning perspective on difficult topics such as what happens when treatments do not work, and sex and intimacy after prostate cancer. As a professional sexuality counselor, she shares her knowledge for dealing with sexual problems. The author's eight years of experience in talking with couples about prostate cancer is evident in her writing style. Sixty stories interspersed throughout the book provide realistic experiences of heterosexual

and homosexual couples from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Although a minor shortcoming, the book would benefit from illustrations. Written descriptions of the anatomical structures related to prostate cancer are difficult to understand if one is not familiar with the human male anatomy. Illustrations also would be helpful in the chapter on radiation therapy to provide the reader with a visual image of how cancer treatment is delivered by either a linear accelerator or brachytherapy.

Although the title of the book states that it is written for the partner, anyone concerned with prostate cancer will benefit from reading this book. The overall quality of the information presented in this inclusive resource makes it easy to understand the prostate cancer trajectory.

Linda H. Eaton, MN, RN, AOCN®, is a research nurse and a doctoral student in the School of Nursing at the University of Washington in Seattle.

**Mortality.** Christopher Hitchens. New York, NY: Hachette Book Group, 2012, hardcover, 128 pages, \$22.99.

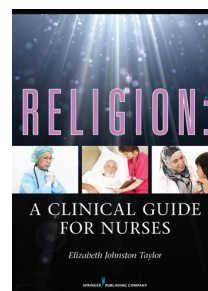


Christopher Hitchens was a prolific columnist, literary critic, author, and editor, best known for his commentaries on politics, religion, and public personalities. The book is Hitchens' first-person account of his 18-month experience with esophageal cancer. More like an extended essay, Hitchens' book chronicles his reactions to an initial diagnosis of advanced cancer. Although poignant in his dying analogies, Hitchens' characteristic humor prevails. He colorfully describes cancer as being a new land having a language all its own and relays how he was "gifted" with a vicious staph pneumonia by a prominent institution. Unlike other personal commentaries where long-term survival is the outcome, this book offers insight into the patient's knowing that death is at hand. Hitchens shares, "I am badly oppressed by the gnawing sense of waste. I had real plans

for my next decade and felt I'd worked hard enough to earn it" (p. 13). The book's last chapter is unique and contains fragmentary jottings of the author's thoughts just prior to his death. Hitchens' wife's afterword offers testimony to the difficult life transition of a spouse left behind, and her acute yearnings for her partner and best friend. I found this book to be a poignant characterization of living with advanced cancer.

Debi Boyle, RN, MSN, AOCNS®, FAAN, is an oncology clinical nurse specialist at the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and the University of California Irvine Medical Center.

**Religion: A Clinical Guide for Nurses.** Elizabeth Johnston Taylor. New York, NY: Springer, 2012, softcover, 304 pages, \$50.



The purpose of this book is to "redress the damage done by the prevailing discourse in the nursing literature that disparages religion in favor of a generic spirituality" (p. xv).

The first section of the book, Religion and Nursing Care, covers why religion is important, how to talk to patients about religious issues, how to assess religious beliefs, supporting religious behaviors or rituals, legal and ethical issues surrounding religious issues in the healthcare arena, and integration of the nurses' personal religiosity with professional practice.

The reason that religion, and not just spirituality, is important for nurses to understand is multifactorial. Many studies have examined religion and health, and data support a variety of reasons for recognizing religiosity. In addition, the book presents professional mandates and requirements that exist for assessing religion by accrediting agencies such as the Joint Commission.

The second half of the book, Religions: Beliefs, Practices, and Nursing Implications, has separate chapters on specific religions written and reviewed

<sup>a</sup> Oncology Nursing Society member