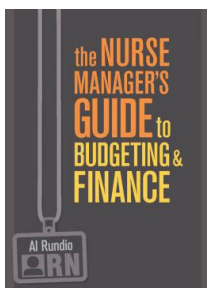




## BOOKS

**The Nurse Manager's Guide to Budgeting and Finance.** Al Rundio. Indianapolis, IN: Sigma Theta Tau International, 2012, softcover, 140 pages, \$24.95.



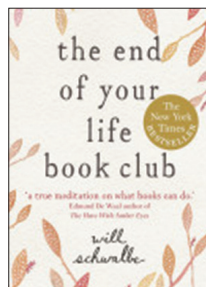
Al Rundio began his first nursing management job at the age of 26 with no financial management skills. He strives to spare other nurses this experience. Rundio wrote this book to identify the foundations of budgeting and management, giving nurse managers at every level and every area of nursing the tools needed for financial management.

Often, nurse managers have little or no exposure to finance and budgeting but are held accountable for their units and, therefore, must possess a basic understanding. Chapter one begins simply with "Budgeting for the Nurse Manager" and the text subsequently builds with each chapter.

Explanations for key metrics and calculations in operating budgets are given with easy-to-read tables. The formulas can be adapted to any clinical setting. Personal examples, tips, and experiences are highlighted throughout the book, making this a must read for all nurses in clinical leadership. An entire chapter is devoted to budget reports, with clear and concise examples and figures. Healthcare reimbursement also is addressed. Although a comprehensive review is written, the continually changing landscape makes for dated reading sometimes rather quickly. This book is an excellent overall guide for budget and finance. All nurses at any level will benefit from Rundio's comprehensive overview.

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**The End of Your Life Book Club.** Will Schwalbe. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2012, hardcover, 352 pages, \$25.



Mary Anne Schwalbe was a wife and mother, former theatrical casting agent, director of admission at Radcliffe and Harvard, and head of a prominent private New York City school; however, she ultimately found her calling as a founder and director of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. Pursuing this work, she traveled extensively in the Middle East and Africa. Her final and crowning achievement was building a traveling library in Afghanistan. During this campaign, she was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer, receiving treatment at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

In the waiting room, she and her son, Will Schwalbe, shared books. Will, the former editor-in-chief of a New York book publisher, is author of *The End of Your Life Book Club*. Will and Mary Anne shared a love for books and reading; they used books to initiate discussions about life, death, courage, gratitude, communication, prejudice, feminism, fate, and the twists and turns life takes. Conversations moved from discussions of books to discussions of their own thoughts and experiences.

Conversations in this memoir are interspersed with descriptions of Mary Anne's cancer treatment, the progression of her disease, and tributes to her life's work. Book selections are diverse, including Karen Connelly's *The Lizard Cage*, Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead*, Mary Tileston's *Daily Strength for Daily Needs*, Sheila Weller's *Girls Like Us*, Stieg Larsson's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, Susan Halpern's *The Etiquette of Illness*, and Russell Bank's *Continental Drift*.

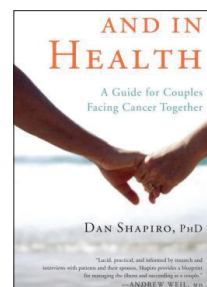
I found this book easy and compelling to read. It moves in snapshots over the

two-year period of Mary Anne's illness. Each chapter holds a message. Although some might be critical of the meandering style, I rather enjoyed the journey. The book was a finalist for the 2013 Indies Choice Book Award, Adult Nonfiction, and was one of BookPage's Best Books of 2012.

I think anyone would enjoy this book. Appropriate for lay and professional audiences, it offers a way for those who love the written word to connect and explore thoughts about illness, but particularly thoughts about life, values, and beliefs, and is a unique contribution to available memoirs. The book is a celebration of the love of family and the richness of the written word, as well as a wonderful tribute to a woman who truly died the way she lived, with courage and grace. At the end of the book, a list of stories, poems, and books is provided.

Linda Knight Morse, RN, MSN, is a clinical research nurse in thoracic oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA.

**And in Health: A Guide for Couples Facing Cancer Together.** Dan Shapiro. Westville, South Africa: Trumpeter Books, 2013, softcover, 240 pages, \$16.95.



Written for traditional couples, this book delves into what a man, woman, and their relationship may encounter when one is diagnosed with cancer. Author Dan Shapiro acts

as a tour guide through the emotional labyrinth these couples face, and he knows his topic well. His qualifications include being a cancer survivor, as well as the husband of an oncology nurse practitioner who has survived her own cancer diagnosis and treatment. The advice, information, and knowledge he offers are research based and culled from more than 70 cited publications, his own