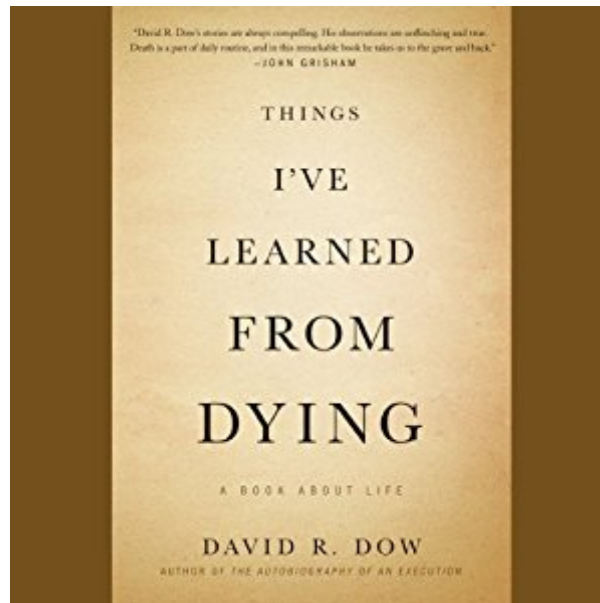


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# Things I've Learned From Dying: A Book About Life



## Synopsis

"Every life is different, but every death is the same. We live with others. We die alone." In his riveting, artfully written memoir *The Autobiography of an Execution*, David Dow enraptured readers with a searing and frank exploration of his work defending inmates on death row. But when Dow's father-in-law receives his own death sentence in the form of terminal cancer, and his gentle dog Winona suffers acute liver failure, the author is forced to reconcile with death in a far more personal way, both as a son and as a father. Told through the disparate lenses of the legal battles he's spent a career fighting, and the intimate confrontations with death each family faces at home, *Things I've Learned From Dying* offers a poignant and lyrical account of how illness and loss can ravage a family. Full of grace and intelligence, Dow offers readers hope without cliché and reaffirms our basic human needs for acceptance and love by giving voice to the anguish we all face - as parents, as children, as partners, as friends - when our loved ones die tragically, and far too soon.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After reading the reviews for this book, I was extremely hesitant to read it as I fear it would make me incredibly depressed. Although, the theme is very somber, death is a part of life that we must all deal with at one point or another. I enjoyed this book as it was beautifully written. It pulls at the heart strings and deals with a lot of deep issues, yet Dow's writing style is very witty and kept me feeling even keeled. I would definitely recommend this book to others as I feel it emphasizes the short time we have on this Earth and that we should appreciate our lives as well as those around us.

This book is one to be appreciated on so many levels. First of all, it's written in short chapters and conversational style which makes it effortless to read, even for those who are not avid readers. Secondly, the three compelling and true stories served up with beautiful detail by David Dow truly touch the soul. Dog owners, lawyers, hikers, caregivers, families and outdoor adventurers can each find something to love in the story. One thing we all have in common is death. Be ready for a good cry and enjoy this opportunity to appreciate more about life and dying than you ever expected.

I didn't know what I expected when I picked up this book. However, it was such a powerful book that I couldn't put it down and I couldn't stop thinking about it long after I finished. I admire everyone in this book, David's father in law, family, the inmate, and everyone trying to help. There are some parts of the book that made a certain state and people look really bad, but I think as a modern democratic society, we really need to look closely into why the system appears so broken, even if you disagree with the book or that you think the system is not broken. I wish more people would read this book and some positive movement would come out of it. Even if it's just for your own reading, it's definitely a food for thought.

One of those books that stay with you long after you turn the last page. I went into this book with a pretty black and white opinion on death sentences and old age and dying. This book constantly danced around the grey areas of dying to the extent that it made me rethink my prior opinions to a point that I still haven't figured out where I stand on these issues. Everyone should read this book.

This book is a thoughtful retrospective of Mr. Dow who is a death row attorney. He talks about his struggles dealing with the legal system as he tries to help clients on death row. He also examines family issues concerning end-of-life decisions. The book is well written and is well worth reading.

I would recommend anybody and everybody read this. Dow has an amazing way of inspiring readers while not directly calling them to action. Because of his books, I have seriously considered a change in my major.

Fascinating and beautifully written book. . Three deaths are highlighted in this book: the father-in-law, a death-row inmate, and the family dog. Quotes from Dow's father-in-law, who was dying of cancer, were tremendously insightful and moving. Getting to know the accused inmate was deeply disturbing, since he should not have been executed. Our system of justice in this country,

particularly Texas, is abysmal. This book is highly recommended.

I admire David for his tireless work for death row inmates and have read his books. This particular book was special in that it not only told the story of a wrongful execution it was also about loss in general, a father/grandfather and a beloved dog.

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