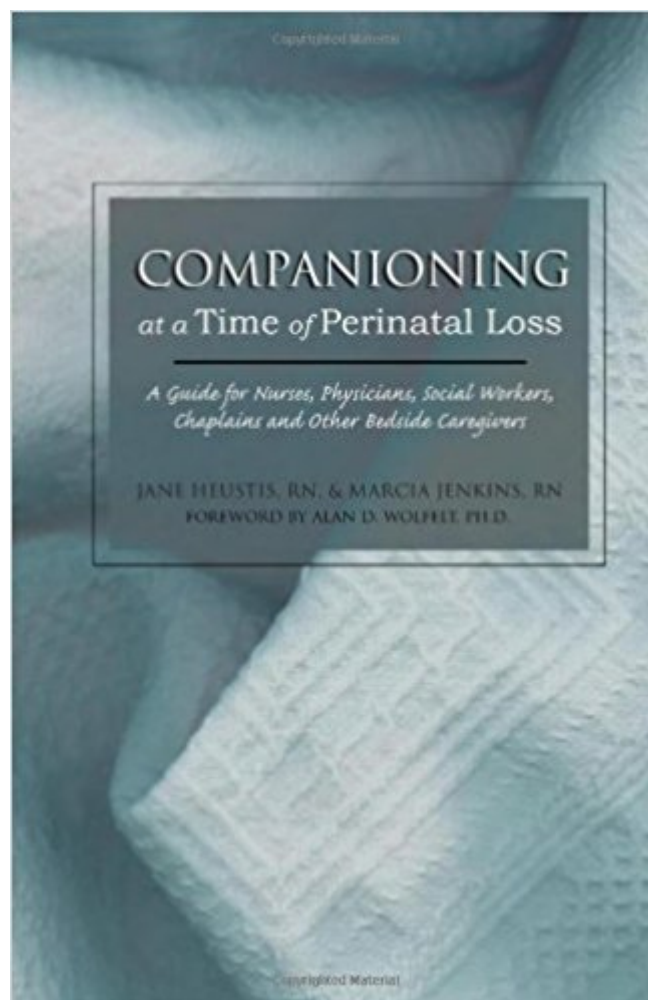


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# Companioning At A Time Of Perinatal Loss: A Guide For Nurses, Physicians, Social Workers, Chaplains And Other Bedside Caregivers



## Synopsis

Intended for nurses, doctors, midwives, social workers, chaplains, and hospital support staff, this guide gives caring and practical advice for helping families grieve properly after losing a child at birth. As the special needs of families experiencing perinatal loss are intense and require more than just the bereavement standards in most hospitals, this handbook offers tips and suggestions for opening up communication between caregivers and families, creating a compassionate bedside environment, and helping with mourning rituals. Encouraging continual grief support, these specific companioning strategies can help ease the pain of this most sensitive situation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jane Heustis, RN, is the Pathways Perinatal Loss Support Coordinator at Methodist Hospital and the parish nurse at Irvington United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. She lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. Marcia Meyer Jenkins, RN, is a childbirth educator and perinatal bereavement coordinator at St. Francis Hospital and parish nurse at Russellville Community Church in Russellville, Indiana. She lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. Alan D. Wolfelt, PhD, serves as the director of the Center for Loss and Life Transition. He writes the "Children and Grief column for Bereavement Magazine and has appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show, Larry King Live, and Today. He is the author of *Healing a Teen's Grieving Heart*, *Healing Your Grieving Heart*, and *Understanding Your Grief*. He lives in Fort Collins, Colorado.

As the mother of a stillborn child, my wish is that all caregivers on the L&D floor - doctors, nurses, technicians, social workers, even housekeeping - will read this book to equip themselves with the knowledge and compassion to help guide a family through one of the most devastating experiences of their lives. I was blessed that the people who took care of me followed this standard of care, and it made a huge difference in my ability to heal and to survive the depths of my grief. (I unfortunately know too many families who were not that lucky.) If you are a caregiver to bereaved parents, thank you for all you do - and you definitely won't regret picking up this book.

I read this as part of the Stillbirth Doula curriculum. I am a better person and doula for it. It really digs deep into the real journey of walking with these families. As a bereaved mother myself, I truly think this is a must read.

I received this book about a month ago and finished reading it within just a few days. The authors are writing specifically for nurses and others who will be companioning families when they lose a baby in the hospital. I see this as being applicable for doulas as well. As a doula who assists women who have lost children prior to delivery, it is nice to have guidance and ideas about how I can help the family make this the most gentle, loving situation possible given the sad circumstances. But as a doula, I help bridge the transition from home to hospital back to home- this book does not cover everything that would be helpful in my work, but it doesn't propose to. As a resource for how to companion families experiencing perinatal loss in the hospital, this book is second to none. Recommending it for a perinatal loss doula training I am helping to design. All the best...

I like to joke that this is the book I would have written if I weren't too lazy to do it. I work in this field and recognize that this introduction is pivotal for those new to providing Perinatal Loss support and helpful for those who consider themselves seasoned in this care. It is the only book I know of that speaks so specifically to professional bedside caregivers and introduces very hard topics in very safe and helpful ways. If you are an MD, RN, SW or Chaplain and Maternity / Newborn care is part of your responsibility then you need to get a copy. When you are done, pass it around work.

I came across this book while preparing to present a 3-hour perinatal loss seminar for doulas as a part of a continuing education program. The class was about loss and how doulas can support families. While I have over 18 years of experience working with families the word "companioning" was very new to me. I read the book from cover to cover and it really helped me frame my

presentation and gave me some new insights into how we can support grieving families. I recommend this book to anyone working with child bearing families.

If you are a Birth worker or have a friend or family member experiencing the loss of a baby, this book is an excellent resource. I hope you never need it.

I read this book as part of my birth and bereavement doula training through stillbirthday and I was amazed at this book. Where has this book been hiding!? Any provider who has contact with bereaved families should read this book. It gives such great advice on how to approach families and walk alongside them after losing their baby. I think this book should be mandatory for all those caring for bereaved parents!

I am a doula and found this book very helpful and informative since loss can occur at any time. I think every hospital worker (nurse, dr, doula, even the secretaries and janitors/housekeeping staff) should read this book, it will improve the hospitals standard of care and help women (and families) experience healing after loss.

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