

'A brave and uplifting meditation on how important it is to make peace and meaning of our lives while we still have them'

*Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat, Pray, Love**

# On Living



Life's Greatest Lessons and  
Last Thoughts from the Dying

KERRY EGAN



Kerry Egan

## On Living: Dancing More, Working Less and Other Last Thoughts



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A hospice chaplain's lessons on the meaning of life, from those who are leaving it What are the top regrets of the dying? That's what Kerry Egan, a hospice chaplain, learned as she paid attention to her patients on their deathbeds, witnessing what she phone calls the "This isn't a book about dying - it's a book about living. In this reserve she recalls the tales she heard - stories of hope and regret, shame and pride, mystery and revelation, and secrets kept too long. - the work of finding or producing meaning of one's life, the experiences it included and the people who have touched it. spiritual work of dying" Each of Egan's sufferers taught her something; in this shifting and beautiful reserve, she imparts their poignant and profound lessons on how to live a life without regrets.



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To the Fullest Kerry Egan's *ON LIVING* is exactly what the title says, a memoir about how exactly to live. While she is a chaplain and works together with people who are typically in hospice treatment and leaving this world, in this magnificent publication, she shares incredibly moving stories from sufferers who made an impression on her, whose words prompted her to speak about, not ways to die gracefully, but ways to live meaningfully. That is a book for everyone. Although some might judge her unfavorably for this episode, I discover in it an intellectual honesty and empathy that has to make her a great chaplain. "The stories that she shares are vastly different as are the people with whom she spent time with. An important message that Egan is trying to mention is that dying folks are exactly like us, "they simply happen to be doing something we've never done. Luckily, it's shrinking speed is sluggish in these remaining moments. It wasn't." *ON LIVING* is comforting, it is a shining light, it is the grandparent's terms that you heard when you were too little to appreciate them, it is the sage whispers that remind you, this is one way I would like to live. An urgency forever *On Living* is Kerry Egan's recounting of tales told to her by hospice patients during her years as a chaplain. I found it readable and participating in relating the wisdom and recovery Ms Egan discovered from listening to what people with little time left had to state. Their stories are occasionally heart-rending, sometimes tragic, sometimes funny, but never morbid. While it will make the open-minded reader think about confronting death, this publication, because the title indicates, is actually about confronting life. Therefore all they do and say assumes an urgency that we should mark. I simply bought the Kindle edition of the book on July 1st, and yet I can't remember at all how I came across it. The stories in this publication remind us that we're all facing specific death. These dark passages are balanced, however, with commentary educated by her Harvard Divinity School education and the enlightenment she requires from her individuals' tales. Certainly, her knack for squeezing meaning from encounter infused her first publication, *Fumbling* (her tale of hiking the 500 mile Camino de Santiago in northern Spain), and kept me scanning this one. Though it concerns dying, *On Living* will not dwell on death. It displays those who are dying as carrying on, and also they can, with their last day. Many take convenience from religion, but some don't. An extremely thought provoking book. Where they are not the same as people not in a hospice, Ms Egan tells us, is usually that they understand their time is brief. Ms Egan is unflinchingly honest in relating the encounters of her sufferers and of her work trying to help them. Ms Egan's chapters are essays on themes associated with the experiences of one or more patients. Amazing book! Frequently, she makes a quick identification with a individual's views. For instance, when one impressed upon her that since life is all tones of gray, we shouldn't get hung through to rules. From *Fumbling* to *On Living*, we see the maturation of the youthful Camino pilgrim in to the experienced, enlightened, hospice chaplain. Whether you have dropped someone vital that you you or not really, this book explains the virtues of not looking forward to that last breath you are going to take and informing those you like what you wanted to say when you ought to have said it, not trying to state you're sorry to somebody whose health is failing when it is too late, and learning the energy of forgiveness, which Egan says to do second, "while there is still time to do the actual work that's involved in searching for and granting forgiveness and coming to some reconciliation. It really makes her a compelling writer. (Also the occasional High School or Ship's reunion. I think they enhance the subject matter. They are explained in her incidents with the "medicine woman" and with her "guardian angel." Such passages are powerful because they come from someone not directed at supernatural themes. They don't detract from her central purpose but rather support it and emphasize existence's wonder. There is a continuum in Ms Egan's two books. Ms Egan says: "There's nothing stopping you from acting with the equal

urgency the dying experience. I do recommend, though, that you read *Fumbling* as well, so as to value Ms Egan's personal evolution. Such feeling creeps upon us once we grow older, if we're honest with ourselves. Some times when authors read their own books it doesn't work out so well, but with this writer, it turns a 10 out of 10 book into a 15 out of 10 book. This theme leavens the tales and central narrative of *On Living* and makes it a worthy reference for inspiration and personal development. Such wonder is, probably, more easily seen when dealing with distress, such as for example dying. Following that maxim resulted in her getting reprimanded for bending her job's rules. Even so, the young seeker remains, searching out the truth of life in her daily pilgrimage with a desire to talk about her insights with the world. Egan makes a great case for "looking after business" now, rather than waiting until we find out we don't have long to live. Don't let the hospice stories aspect put you off. The book's name accurately describes its theme; weeks, months, years later on that shows the true measure of love and dedication and loyalty in a person's heart."Feeling that urgency is, I think, this publication's central message. She also shows us her brush with psychosis that prompted her hospice work. You can take that as morbid, or allow it prompt you to act with an urgency forever. I sent them each a duplicate of Ms. nonetheless, "I'm quietly getting ready to die." I don't imply that in virtually any morbid, or fear-ridden sense. I love life: I fill my times with my many hobbies, friends, and family. Additionally, there are in this book (as in *Fumbling*) paranormal highlights.) And yet my world grows smaller. To die is normally a verb, like to leap, to eat, or even to laugh. I've two friends, a dad and his son. We have been friends for more the fifty years. I provide it 5 stars since it was well written, readable and provided lessons and wisdom that will help me and everyone who reads it lead a better, happier life now while we have been still healthy. His father can be dying of mesothelioma. Each of them are coping with impending death within their own, unique way. A primer for all of us I'm 81, quickly to be 82, in relatively a healthy body; My grandmother passed away in a nursing house. The son shared it with his wife, both thanked me profusely. It had been depressing to me so I understand that it had a negative effect on my grandmother. I've heard nothing at all from my old friend. I'm not really surprised: "that's his method". I enjoy tell stories. I've never lost that like. I've sailed the northern fifty percent of all the main seas and oceans, (poked my bow over the equator once or twice) been with us the world twice. Today I tell my very own tales. My one great dread is not having an market when I die.. Ms. Kerry Egan has written a masterpiece and would no doubt be widely considered as such if our society took some time out of their busy lives to have significantly more reverence towards older people and the ones with terminal ailments. She tells the dying person's tale and relates it to her very own life. I also worried that the book would be weepy. I highly recommend this book and absolutely love it. I like reading, but i even more recommend the audiobook, which will make this incredible story even richer, as the author actually reads the reserve herself! We are able to dread it or allow it spur us to a larger appreciation of existence. In the audiobook it is possible to hear the pleasure and discomfort in her voice. I love this book and also have read it many times, but if you can buy the audiobook book on Amazon's sister company, the author will read the book for you, gives deeper meaning to the words through her voice. As the title indicates, this reserve is about living, and it is about life's lessons, directed at us by the ones that are at the finish of their lives. Very often, their concerns are mainly for those they will leave behind. Enjoy these stories Absolutely enlightening! You will come away adjusting your ideas and beliefs and have your eyes and heart open to things you didn't even think of before. Vignettes from the dying Stories and reflections from the dying make up the majority of this quick browse, although the author shares her own complications. This is not the typical "wisdom of elders" or "sainthood of caregivers" we frequently find in books

about dying. Instead, she displays how ordinary people work to create meaning out of existence and death. Touching, but not sentimental or morbid, the reserve illustrates the struggle to understand waning lives. Easily worth reading. This is among the best books I've read during the past 2 yrs This is among the best books I've read previously 2 yrs. I devoured it upon receiving it and I provide it out as a gift to many friends and family. Egan writes funny, deeply honest, unpretentious tales of her interactions with dying sufferers in her capability as a hospice chaplain. Thought the topic sounds grim, death is a part of life, which book is a superb way to enter into that reality and allow it open your heart up a bit more and encourage you to think about what lifestyle means and what you are doing with your own time.! I worried that the book will be morbid. Insightful and inspiring Great read to comprehend the conversations happening at the end of lifestyle. Good takeaways and messages from the author's own life experiences and how they intersect with her patients. A must read! Bravo! A fond storage recalls my telling Uncle Remus tales to a gaggle of youngsters in the neighborhood--I was a decade old--full with mimic voices. "On Living" is in fact the perfect title for this book. Egan makes that case beautifully, with humility, compassion and understanding. Oh sure, we have been concerned for one minute, in the short term, but it's who's there at the end; this is simply not a funeral dirge. I asked one of the nurses one time what the offer was with the person next door and she told me that he was being fed painkillers through his IV continuously so it wasn't physical discomfort. Egan's book. I went to go to visit her at least 3-4 times weekly and each time that I went to visit generally there was a man nearby to her who grunted and groaned as if he were in discomfort. I wasn't surprised: that's "they're method". Kerry Egan loaded a void for those in the end stages of their lives whose family/friends could not endure to the end, for someone that they had once declared their deep and abiding "like" for. Beautifully written lessons for the living from the dying. She displays us people struggling to handle incapacity and existence's impending end. Wonderful storyteller, excellent listener The author, a hospice chaplain, writes her patients' stories at their request. Probably because, during the past calendar year, my closest friend lost her mom to dementia, my best friend of 25 years lately died of dementia and other people I love are caring for parents with dementia. Do not pass this one by. It isn't. Must read, but the audiobook is even better Amazing book! It's something people perform, not who they are. What it was, was gorgeous. Beautifully written, stories from patients beautifully informed, and wisdom from both the author and her previous patients for those of us still living. The boy was seven-years-old when our friendship started. Ms. I recommend On Living as an inspirational and thoughtful read. And by looking after business, I don't mean buying a funeral plot or a casket, but the emotional business of making ourselves right with the people we love. Definitely suggested. On Living is an interesting read! Written through the . Egan also opens up about a very hard time that she went through, which allowed her to discover stuff from another perspective, not only as the chaplain providing ease and comfort but wishing that she acquired someone to console her, know very well what she had gone through. I guess that is true for most of us. Wonderful storyteller, excellent listener. Written through the eyes of a health care chaplain, it describes the spiritual journey of a number of patients nearing death. Something about any of it just spoke to me. Humorous, shifting, and meaningful. We die the way we've lived. I had the pleasure of attending both of Kerry Egan's classes at the Event of Faith and Composing, April 2018. On Living can be an interesting read!



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