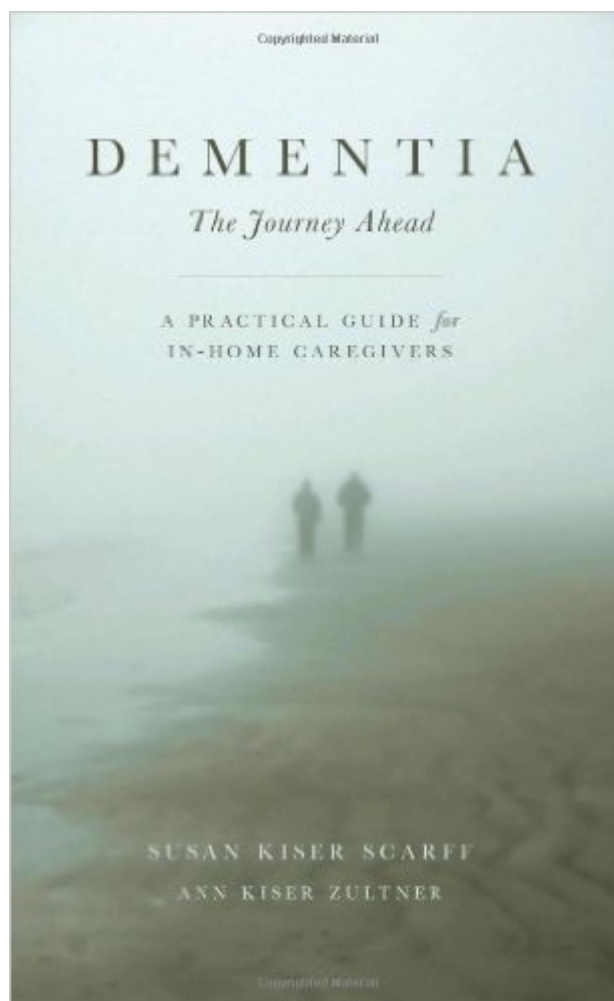


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# Dementia: The Journey Ahead - A Practical Guide For In-Home Caregivers



## Synopsis

Within a year of receiving her husband's diagnosis, Susan Kiser Scarff had a classic case of caregiver burnout. She couldn't concentrate at work. Friends drifted away. Overwhelmed, she struggled to make the transition from Red's wife to his protector, nurse, and mother. Susan's experience as a first-time caregiver, recorded in these pages with grace, wisdom, and humor, prove just how much there is to learn: finances have to be handled a different way in case the patient decides to make a lone trip to the bank; aggressive behavior is a constant threat; safety becomes a concern in every aspect of daily living. Filled with practical advice for every stage of the disease's progression, including information on support groups to help you prevent burnout, questionnaires designed to keep your loved one safe, and checklists to give you control in this time of unknowns. *Dementia: The Journey Ahead* will help you help your loved one--every step of the way.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a must for people dealing with dementia. It is the perfect guide and story of the needs and reality of those of us caring for a loved one who has this horrible disease. Susie's practical advice and sense of humor will help all caregivers to get thru this time in their lives. Besides the wonderful story the book contains an appendix of tools and resources necessary for caregivers to be familiar with. Well worth the read and a good gift for someone who needs it.

Being that I am at the start of my journey with my dear husband, I found this book extremely informational. I am sure each journey is a bit different but, this is a good blueprint of what is ahead for the caregiver as well as the patient. It was very informative, gave references of where help could be had and I feel it will be a good reference in the future as well. My strength is in my faith in God and I know he will be with both of us through this journey.

I am the daughter of a parent with dementia, it is a hard journey indeed...wouldn't wish it on anyone...have to keep your own sense of humor or you'd cry all of the time. But this does help...I appreciate the hints in here..

This book is a caregiver's Bible, dictionary, and best friend, and wish I had had it in 1990 when I started caregiving. Most caregivers learn through trial and error, mostly error. Then, in error, they find out what it's like to be a burned-out caregiver. "Dementia, The Journey Ahead" may stop burn out. Susan writes all there is to know before going blindly into caregiving. Most caregivers learn on their own, through pain, love, and heartache. "All at once, our world became very small, and we were trapped inside our own private prison. I had lost my partner and misplaced myself." The author's words. This book will show you how 'not' to become misplaced. The Author writes from step one, to the end of the journey. The section on Symptoms alone, is excellent. A tremendous amount of information in one book. Before, the caregiver had pamphlets, a number of books, and paper clippings helping them. Now, it's all in one book. This one. Anyone caring for a dementia person should have this book near them, at all times. Every doctor who deals with dementia, should have this book. Every facility dealing with dementia, should have this book, as well as their staff. All through the book, the author recommends the caregiver take care of themselves. If you cannot take care of yourself, you cannot take care of anyone else. The Safety section struck a chord with me, because everyday in the news, I read someone with dementia has wandered away from their home or a health care facility. This should not be. The poems written by Virginia Pasquarelli are beautiful. I highly recommend: Dementia, The Journey Ahead.

From someone who is looking from the outside into Dementia, I had no idea how exhausting and debilitating for patient and caregiver it can be. Sue is so resourceful in ways she used to cope with the disease. I laughed and cried when I read her extraordinary journey to hell and back with her beloved, Red. Her book has many innovative and practical ideas for a caregiver. Thanks for sharing your passage with us!

this book i feel has saved me. i was at the end didnt know where to turn. after receveing this book i cryed i laghted an was able to use the book as a guide to get throught a day. easy to read and easy to understand.susan has givin us a way to understand our loved one in a way we could not before.and to let us know that the way we feel is ok.

If you are a caregiver and have a loved one with a diagnosis of Dementia, this book is a must have.I wish I had this book 7 years ago when my wife was diagnosed with FTD. It is packed with down to earth, common sense information on how to handle the day to day task of dementia care-giving.As a caregiver who is in the middle of experiencing the problems of caring for a loved one with dementia, this was a great refresher. It reinforced a lot of what I have learned the hard way and also provided information/leads/ideas in areas I never thought of, or forgot about.The book can also save you a lot of time and money. In many situations I had to use a Geriatric Care Manager to guide me. They are expensive. For about \$12 this how-to-do-it "manual" could of solved a lot of those issues easily.Finally this book is a fast read. It's not bogged down in medical terminology, theory, and conjecture -- just plain practical advice.

This book, unlike others I have read, does not go into the "poor me's". Rather, not only does it tell of the author's journey with her husband's dementia, it also describes the ever-changing dynamics of their relationship, with patience, clarity, and highly descriptive dialogue.The most impressive part of the story, however, are the vast resources the author imparts to the reader. Wow! Not only does she have a list in the back of the book, unlike most books on the subject, she gives descriptions of what exactly these resources are. From Hospice Care to Elder Care and the like, every resource has a small to medium size description, and how it might be useful to the reader. She deals with subjects that aren't "pretty" (unlike other authors), such as incontinence, and what products she found the most useful to her and her husband Red.There are "points to remember" in almost every chapter, such as questions to ask when it may become time to place your loved one in assisted living, and what to ask a home health care agency as well. Safety features, as well as numerous other circumstances one might encounter are included as well.This is one book that is not going to be stuffed away in the corner of my library - it shall remain on the shelf in my office for easy reference and for sharing with others. Ms. Scarff, I am sorry for your loss, but it should give you some peace knowing that in writing this stellar little book, you have helped so many. Caregivers - get this book!

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