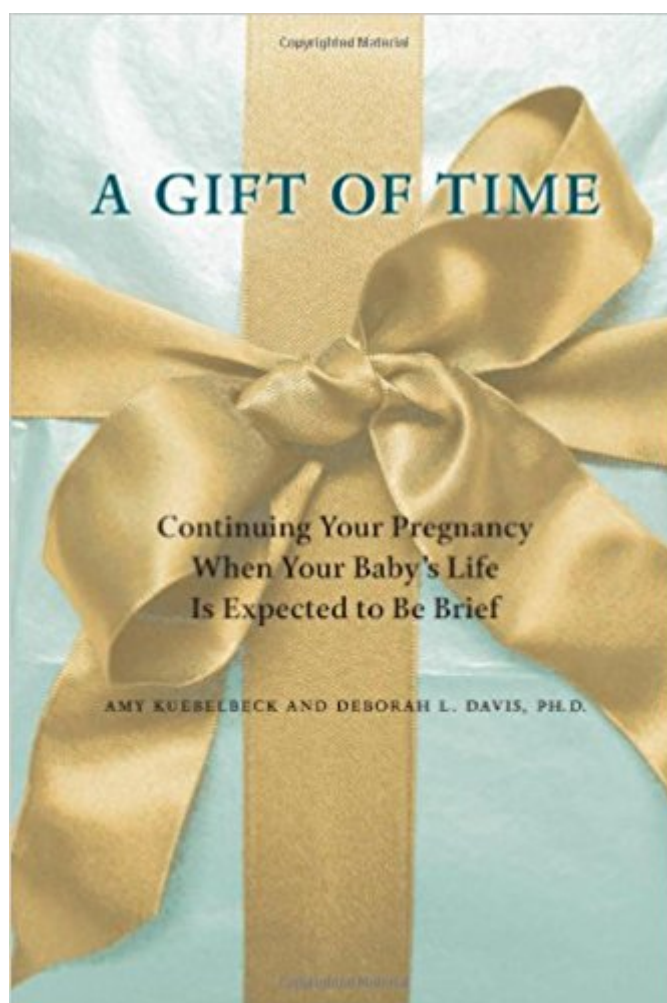


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A Gift Of Time: Continuing Your Pregnancy When Your Baby's Life Is Expected To Be Brief



Synopsis

A Gift of Time is a gentle and practical guide for parents who decide to continue their pregnancy knowing that their baby's life will be brief. When prenatal testing reveals that an unborn child is expected to die before or shortly after birth, some parents will choose to proceed with the pregnancy and to welcome their child into the world. With compassion and support, A Gift of Time walks them step-by-step through this challenging and emotional experience—from the infant's life-limiting prenatal diagnosis and the decision to have the baby to coping with the pregnancy and making plans for the baby's birth and death. A Gift of Time also offers inspiration and reassurance through the memories of numerous parents who have loved a child who did not survive. Their moving experiences are stories of grief—and of hope. Their anguish over the prenatal diagnosis turns to joy and love during the birth of their child and to gratitude and peace when reflecting on their baby's short life. Full of practical suggestions for parents and for caregivers, A Gift of Time also features the innovative concept of perinatal hospice and palliative care. Caring and thoughtful, the book helps parents embrace the extraordinary time they will have with their child.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"[A] beautifully written, touching book... It is a must-read not only for parents who find themselves facing such a heart-wrenching situation, but also for those who care for and support these families." (Share Pregnancy & Infant Loss Support)"This informative and heartbreaking book provides information to parents and families in the critical area of continuation of pregnancy in light of a

terminal diagnosis... Quotes from patients and families offer a view to help encourage, inspire, and help others feel they are not alone... The health care team can learn much from this text." (Deborah Roberts Pediatric Nursing)"Amy Kuebelbeck and Dr. Deborah L. Davis have bravely published a wonderful book... For childbirth educators, this is an important read." (Jeanine M. Estrada International Journal of Childbirth Education)"A compelling read... the book will, naturally, be most of use to families who are facing these heartbreaking situations right now and need guidance and fellowship. But for all of us who value the lives of children with special needs, especially those who society most devalues, it offers an incredibly hopeful message." (About.com)"The authors have achieved their goals in writing this book; they bring comfort to the families going through this traumatic time, and make the health care providers who read it determined to 'do better.'" (Advances in Neonatal Care)"These knowledgeable authors speak eloquently for families, parents, prospective parents, and health care professionals across many disciplines who share in the experiences of life with, and without, a hoped-for 'perfect baby.' A thread of continuity runs across the gestational journeys of real parents grappling with bad and sad news, complex interwoven lives, and the hard work of seeking to bring joy into brief, yet eternal, moments together with their babies. The book will mean so much to those who have already endured these trials as well as those who are met daily with such news." (Brian S. Carter, M.D., Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt)"My team frequently counsels families coping with the heartache of managing a fetus or child with severe malformations that result in a life-limiting condition. We offer Ms. Kuebelbeck's book to them, as many have found it a comforting resource. Her personal story and compassionate insights can help some families face the practical and emotional challenges they find along their journey." (Simon Manning, MD, Director of the Perinatal Palliative Care Program, Brigham and Women's Hospital)

Amy Kuebelbeck, a former reporter and editor for the Associated Press, wrote about her experience losing a child in *Waiting with Gabriel: A Story of Cherishing a Baby's Brief Life*. Kuebelbeck is editor of the website perinatalhospice.org and is frequently invited to speak at medical conferences across the U.S. and Canada. Deborah L. Davis, Ph.D., is a developmental psychologist and expert in the emotional aspects of neonatal medical ethics and perinatal bereavement. She is the author of *Empty Cradle, Broken Heart: Surviving the Death of Your Baby*.

I truly don't know where I'd be without the wisdom and guidance found in this book following our fatal prenatal diagnosis. I wasn't ready for the books about life after loss - I still had my daughter

and wasn't willing (or able) to "go there." This book taught me how to embrace every second and ensure we had the most meaningful experience with our daughter that we possibly could. It gently educated us on the decisions we needed to make and because of that, we have no regrets. From diagnosis to burial, this book was with me at all times. It provided a sense of comfort and knowledge that I simply couldn't be without. Thank you Amy and Deborah for this life-changing resource.

It's difficult to say "I love it" as the five stars indicate. This is a book for families who are giving birth to a baby that isn't expected to live. I cried as I read the journeys of the various families. The ending, however, brought comfort. I chose to read this book as our daughter and son-in-law are expecting a baby with a grim prognosis. This helped me understand their choice to proceed with the pregnancy and what they are going through each day of the pregnancy. I recommend this book for parents and those who love the parents who are going through a very difficult pregnancy.

A Gift of Time is, indeed, a gift to all who are continuing a pregnancy or caring for someone in this challenging situation. The stories are the heart of the book; so many perspectives, suggestions, regrets, and lessons are shared. We made this a required book on our well-crafted booklist for our Baby Loss Doula at LossDoulaInternational.com. When these parent advocates/companions reach out to help families whose babies will die, they need Amy and Debbie's advice and the wise stories within the book, to help them learn how to give support, guidance and help with creating their Birth Plan or Vision. A Gift of Time helps ease the burden of how to plan for and meet special babies who are destined to die. There is no point in reinventing wheels, why not start with what others have done and work from there when one is heading toward such deep and important decisions? One of the resources that can in turn help with Birth Planning and the decisions ahead, is the book *Empty Arms: Coping with Miscarriage, Stillbirth, and Infant Death*. It is a gentle, practical, self-help guide to the hospital time and beyond. *Empty Arms: Coping After Miscarriage, Stillbirth and Infant Death*. Sherokee Ilse

I read this while pregnant with my daughter who had a fatal disease. Invaluable, validating, gentle and encompassing multiple perspectives. Such a treasure for someone going through something like that, its hard to know what to do or where to turn. This book has great insight.

Wonderful book for those expecting a difficult pregnancy. My son only lived for a couple of days and this book helped me handle the pain and gave me the ideas on how to make the most of what little

time we had. Instead of being sad and wasting my son's life mourning, we were able to celebrate it and enjoy the precious time we were given.

This beautiful book tells the stories of mothers and fathers who were transformed by their love to their child; even if their child only lived a few minutes. This is a very touching book. Highly recommended to every person who likes to develop himself / herself reading books. It is a must read for expecting parents of children with life limiting malformations. It is a must read too for the family members and friends of these parents. One of the most moving books I ever read. Five stars.

This is a beautiful book for those struggling with a baby that was given a terminal diagnosis. My baby was diagnosed with trisomy 13 at 20 weeks gestation. It gives such heartfelt, honest advice from a collective group of parents. Their stories help guide you through this journey and let you know that you are not alone! I will keep this book for forever!

This book is a must have for those who are carrying to term despite a poor or fatal diagnosis with their unborn child. I wish I had this book while I was pregnant as it has so much helpful information for the different stages in the pregnancy and beyond. I read this book after I lost my daughter and it brought me to tears remembering my time with her. I know this book will be helpful to anyone who needs it.

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