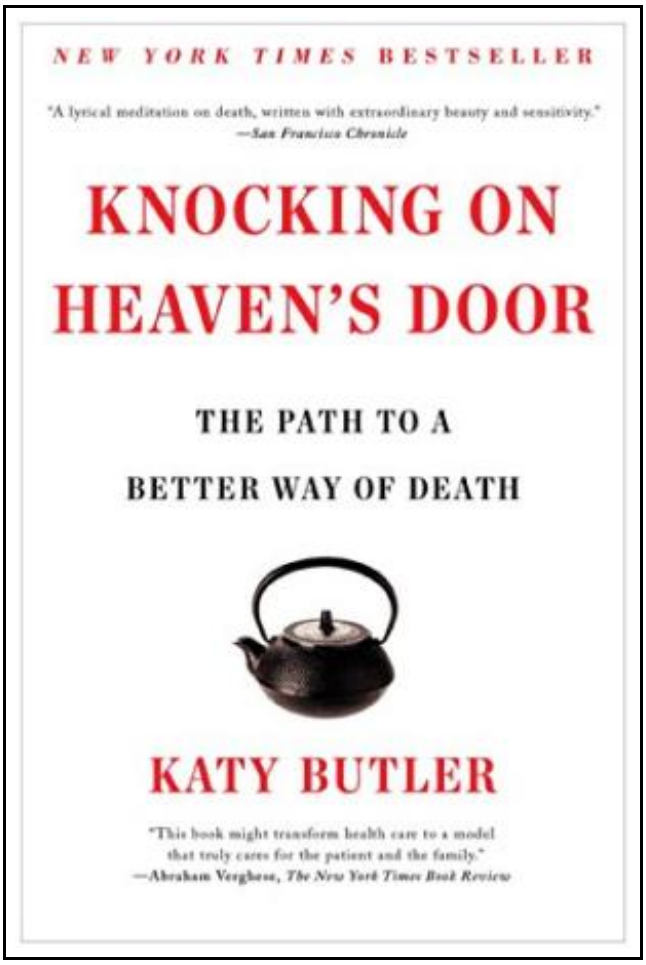
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KNOCKING ON HEAVEN'S DOOR: THE PATH TO A BETTER WAY OF DEATH

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Scribner. 1 Paperback(s), 2013. soft. Book Condition: New. (Books for a Better Life Award Winner and a Finalist for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize) In one of the most talked-about books of 2013, Katy Butlera science writer as well as a lay-ordained Buddhisthere expands her 2010 New York Times Magazine article "What Broke My Father's Heart: How a Pacemaker Wrecked a Family's Life," which won top awards from the National Association of Science Writers and the Association of Health Care Journalists. When does death stop being a curse and become a blessing? Where is the line between saving a life and prolonging a dying? And why does modern medicine deny individuals and families the right to make those choices? Five years after retired Wesleyan University professor Jeffrey Butler suffered a debilitating stroke, Katy Butler faced the reality that the father she had so admired was living in anguish as his mind succumbed to dementia but his pacemaker kept his body living on. Meanwhile her mothera successful portrait photographer and illustrator, and still "lucid and bright as a sword point"was sacrificing every day of her remaining life as her father's full-time caregiver. Butler traces the tangled web of technology, medicine, and commerce that dying has become, and chronicles the rise of Slow Medicinea movement that promotes care over curein the effort to reclaim the "good deaths" that our ancestors prized."[An] unflinching look at America's tendency to overtreat [that] makes a strong case for the 'slow medicine' movement, which recognizes that 'dying can be postponed, but aging cannot be cured'."Mother Jones"This is a book so honest, so insightful and so achingly beautiful that its poetic essence transcends even the anguished story that it tells. Katy Butler's perceptive intellect has probed deeply, and seen into the many troubling aspects of our nation's inability...

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