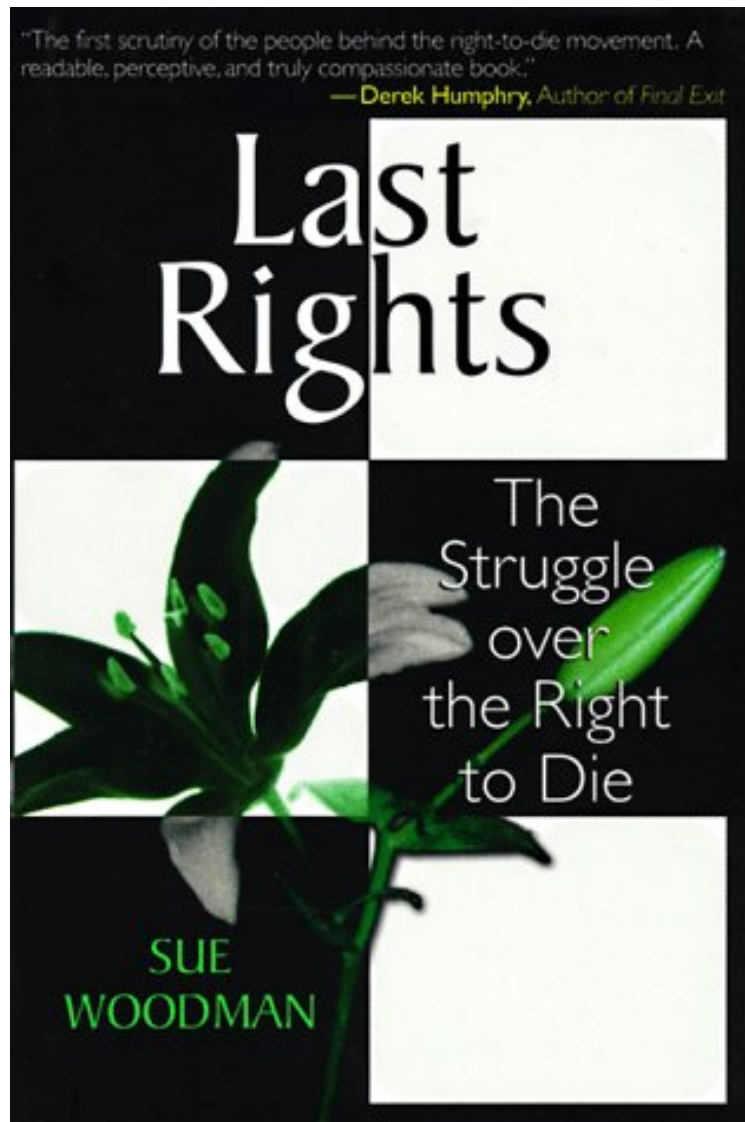


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## Last Rights

Sue Woodman

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**Sue Woodman : Last Rights** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Last Rights:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A JOURNALIST REVIEWS THE RIGHT-TO-DIE MOVEMENT By James L. Park Sue Woodman Last Rights: The Struggle over the Right to Die (New York: Plenum, 1998) 293 pages (ISBN: 0-306-45995-7; hardcover) (Library of Congress call number: R726.W655 1998) Sue Woodman is a journalist, who has read deeply in the history of the right-to-die movement. She summarizes the well-known cases that attracted media attention. And she illustrates the need for the right-to-die in the lives of several people

who were forced to live too long. When this book was written, Dr. Jack Kevorkian was the most famous person in the right-to-die movement. Serious doubts were raised about some of the deaths he assisted. Should physicians help their patients to die? Doctors come down on both sides of this question. Disabled people usually reject any talk of the right-to-die because they fear that they will be forced into death because able-bodied people think their lives are not worth living. Opponents of the right-to-die can cite many cases in which people died before their time. Mistakes and abuses can and do occur under the name of the right-to-die. The Roman Catholic Church is one of the best-organized and best-funded opponents of the right-to-die. And yet, even Roman Catholic morality allows withdrawal of life-supports. This book is mostly of historical interest now, since there have been several important developments since the middle 1990s. But Sue Woodman tells us the stories and introduces us to some of the people from the early years of the right-to-die movement. If you would like to see other books on these themes, search the Internet for: "Books on the Right-to-Die". James Leonard Park, advocate of the right-to-die with careful safeguards. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Unflinching, sympathetic, beautifully written. By A Customer This detailed look at the right-to-die movement is as impressive for its compassion as it is for its scope. As medical advances offer the possibility of longer life even in the shadow of grave illness, questions about patients' choices and quality of life become more and more relevant to all of us. Woodman has done her homework and summarizes the principle viewpoints concisely -- and always with deep sympathy both for the dying and their care-givers. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. If you read only right-to-die book this year, choose this! By A Customer Last Rights is a comprehensive and insightful examination of the right to die movement in the United States and around the world. Filled with personal details not found in other books. Not concerned with merely repeating "politically correct" versions of events. It is a valuable new addition to "end-of-life" literature.

Second only to abortion for its incendiary power, the right to die is hotly debated by lawmakers, medical ethicists, and editorial writers across the country. It is a profound issue of conscience and quality of life that directly touches anyone who has had a terminally ill friend or family member, or who has a chronic or terminal illness themselves. Yet, although it involves the most intimate of life's questions, the issue is often sensationalized in the media and manipulated by political interest groups. What is really at stake for people who urgently claim the right to die? And for those who insist we should never knowingly bring on death?

About the Author Sue Woodman is a freelance journalist who specializes in health and social issues for a number of national magazines including Allure, New Woman, Ms., and McCalls. She also writes features for U.S. and British publications such as The Nation, The Independent of London, and the Manchester Guardian. For many years Woodman was a New York correspondent for BBC domestic and world service radio and UNICEF radio worldwide.