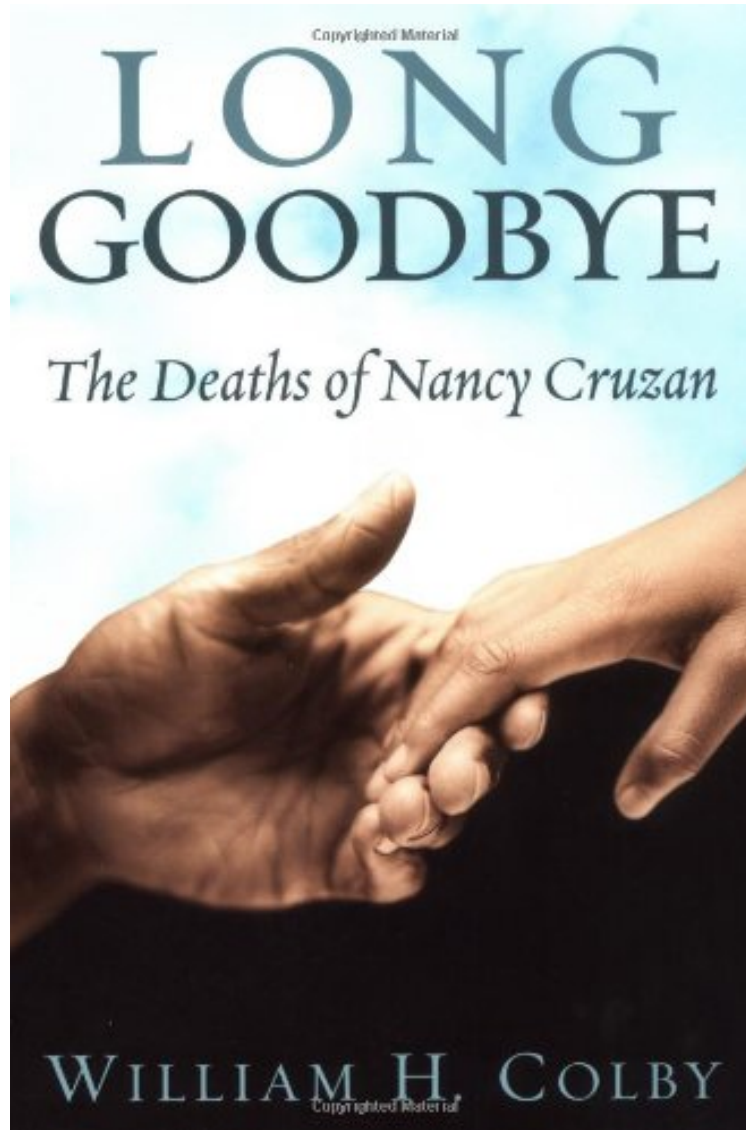


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Long Goodbye: The Deaths of Nancy Cruzan

William H. Colby

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William H. Colby : Long Goodbye: The Deaths of Nancy Cruzan before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Long Goodbye: The Deaths of Nancy Cruzan:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best argument for a living willBy hutchBest argument for a living will!!!! No family should have to go through this. In Oklahoma if you are in a hospital that will not honor your wishes, they must move you to a faculty that will.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is a must read for literally everyone - if for no other reason than to start a discussion with your loved onesBy Jennifer SandersAs much

of an interesting and well written legal drama as this book is, the real benefit to the book is the natural discussion that it leads to regarding what you would want to happen to you if you were unable to make decisions for yourself...a conversation everyone should have BEFORE something tragic happens. Understanding and seeing close up what these decisions do to friends and family where no directive has been given is imperative, and this book does a fantastic job of that. While ultimately sad, heartbreaking, frustrating, anger-inducing...this topic applies to everyone regardless what side of the fence you are on. Simply put, a must read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Who should determine when death will come? By Rebecca J This book addresses the very difficult issue of allowing death to come when medical science creates a body in a permanent vegetative state. It is well written from the perspective of the attorney who represented the family of Nancy Cruzan in this heart-wrenching story. I've read it once and plan to read it again. I highly recommend!

As the trial over her fate rages in a stately old courtroom in southwestern Missouri, the unmistakable voice of Ted Koppel tells the nation about Nancy Cruzan "This is, at one and the same time, one of the simplest and one of the most complicated stories with which we have ever dealt." *Long Goodbye: The Deaths of Nancy Cruzan* follows an ordinary family's extraordinary journey to the United States Supreme Court. The book looks behind the scenes at the painful human cost exacted in a highly public legal battle. It is the true story of an American tragedy a tragedy that could visit any of us in an instant. On a black January night Nancy Cruzan's 20-year-old Rambler flies off the road and travels the length of two football fields before flipping to a stop. Nancy is thrown out face down on the cold ground, apparently dead. But not quite. Five years later, Nancy has not emerged from her coma, and her family makes the grim request that the state hospital remove Nancy's feeding tube, which the family authorized years before when hope remained. But the state refuses, and the battle begins. Before the battle is over, powerful forces in society will team up to oppose the family including the Missouri Attorney General, Missouri Governor John Ashcroft, United States Solicitor General Ken Starr, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Near the end, protestors from around the country converge on Missouri, and attempt to storm the hospital. Their fight reaches its climax, and resolution, shortly after midnight on a bitter cold Christmas Day. This blue-collar family keeps one goal from beginning to end trying to do what they know in their hearts their loved one would want them to do. In the process, they help to raise the consciousness of a nation, and "free countless Americans of some of the fears attending death," according to the *New York Times*.

From Booklist In 1987, as a young lawyer, Colby took as his first case what appeared to be a simple probate issue-- guardianship rights of the parents of a young woman who was in a persistent vegetative state after being severely injured in a car accident. Because the Cruzans wanted to remove their daughter's feeding tube, the case generated a firestorm of publicity and protests from right-to-lifers. Drawing on the taped recollections of Cruzan's father and his own records, Colby chronicles the stark human drama of a family forced to live its most intimate moments in the courts and the media. He tracks the case from its beginning in probate court in a small town in Missouri to the U.S. Supreme Court. After three years of litigation and seven years spent in a vegetative state, Cruzan was finally permitted to die. This is a truly riveting look at the case that sharpened public debate about the medical and legal issues surrounding brain death and the right to die with dignity. Vanessa Bush Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "A righteous,.... riveting, and often moving legal tale. Bill Colby takes you on a wiiiiild journey." -- James Ellroy, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *L.A. Confidential* About the Author Bill Colby is the General Counsel for Truman Medical Centers, a multi-hospital safety net health system in Kansas City. He is also the lawyer who represented the family of Nancy Cruzan in their family's right-to-die case, the first such case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. Bill has appeared on *Larry King Live*, CNN, NPR, *Good Morning America*, *Frontline*, *Today*, and other national programs, and has spoken across the country on the ethical and legal issues related to death and dying. His second book, *Unplugged: Reclaiming Our Right to Die in America* (AMACOM 2006), won the 2007 AMWA Medical Book Award Gold Medal in the "Trade" Category. He lives in Prairie Village, Kansas.