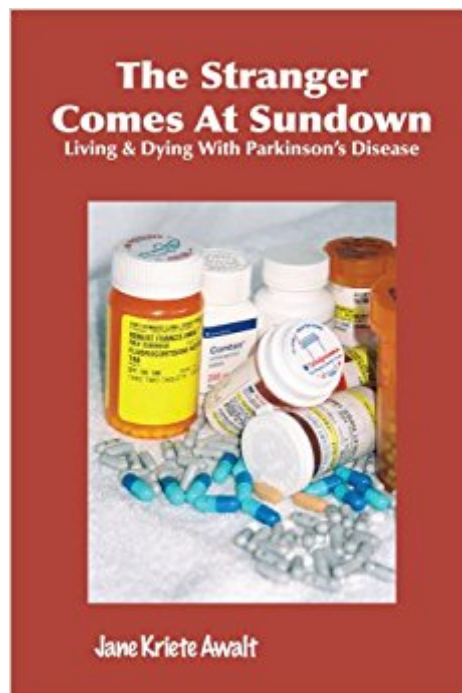




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# The Stranger Comes At Sundown: Living And Dying With Parkinson's Disease



## Synopsis

More than 1,000,000 people in the United States are living, struggling, and dying with Parkinson's Disease 50,000 more are diagnosed in this country every year. A personal journal of one family's struggle with the progression of Parkinson's Disease. One can understand the medicine and the treatment for this devastating disease, but nothing prepares one for living & dying with Parkinson's; this journal takes the reader by the hand as this disease takes control of one man's life. Proceeds donated to The Johns Hopkins Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This diary reveals the day-to-day and year-to-year struggles faced by those with Parkinson's disease and their caregivers. Despite significant advances in our understanding and treatment of Parkinson's disease, this graphic glimpse into the effects of the disease emphasize the great need for more research and better therapies, especially those with the potential to stop, reverse, or at least slow its progression. Caregivers will find this book to be a valuable source of information, strength, and inspiration. We are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Awalt for sharing their experiences. --Stephen G. Reich, M.D., Professor of Neurology, The Clair Zamoiski Segal and Thomas H. Segal Professor of Parkinson's Disease, Co-director, The Maryland Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center, The University of Maryland School of Medicine Jane Awalt's book on her life as a caregiver for her husband Bob Awalt and his battle with Parkinson's disease allows great insight into the disease and its affect on both the patient and the family and the

spouse which is especially important for those half-million families affected by this progressive and relentless disease. This book will be especially useful for all of those affected by Parkinson's Disease. Her observations and tips will be especially useful to Parkinson's patients and their families. --Christa Arnold-Manning, Ph.D., Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication, University of Florida

Jane Awalt has written a poignant and powerful account of her life as a dedicated caregiver during the last two years of her husband's life. This work from the heart will be invaluable for two significant reasons. First and foremost, numerous caregivers, upon reading this, will know that they are not alone, and furthermore this text will draw attention to the plight of the 34 million caregivers in our nation. Of equal importance, Jane Awalt's journal provides honest insight into the daily struggles of a person living with Parkinson disease and their caregiver as they deal with a relentless progressive disease. Sage medical professionals, health policy experts, and caregiver advocates will deepen their knowledge by reading this work. --Becky Dunlop, RN, The Johns Hopkins Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center

Jane Awalt, married to Robert Awalt for 60 years, shares her personal journal of living and dying with her husband's disease as a gift to others, helping us understand the stages and progression of this devastating illness. Bob's story unfolds slowly like the disease, often taking startling turns and twists. The author was a stay-at-home mom, taking care of two children. She volunteered at schools, libraries, and historical societies. She volunteered at the DAR library in Washington, DC, as a docent for many years and assisted the genealogists in verifying supplemental papers for their members. She and her husband worked at the Baltimore County Historical Society for eight years assisting patrons with genealogy research. She and her husband indexed five ledgers from the old St. James Church in Baltimore for the Catholic Archives. She also completed three years of applications for membership in the patriotic organization Daughters of Colonial Wars. She has documented thirty lines of her ancestors arriving in Virginia before 1700.

The raw, true tale of a loving caregiver for her husband with Parkinson's Disease. As a caregiver of one with PD myself, it made me reflect on how I'm caring for my beloved, made me ache for this lady who didn't know about Sundowners, and wonder at her great inner strength. I also laughed about her occasional soaking baths and glasses of wine. I sooo can relate! The honesty of Mrs. Awalt regarding the debilitating psychological side of Parkinson's Disease that is so rarely and openly spoken of is very refreshing. It is, in my estimation, much more of a hardship on the relationship and caregiving, in general, than the physical aspects of the disease, which is the focus

of most doctors, including neurologists. I guess it is something they can see for themselves, where often our beloveds tend to perform well in doctor's office when called to the task until the disease is very advanced.

Tough book to read, a tough life to live...as a caregiver to a spouse who has dementia. But for those associated with such victims of Parkinsons--and other dementia situations--it needs to be read.

very depressing for someone who has Parkinson

This book was very helpful. My husband has Parkinson's and this book enlightened me on several issues and concerns about the disease.

I want to thank the author. I'm going through exactly what she experienced and it is so good to know that I'm not alone. My husband and I have been great friends but this awful time is often overwhelming.

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