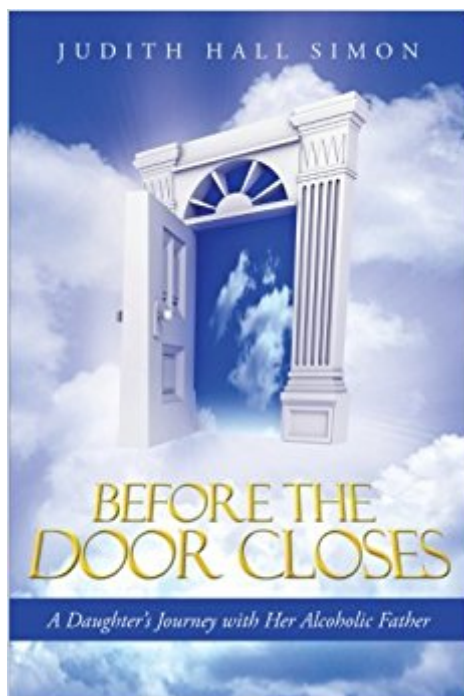


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# Before The Door Closes: A Daughter's Journey With Her Alcoholic Father



## Synopsis

Mind-altering drugs shackle her father to dementia. As if it were a holding pen for rotting trash, authorities in the nursing home system dispensed him to that dark cell. For the second time in their lives, Judy desperately searches for the answer to free her father. While growing up in an alcoholic environment, she struggled to find what drove him to drink. She was sure if she found it she could cure her father of alcoholism and make everyone happy. Judy finds the liberating key to his present imprisonment, but she cannot turn the lock until she revisits and reveals the shameful secret carefully and faithfully guarded for decades. While doing so, she confronts her fears and emotional wounds carved within a dysfunctional family. That is not enough, though, to rescue him, for the two are now ensnared by an unfamiliar adversary—nursing home neglect and abuse—that Judy must battle every day for her defenseless father. Through it all she longs for him to believe he is and always was important, worthy, loved. Are you a child of an alcoholic? a caregiver of the elderly? a seeker of love's passages? This heart-gripping story shares pain and victory. "Before the Door Closes is very well written and revealing of the pains and triumphs of Judith Hall Simon's journey with an alcoholic father. While reading this book I felt that I was reading the journey of only one person not two. Judith reveals just how overwhelming an alcoholic father can be and how one's identity can be taken over by an alcoholic parent. Her book teaches and touches at the same time. I recommend it to the millions of adult children of alcoholics and to those who love them. Nice work!" ROBERT J. ACKERMAN, Ph.D., author of Perfect Daughters and a co-founder of the National Association for Children of Alcoholics

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Akin to all adult children nurtured in dysfunctional families, Judith Hall Simon deals with clinging childhood pain and relationship issues. She meets these head-on while fighting to protect her alcoholic father from nursing home neglect and abuse. The author lives with her husband, beagle, and tortoiseshell cat in Katy, Texas.

The sub-title is a daughter's journey with her alcoholic father. But this book is about more than one person. It's a window into the family of an alcoholic. It's a window into the treatment of the elderly, of those who can no longer fend for themselves. It's a judgement on the easy way out (prescribing drugs) or the hard way (finding the problem, changing other variables first). It's a story of love and forgiveness. And sacrifice - love in action. I'd recommend it for anyone, but especially for those who have aging parents or grandparents. Some books speak directly to your heart - this is one of them.

This was a well done recounting of a family's struggle with a father to his death at 93. The details of his care in nursing homes is recounted in deep detail. Monitoring his care required unbelievable knowledge of drugs in order to minimize mistakes in administering. The cost of nursing home care is unbelievable. It appeared to me that his Quality of life was very poor in his last years, despite the love and attentiveness of Judy, his eldest. Judy devoted her life to her father in these last years. Thanks for email she was able to keep her siblings informed in great detail. Her husband, Jim, also helped greatly in caring for his father in law. This story is an eye opener for me about nursing home care. The nursing home staff have a difficult demanding monotonous job subject to mistakes attending to the many details of caring for the elderly and dealing with family of the patients. Great book!

I was super excited to read this book, because it was written by my BFF's mom, Mrs. Simon. I was truly touched to see her journey with her dad and learn about her resilience, love and commitment which was strengthened by the power of the Christ. Her battle against nursing home neglect and abuse MUST be brought out to the WORLD and there need to be a huge social reform regarding how to take care of elderly in this society. In the end, Mr. Hall is a blessed man because he had her as his beloved daughter. I hope this book will give encouragement especially to those who are taking care of elderly and have neglected childhood

experiences.

What an incredible story of perseverance and dedication. This is not just a book for children of alcoholics or those caring for the elderly. This book crosses many barriers. I believe everyone could find their own struggles woven into this dynamic story. The story line is woven so seamlessly that it was hard to put down. I am already looking forward to any other books from Judith Hall Simon.

The book hits home to living with an alcoholic father. The author did not hold back with her feelings and thoughts, which living in the same era as the author you never shared your dirty laundry, everything was a secret. You sit and say omg that's how I felt. I could not put the book down.

Like the previous commenter, I could not put the book down. Judith wrote put her heart in this book, and her ability as a writer made it a joy to read. The fact this book is real, that it is her memoirs, makes it valuable at an extra level. What would be simply superbly written realistic fiction, -had the book not been based on her reality-, became a testimony of her life, and a most vivid account of the cares and joys the elderly bring to their families, and the challenges they face at hospitals and nursing homes. Judith knows how to take pain and turn it into compassion and love. Her understanding and love for the English language results in an uncommonly engaging style. I say uncommon because Judith writes "old style", like those classic writers of the past knew. She takes you to her childhood, and to her heart with her adjectives and piercing sentences. She saw her father's decaying health and need for care as a once in a life opportunity to heal as a daughter and a sister, and she brought love and passion to her siblings. I am glad I met her father and her family through this book. A most valuable book, informative, and a pleasure to read. It was surprisingly engaging for me, I never thought the topic of her book will be so interesting, and it was. Thanks for writing this book, Judith. You had a story to tell, and I am glad we can now read it.

The best writers do more than communicate. They transport us into their world. Mrs. Simon has that very rare gift. I am thankful that she chose to share it with all of us. This was an eye-opening book into the hidden world of caring for the elderly and the shame that comes with a family member struggling with alcoholism. Her daily struggle to get a nursing homes in a major metropolitan area to maintain even basic care of her father was heart-wrenching and shocking. The de-valuing of life in our society is the root of it. But the book is so much more than that. She wove the struggle with her ailing father in with stories of her past anguish with her alcoholic father. I seriously could NOT PUT

THE BOOK DOWN. Her writing style was so pleasing despite the heavy topic. Bring us more!

It seems wrong to say I enjoyed reading, "Before the Door Closes". What kind of person am I that I would enjoy reading about someone else's pain. Truthfully, what I enjoyed was Judith's style of writing. As I began reading the Introduction I felt as if I was being invited in to observe her journey. However, I found out it wasn't enough to observe. My mind and my heart became involved as I read about her, her father, her family and the medical community. I hurt for the child who lived with alcoholism, ready to blame the alcoholic. But Judith doesn't allow the reader to do that. No, instead I found myself enraged at the medical care he had to endure. "Before the Door Closes" is about more than one subject, which is what keeps it so interesting. I highly recommend it to everyone to read. I think all readers would discover something about themselves by their reaction to this story that spans many years.

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