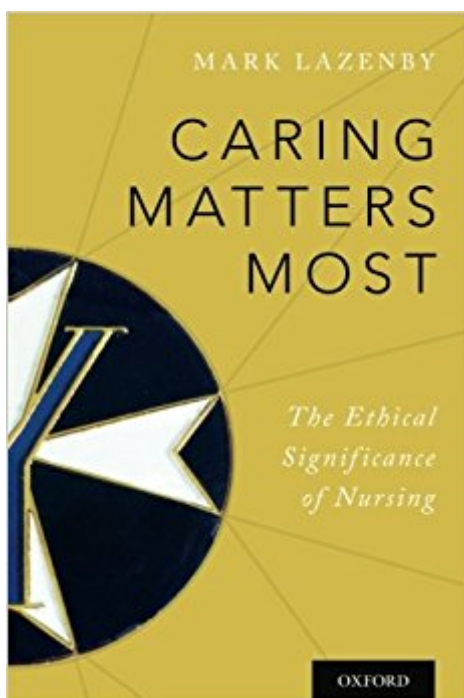


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# Caring Matters Most: The Ethical Significance Of Nursing



## Synopsis

Through an exploration of the ethical nature of nursing, *Caring Matters Most* asserts that the act of nursing itself embodies goodness. Nurses can develop this moral character in themselves by cultivating five habits: trustworthiness, imagination, beauty, space, and presence. Practicing these habits will sustain nurses as they meet the challenges of the workplace, the threat of automation, and the incivilities that arise within the nursing community. The volume concludes with thought-provoking discussion questions and exercises designed to help nurses apply concepts in the classroom or in practice. Each chapter combines highly readable explanations of moral theory with real-life examples that can guide nurses in day-to-day practice. *Caring Matters Most* is an ideal resource for academic or practicing nurses interested in healthcare ethics or philosophy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Mark Lazenby is right: Caring matters most. Yet we find ourselves in a rapidly changing health care system that seems more chaotic, stressful and uncaring than ever before--and in a society that continues to devalue caring as the foundation of health and healing. This book holds the promise for ensuring that nurses are outspoken advocates for bringing the elements of caring into our health care organizations, systems, and policies. For both new and seasoned nurses who are concerned about the "business" of health care pushing out nurses' essential role and moral obligation to care for and about individuals, families and communities, *Caring Matters Most* is essential reading. It is also essential reading for anyone concerned about whether our health care system and those who

work in it understand how to make caring our primary mission. If we don't, we are lost." -Diana J. Mason, PhD, RN, FAAN, Senior Policy Service Professor, George Washington University School of Nursing "This "little book" details the big ideas that form the foundation of the nursing profession. It is a must read for those new to the profession and those long in the profession alike. In simple but powerful prose Mark Lazenby reminds us why we nurse and what it means to be a nurse." -Judith B. Krauss, MSN, RN, FAAN, Dean and Professor Emerita, Yale University, School of Nursing "A crucial book for all nurses, novice or experienced, it made my heart sing and brought tears to my eyes. Lazenby says to be a nurse is to be 'compelled to care' and he beautifully details the ethics of that compulsion. Read Caring Matters Most to remember why we do this challenging, but ever so important, job of nursing." -Theresa Brown, PhD, BSN, RN, New York Times best-selling author of The Shift: One Nurse, Twelve Hours, Four Patients' Lives "Noble and often moving. An eloquent argument that caring, not reasoned principles, enables each of us to work towards a better world." -Richard A. Burton, MD, Author of On Being Certain: Believing You Are Right Even When You're Wrong "Many have recommended the ethics of care as an approach to nursing ethics. Lazenby has provided an excellent account of what the ethics of care actually means for practitioners of the profession. His broadly Aristotelian approach begins by describing the ethical habits of a caring nurse. His approach is fresh and interesting; personal as well as erudite. He is a philosopher, but he writes as a nurse for his fellow nurses, providing dozens of concrete examples of caring in action. A perfect book for nursing ethics students or anyone interested in the ethics of care and the healing professions." -Daniel Sulmasy, MD, PhD, MACP, Member, Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Problems "Good nursing, Mark Lazenby reminds us, needs attentive care by trustworthy nurses, which regulatory requirements and formal accountability can never replace. A humane and timely reminder." -Onora O'Neill, The Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve "Armed with a Ph.D. in philosophy, Lazenby infuses this expertise into his thought-provoking narrative, remarking on the importance of regard and mindfulness while at a patient's bedside. He presents these crucial guideposts without dry textbook jargon but instead with engaging, relevant anecdotes from patients and nurses, offering his valuable tips with encouraging motivation. In a demanding industry confounded by the complications of encroaching automation and both patient vulnerability and ever-increasing acuity, Lazenby with boundless enthusiasm and positivity seeks to inject the caregiving role with some much-needed kindness and sympathy while still attaining the professional medical standards and goals nurses strive for." -- Kirkus Reviews, May 2017

Mark Lazenby, FAAN, is an Associate Professor of Nursing at Yale University. He is an advanced

practice registered nurse and holds a PhD in philosophy.

We are fortunate Mark decided to leave philosophy and become a nurse. The combination of his unique background and his deep thoughts created this masterpiece. *Caring Matters Most* provides tremendous insight into what it feels like to be a nurse. Whether you are an aspiring or practicing nurse, this book will provide reassurance about our role and open your eyes to what a nurse truly is. I agree with Patricia Benner, after reading this book, it invigorated me to become a better nurse.

An excellent book which captures the essence of nursing in moving accounts of the nurse at work. A must read, particularly for those who espouse caring as a philosophy.

Outstanding book.

Mark Lazenby is one of the few, if not the only, advanced practice nurses writing philosophically today about the value of the nursing profession in the 21st century. His approach is rigorous and clearly grounded by his experience working with patients, particularly in the field of palliative care. As the field of advanced practice nursing continues to grow during American healthcare reform, it is vitally important that nursing students who will eventually enter the field consider and know deeply the value and implications of their practice. This is a book every nursing student and seasoned nurse should read.

I loved this book! As a new nurse now in the grind of NP school, I was inspired and reminded of the reasons why I became a nurse. The philosophical exploration and interwoven stories were both captivating and thought-provoking. Ultimately, I think this book has helped me become a better nurse. This would be a good read not only for health professionals looking to be re-inspired but also for those who have had their lives positively changed by a nurse.

Excellent book -- easy read -- very informative and practical. Highly recommend.

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