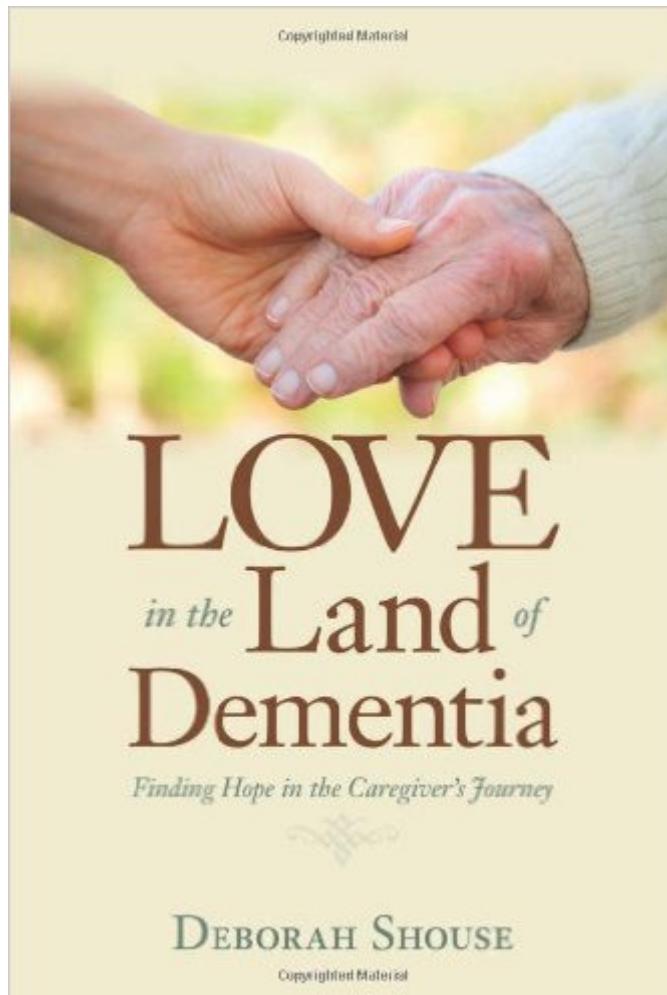


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Love In The Land Of Dementia: Finding Hope In The Caregiver's Journey



Synopsis

For many families, a diagnosis of dementia is an ending. For Deborah Shouse, it was a beginning, "My mother taught me how to celebrate and appreciate what we have right now." Through her mother's dementia, Deborah discovered compassion, deepening love, and increased connection with her mother and her family. Love in the Land of Dementia offers hope to family members, friends, and care partners of people who are living with memory loss. Strong, fluid organization and tender writing distinguish this purposeful and compelling read, which is filled with practical suggestions, compassionate support, and unexpected insights. Deborah Shouse's writing has appeared in the Washington Post, Christian Science Monitor, Reader's Digest, Newsweek, Woman's Day, Hemispheres, Family Circle, Spirituality & Health, Chicago Tribune, and Ms. She writes a weekly column on love stories for the Kansas City Star, and has co-authored Working Woman's Communications Survival Guide, which is in its fifth printing, and Antiquing for Dummies. She has written several memoirs and business books and has been featured in more than a dozen Chicken Soup books.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (18 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Reviewed by Richard R. Blake for Reader Views (10/06) "Love in the Land of Dementia" reveals Shouse's deepening love and increased connection with her mother. Deborah deals with the complex issues of loss and change in a relationship change completely through this mysterious disease. She tells of learning the need for being flexible, of acceptance, and of enjoying the

precious moments creating special celebrations to brighten the day for her mother and herself. The book also provided helpful suggestions for living with and caring for the victim of dementia. Deborah tells of deepening bonds with her mother and her family while coping with loss, anguish, self-reproach, and embarrassment. Deborah relates the occasion of her mother's eighty-seventh birthday this way, "She can't even make a birthday wish or blow out her candles. But she can lower her face to the glob of celebration nestled right in her own palm (birthday cake) and she can raise her face and laugh. 'Happy Birthday Mom' I say, kissing her messy cheek and tasting its sweetness." I, personally, am a fellow traveler on this roller coaster ride of uncertainty and frustration and was especially touched by an incident related of her father's difficulty in coping. Paul worked for some years in radio and relates his experience this way: "It's interesting enough, though far less glamorous than the average person believes. It becomes hard work day after day to fool the public into believing you're happy all the time." Deborah goes on to say, "Years later, as Mom moved more deeply into Alzheimer's, Dad replayed his radio training. He tried to fool the nurse's aides, the kitchen staff, the other families and my brother and me into thinking he was happy or at least coping.

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