

The Good Death Book List:

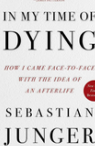
Below is a starter list of books that include themes of death, dying, and bereavement.

The memoirs included in this list pair nicely with the Memoir Analysis Essay.



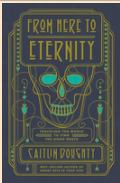
When Breath Becomes Air

The author, Paul Kalanithi, details his experience being diagnosed with stage IV metastatic lung cancer in his early 30s. This memoir explores themes of mortality, death and the healthcare system, family, grief, and legacy.



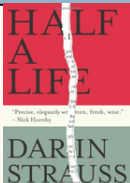
In My Time of Dying

Sebastian Junger shares his experience in a medical emergency, and explains how it shaped his life from that point on. This memoir explores near-death experiences, how death informs worldview, and the relationship between science and spirituality.



From Here to Eternity

Author Caitlin Doughty examines how various cultures across the globe interact with death and grief. The book explores how themes of culture, tradition, and community inform the process of death and grief.



Half A Life

In his memoir, Darin Strauss explores how a tragic car accident, resulting in the death of his classmate, impacts the author's life. The memoir discusses themes of accidental deaths and grief throughout the stages of life.



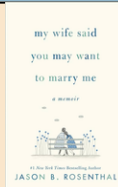
Smoke Gets in Your Eyes

Caitlin Doughty shares her journey to becoming a mortician, and what she learned about funeral industry through the process. Within this memoir, she delves into society's relationship with death and the consequences of this relationship.



Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved

Kate Bowler recounts her personal experience being diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer. Bowler's memoir includes themes of identity, religion, spirituality, and how the realization of mortality can impact one's relationship with these topics.



My Wife Said You May Want to Marry Me

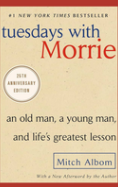
Jason B. Rosenthal writes about his experience with his wife's diagnosis, treatment, and eventual death from ovarian cancer. He details how this experience shaped his perspective of life, relationships with loved ones, and even the way he loves.

Rosenthal describes the many stages and forms of grief throughout his memoir.



Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs

Caitlin Doughty mixes humor, curiosity, and her expertise as a mortician to answer common questions about death. Throughout the book, Doughty aims to demystify and normalize death and decomposition.



The Last Lecture

The author, Mitch Albom, writes about his experience spending time with his former Morrie, his former professor. Morrie has been diagnosed with a terminal illness and the book reflects on Morrie's life focusing on the last few months. This book explores themes of acceptance of mortality and reflection on life.



The Last Lecture

After being diagnosed with terminal cancer, Randy Pausch retroactively writes about his life experiences. In his memoir, he explores themes of remembrance, legacy left for family, acceptance of imminent death, and grieving the life you won't get to live.