

## Endorsements

“I was tempted to compare Sara’s book with *Tuesdays with Morrie*, but it is much more than the story of a brief relationship in time. It is about the ever-present struggle for connection and independence between mother and daughter that may not be resolved by death, but given a new dimension. It is for everyone who has lost someone, as well as for those who have lost a part of themselves and are fortunate enough to find it again.”

—Charleen Alderfer, Ph.D., Family Therapist and Professor at the Medical College of New Jersey

“As the author of this beautifully written book says, ‘The curtain between life and death is a gossamer veil.’ With insight and honesty, Sara Corse gazes through this gossamer veil as she recounts her experiences caring for her mother, dying of cancer. Part memoir, part reflection on the meaning of life and death, this book mainly gives a moving account of her mother’s last months, but through the use of flashbacks and discursions, Corse shows how the tenderness and pain of this final illness are woven into the larger complexities of a mother-daughter relationship. Corse understands the anguish of losing a parent in the context of her own sometimes anguished struggle for a personal identity and a meaningful faith. For those facing the death of a loved one, this book will be a comfort and a help. For anyone seeking understanding in the presence of the mystery of death, this book will be a deep river of wisdom.”

—Dr. Thomas G. Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

“I recently read Dr. Sara Corse’s manuscript *Cradled all the While*. I recommend strongly the publishing of this valuable personal history on Sara’s relationship with her mother through life and the dying process. The book is well written, and psychologically very sophisticated. It is hard to put down. Sara’s description of complex relationships, her needs, and the acceptance of needs unmet, are stories to which thousands of people will relate. The working through of the emotions, desires, and wishes will be points of identification and direction for many readers.”

—Stephen R. Treat, D.Min., LMFT Director and CEO

“Sara Corse has woven a literary fabric of insight, personal growth, family interaction, and theological affirmation—all generated by the experience of her mother’s death. She is articulate and sensitive in her revelations, cradling the reader as she was ‘cradled all the while.’ This book will be of immense value to families facing death and loss, to pastors and congregations seeking

resources to heighten their sensitivity, and to seminary students who are learning to reach out with compassion and understanding to persons on their journeys of grief.”

—William V. Arnold, Ph.D., Pastor to Senior Adults, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA

“Sara Corse was initially reluctant to write this story. She thought it might not find a place on shelves already crowded with books about grief and loss. Fortunately, she listened to someone who told her there was room on the shelf for her book. I have certainly found room on my bookshelf and in my heart for a story that is about much, much more than grief and loss. Sara Corse speaks candidly and her words resonate, reaching places deep inside each one of us. She speaks to everyone who has experienced loss. This deeply moving story is rich, complex and personal. Yet, at the same time, it gently rings the reader to awareness and recognition of thoughts and feelings familiar and universal in all of us.

Sara Corse does this in an eloquent and intimate way. It feels like you are conversing with a close friend by a warm fire on a cold and icy day. Her self-deprecating humor, compassion, and wisdom radiate from the written page.

*Cradled all the While* affirms that through moments of deep sorrow and longing in an intimate relationship, like the one between a dying mother and her daughter, moments of grace, of connection, of forgiveness and understanding can also be found.

Sara Corse opens our hearts, minds and souls to the possibility of receiving and embracing these unexpected gifts. In doing so, she has given us a treasured gift. Make room on the shelf for this and others that I hope will undoubtedly follow.”

—Alicia M. Conill, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor, Dept. of Medicine and Psychiatry, Univ. of Pennsylvania Health System