

Following is a short list of books to help you get started learning about the near-death experience (NDE). Within each category, the resources appear in alphabetical order by author.

Classic

Moody, R. (1975). *Life after life*. New York: Bantam. The book that began it all. Easy reading, basic.

Moody, R. (1977). *Reflections on life after life*. New York: Bantam. A must-read companion to the previously listed book in which the author expands on information in the first book and corrects some misconceptions.

Ring, K. (1985). *Life at death: A scientific investigation of the near-death experience*. The first scientific attempt to describe the NDE itself. Most other researchers have corroborated the findings reported in this book.

Sabom, M. (1982). *Recollections of death: A medical investigation*. New York: Simon & Schuster. The first prospective study in which the author, an MD, attempted for five years to have a patient interviewed who had recovered from a near-death episode.

General/Introductory

Atwater, P. M. H., & Morgan, D. H. (2000). *The complete idiot's guide to the near-death experience*. Indianapolis, IN: Alpha Books. The potential reader who can get past the title's reference to "idiot" will find a broad, quite comprehensive general overview of the NDE consisting of a mix of fact and opinion.

Bailey, L. W., & Yates, J. (Eds.). (1996). *The near-death experience: A reader*. New York: Routledge. Comprehensive overview. Cases and interpretations from writers representing various academic disciplines.

Greyson, B. (2000). Near-death experiences. In E. Cardena, S. J. Lynn, & S. Krippner (Eds.), *Varieties of anomalous experience: Examining the scientific evidence*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. Excellent chapter on NDEs by a foremost NDE researcher who is a psychiatrist and the long-time editor of the *Journal of Near-Death Studies*. Also excellent chapters on NDE-related phenomena such as out-of-body experiences, psi experiences, lucid dreaming, past life experiences, and mystical experiences.

Ring, K., & Valarino, E. E. (1998). *Lessons from the light: What we can learn from the near-death experience*. Portsmouth, NH: Moment Point Press. The most recent, and probably last, one of the foremost near-death researchers. Addresses what non-NDEers can learn from the NDE.

Aftereffects

Atwater, P. M. H. (2001). *Coming back to life: The after-effects of the near-death experience* (rev. ed.). New York: Citadel. A mingling of observation, analysis, and metaphysical speculation. Experiencers say, "She tells it like it is" about aftereffects and experiencer reactions.

Ring, K. (1985). *Heading toward omega: In search of the meaning of the near-death experience*. New York: Quill. The classic scientific work documenting changes after a NDE.

Autobiographical/Biographical

Eadie, B. (1992). *Embraced by the light*. New York: Bantam. One of the most widely read accounts.

Farr, S. (1993). *What Tom Sawyer learned from dying*. Charlottesville, VA: Hampton Roads. An informative account about one of the participants in Ken Ring's classic research.

Ritchie, G. (1978). *Return from tomorrow*. Waco, TX: Chosen Books. A classic. The NDEr whose account inspired Raymond Moody to inquire into the phenomenon Moody eventually named the near-death experience.

Sharp, K. C. (1995). *After the light*. New York: William Morrow. An account by a social worker who also has been active in IANDS.

Several authors. *When ego dies: A compilation of near-death and mystical conversion experiences*. Houston, TX: Emerald Ink. A variety of experiencers tell about their experiences and how those experiences affected them.

Distressing

Ellwood, G. F. (2001). *The uttermost deep: The challenge of near-death experiences*. New York: Lantern. Though actually a book that addresses in general the implications of NDEs, it contains a very good chapter (#4) on, and subsequent discussion of, "painful" NDEs.

Rommer, B. (2000). *Blessing in disguise: Another side of the near-death experience*. St. Paul, MN: Llewellyn. Thorough overview of "less-than-positive" NDEs written by an M.D.

Storm, H. (2000). *My descent into death, and the message of love which brought me back*. Edinburgh, Scotland: Clairview. An autobiographical account by a pre-NDE art professor, post-NDE minister.

Diverse Populations and NDEs

Alayna. (1997). *Rag doll: A journey of healing and integration*. Suffolk, England: MM Publications (MMPublications@aol.com). Written by a woman whose NDE as an adult helped her resolve the lifelong traumatic aftereffects of childhood sexual abuse.

Dale, L. (2001). *Crossing over and coming home: Twenty-one authors discuss the gay near-death experience as spiritual transformation*. Houston, TX: Emerald Ink. Gay and lesbian NDEers describe their experiences and aftereffects.

Morse, M., & Perry, P. (1990). *Closer to the light: Learning from the near-death experiences of children*. New York: Ballantine. A classic book by a pediatrician.

Rogers, S. (1995). *Lessons from the light: Insights from a journey to the other side*. New York: Warner. An autobiographical account from a woman whose NDE occurred when she attempted suicide.

Hospice and Nearing Death Awareness

Callanan, M., & Kelley, P. (1992). *Final gifts: Understanding the special awareness, needs, and communication of the dying*. New York: Bantam. Two hospice nurses describe the experiences of dying patients.

Kircher, P. (1995). *Love is the link: A hospice doctor shares her experience of near-death and dying*. Burdett, NY: Larson. Unique perspective from an author who is, herself, a childhood NDEr.

Kübler-Ross, E. (1997 reprint ed.). *On death and dying: What the dying have to teach doctors, nurses, clergy and their families*. The classic book that raised American consciousness about death, dying, and the afterlife.

Skeptic's perspective

Blackmore, S. (1993). *Dying to live: Science and the near-death experience*. London: Grafton/HarperCollins. Explains NDEs as a product of brain function. Provocative.

NDE-Related Experiences

Cox-Chapman, M. (1995). *The case for heaven*. New York: Putnam. A thoughtful, provocative exploration of cultural presuppositions about heaven and their relationship with the NDE.

Guggenheim, B., & Guggenheim, J. (1995). New York: Bantam. *Hello from heaven*. Summarizes reports of the incidence and types of after-death communication.

Kason, Y. (2000). *Farther shores: Exploring how near-death, kundalini and mystical experiences can transform ordinary lives*. Toronto: HarperCollins. Comprehensive description of the varieties of potentially spiritually transformative experiences, their aftereffects, and suggestions for coping. The author, an NDEr who describes her experience in the book, is also a researcher and an M.D.

Swedenborg, E. (2000, reissue). *Heaven and hell*. West Chester, PA: Swedenborg Foundation, Inc. A description of the spiritual world as experienced by the famous 18th century Swedish mystic.