



FINDHORN PRESS

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The Last Adventure of Life

By Maria Dancing Heart

This unusual book arrived for review- just when I needed it most. The comforting voice of Maria Dancing Heart whispers through its pages as an experienced emissary of God's grace, listing poems, scriptures, compelling stories, guided meditations, and visceral personal experiences gleaned during her years as a seasoned hospice counselor.

It is a treasure house of hope and healing, reframing the experience of death as "the last adventure of life."

—Linda Douty, Spiritual Director to the Dying.

Are you dying? Are you caring for someone you love who is dying? Do you want to put your life and the lives of others into a richer, spiritual context? When faced with the enormity of such questions, few of us would know where to turn or what to do. It is difficult to find solace or hope in the often stale, fear-based texts currently available. Maria Dancing Heart, a hospice minister for over ten years, embraces these difficult questions and the emotions and circumstances surrounding them for her beautifully crafted book, *The Last Adventure of Life* (Findhorn Press/June 2008/\$19.95).

Maria Dancing Heart possesses an unusually wise understanding of the anguish and confusion that surrounds both sudden death and the kind of death that comes through terminal illness and its impact on the families it touches. Her years as a bereavement counselor means she writes with incredible kindness and extraordinary compassion toward all concerned. *The Last Adventure of Life* contains inspirational stories, poetry, scripture, and prayer and guided meditations all of which are emotionally moving, insightful and contain the wisdom of the ages. As if guided in her choices, each selection seems perfect for the moment it is addressing.

While acknowledging the wisdom of those who have written on the subject of death before her, Maria Dancing Heart's purpose is to dispel further the modern world's superstition and fear of the ultimate transition, namely death. In *The Last Adventure of Life* she is seeking to remind us that death is essentially a

part of life, she wants to 'bring death back to life.' Her path is a rare one and she chooses from a myriad of spiritual traditions and religions to show the interconnectedness of all things, that in death just as in birth there is an experience grounded in spirit – the force that binds us all.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The Reverend Maria 'Dancing Heart' Hoaglund is a graduate of Yale. attended the Pacific School of Religion in Berkley, and received her Masters of Divinity degree at the Chicago Theological Seminary in Chicago. She served as a parish minister with the U.C.C. Church in Hawaii and the Great Northwest. Maria transitioned into hospice ministry as a spiritual and bereavement counselor thirteen years ago.

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