

## About Deborah Duda

Author of *Coming Home: A Practical and Compassionate Guide to Caring For a Dying Loved One*



Deborah Duda was terrified of death – until she met Mother Teresa.

While visiting Calcutta, Duda called Mother Teresa and visited her at the Sisters of Charity Convent in the hopes of overcoming her phobia of death. When she asked to stay and help her care for the dying, Mother Teresa replied, “No, my child. Go home. There is sadness and suffering right around you at home.”

So she did. A therapist for the terminally ill and their families for over 30 years, Duda provides an enlightening guide to caring for a terminally ill relative or friend in the fourth

edition of her acclaimed book, *Coming Home: A Practical and Compassionate Guide to Caring for a Dying Loved One* (Synergy Books, 978-0-9842358-9-6, Paperback, October 2010, \$16.95). A step-by-step guide to the physical, spiritual and emotional aspects of serving as a caregiver, previous editions of *Coming Home* have been endorsed by Mother Teresa herself as well as Elizabeth Kübler-Ross, author of the groundbreaking book, *On Death and Dying*.

Duda grew up amidst the aftermath of World War II in Surrey, England. Inspired to help counsel the dying and their families after meeting Mother Teresa, Duda earned a master’s in psychology from Goddard College. Participating in the home deaths of her mother, father, two close friends and many others, Duda has traveled internationally giving lectures and workshops on caregiving and what dying can teach us about living joyfully. *Coming Home* has been used to train hospice workers for decades.

Duda served on a White House Task Force and as Vice Consul in Santiago, Chile while working as Foreign Service Officer for the State Department. She also served as a regional coordinator for a FEMA mental health recovery program. An active volunteer, Duda has counseled women at New Mexico State Penitentiary, facilitated an inmate support group at Kauai County Correctional Facility and taught teenagers suffering with schizophrenia. She has served as a board member for Kauai Hospice and Kauai AIDS Organization and was president of the San Antonio chapter of the National Parkinson’s Organization.

Yearning to help others around the world, Duda has lived in other countries for 24 years of her life. She now resides in Hawaii, where she worked as a Spanish instructor for the past five years. Visit [www.deborahduda.com](http://www.deborahduda.com) for more information.

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To schedule an interview with Duda or to receive a review copy of *Coming Home*, please contact Shelby Sledge at (512) 478-2028 ext. 227 or [ssledge@phenixpublicity.com](mailto:ssledge@phenixpublicity.com).