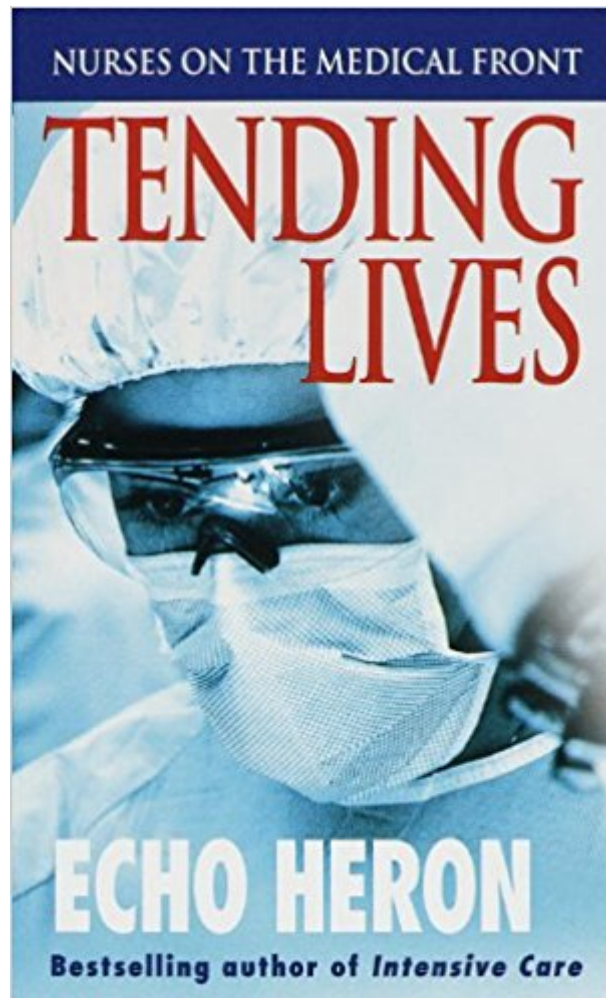




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# Tending Lives: Nurses On The Medical Front



## Synopsis

A critical-care nurse in coronary and emergency medicine for eighteen years, Echo Heron has seen and heard it all. Here she recounts narratives of real-life medical dramas experienced by nurses across the country, sharing with us the inspiring, the tragic, and the outrageously funny: a penitentiary nurse who was responsible for orchestrating a murderer's execution; a stroke victim who rose out of his depression when his nurses began telling him jokes; and, perhaps the most riveting testimony, moment-by-moment memories of several nurses who served in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing. Filled with both tears and laughter and charged with the issues that afflict nursing care today, *TENDING LIVES* is a gripping, moving, inspiring book, a fitting tribute to a noble profession.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Heron, a California nurse who has written previously about her professional experiences (*Intensive Care: The Story of a Nurse*) collects oral histories drawn from interviews she taped with nurses who represent many aspects of the field. The majority of the deeply involving selections emphasize the strong commitment to caring that characterizes these health professionals and their struggle to dissociate enough from their patients' sufferings so that they can be effective. Many of the nurses, such as Margie O.'s description of geriatric nursing and Diane C.'s account of caring for an abused baby, express extraordinary compassion. A highlight is the chapter of interviews with nurses who treated victims of the Oklahoma City bombing. One unusual contribution, by Calista H., details the

assistance he provided at an execution in which a lethal injection was administered. Author tour.  
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Heron's earlier books, *Intensive Care: The Story of a Nurse* (Ivy, 1988) and *Condition Critical: The Story of a Nurse Continues* (LJ 3/1/94), were personal narratives reflecting the author's experiences as a nurse and her views on hospitals and the industry that is healthcare today. Her latest volume invites colleagues to share their stories. Some are heartbreaking, others hilarious (if you think you've had a bad day, read Carol P.'s story of her encounters with Delbert and Mr. X). A brief introduction to each contributor provides background about age, education, and specialty (trauma, pediatrics, etc.). Vignettes may be as short as two pages. On the other hand, in the book's longest chapter five nurses laboring behind the scenes through the tragedy of the Oklahoma City bombing bring the confusion, sadness, and professional grit vividly to life. Unless you can handle an emotional roller coaster, savor this book one chapter at a time. Either way, it is a welcome addition to nursing or larger health collections. Anne C. Tomlin, Auburn Memorial Hosp. Lib., NYC  
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This book was fabulous. It was very entertaining. All the nurses had great stories. I pray that I will be like them.

Liked it alot/

Great author, I have read almost all of her books more then once. I love her writing style and all of the topics she writes about.

I discovered this author with her book "Noon at Tiffany's", which I so enjoyed that I immediately followed that with "Intensive Care", the story of her nursing school experiences and growth as an RN. I couldn't wait to dig into "Tending Lives", and I was completely caught up with her recounting of numerous episodes and. How difficult nursing is becoming with the changes brought about by our changing medical world. Echo's writing is clever, amusing, tender, thoughtful and a joy to read! I am hoping to read much more by Echo Heron!!!

A great book for nurses during any phase of their career. This is a collection of stories by nurses sharing diverse experiences with patient care--some heartbreaking, some funny, some strange, some inspirational.

Reading this book, was a memory of my nursing over a period of 30 years. Every case mentioned had some part of my working days in it. It brought back some memory that I had experienced at some time in my career as a nurse. I retired in 2002, when staffing was cut to the bare minimum of able bodied helpers. It was great while it lasted. A great read.

Well done story. She gets a lot of credit with her interviews so well written.

Echo knows how to tell a story. You feel like you're in the room as she interviews the nurses with the most interesting stories. Loved it!

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