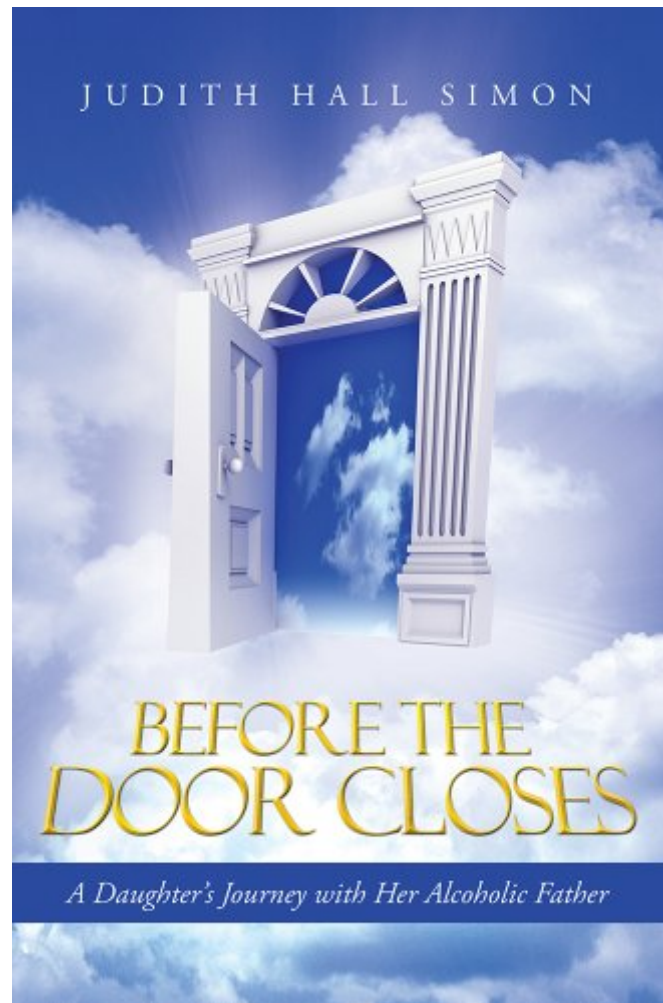


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# Before The Door Closes: A Daughter's Journey With Her Alcoholic Father



## Synopsis

Mind-altering drugs shackle her father to dementia. As if it were a holding pen for rotting trash, authorities in the nursing home system dispensed him to that dark cell. For the second time in their lives, Judy desperately searches for the answer to free her father. While growing up in an alcoholic environment, she struggled to find what drove him to drink. She was sure if she found it she could cure her father of alcoholism and make everyone happy. Judy finds the liberating key to his present imprisonment, but she cannot turn the lock until she revisits and reveals the shameful secret carefully and faithfully guarded for decades. While doing so, she confronts her fears and emotional wounds carved within a dysfunctional family. That is not enough, though, to rescue him, for the two are now ensnared by an unfamiliar adversaryânursing home neglect and abuseâthat Judy must battle every day for her defenseless father. Through it all she longs for him to believe he is and always was important, worthy, loved. Are you a child of an alcoholic? a caregiver of the elderly? a seeker of loveâs passages? This heart-gripping story shares pain and victory. "Before the Door Closes is very well written and revealing of the pains and triumphs of Judith Hall Simon's journey with an alcoholic father. While reading this book I felt that I was reading the journey of only one person not two. Judith reveals just how overwhelming an alcoholic father can be and how one's identity can be taken over by an alcoholic parent. Her book teaches and touches at the same time. I recommend it to the millions of adult children of alcoholics and to those who love them. Nice work!" ROBERT J. ACKERMAN, Ph.D., author of Perfect Daughters and a co-founder of the National Association for Children of Alcoholics

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Like the previous commenter, I could not put the book down. Judith wrote put her heart in this book, and her ability as a writer made it a joy to read. The fact this book is real, that it is her memoirs, makes it valuable at an extra level. What would be simply superbly written realistic fiction, -had the book not been based on her reality-, became a testimony of her life, and a most vivid account of the cares and joys the elderly bring to their families, and the challenges they face at hospitals and nursing homes. Judith knows how to take pain and turn it into compassion and love. Her understanding and love for the English language results in an uncommonly engaging style. I say uncommon because Judith writes "old style", like those classic writers of the past knew. She takes you to her childhood, and to her heart with her adjectives and piercing sentences. She saw her father's decaying health and need for care as a once in a life opportunity to heal as a daughter and a sister, and she brought love and passion to her siblings. I am glad I met her father and her family through this book. A most valuable book, informative, and a pleasure to read. It was surprisingly engaging for me, I never thought the topic of her book will be so interesting, and it was. Thanks for writing this book, Judith. You had a story to tell, and I am glad we can now read it.

The sub-title is a daughter's journey with her alcoholic father. But this book is about more than one person. It's a window into the family of an alcoholic. It's a window into the treatment of the elderly, of those who can no longer fend for themselves. It's a judgement on the easy way out (prescribing drugs) or the hard way (finding the problem, changing other variables first). It's a story of love and forgiveness. And sacrifice - love in action. I'd recommend it for anyone, but especially for those who have aging parents or grandparents. Some books speak directly to your heart - this is one of them.

What an incredible story of perseverance and dedication. This is not just a book for children of alcoholics or those caring for the elderly. This book crosses many barriers. I believe everyone could find their own struggles woven into this dynamic story. The story line is woven so seamlessly that it

was hard to put down. I am already looking forward to any other books from Judith Hall Simon.

The book hits home to living with an alcoholic father. The author did not hold back with her feelings and thoughts, which living in the same era as the author you never shared your dirty laundry, everything was a secret. You sit and say omg that's how I felt. I could not put the book down.

Great book, I started reading it and did not want to put it down! A must read if you anticipate ever having to be an advocate for an aging parent. Very well written.

This was a well done recounting of a family's struggle with a father to his death at 93. The details of his care in nursing homes is recounted in deep detail. Monitoring his care required unbelievable knowledge of drugs in order to minimize mistakes in administering. The cost of nursing home care is unbelievable. It appeared to me that his Quality of life was very poor in his last years, despite the love and attentiveness of Judy, his eldest. Judy devoted her life to her father in these last years. Thanks for email she was able to keep her siblings informed in great detail. Her husband, Jim, also helped greatly in caring for his father in law. This story is an eye opener for me about nursing home care. The nursing home staff have a difficult demanding monotonous job subject to mistakes attending to the many details of caring for the elderly and dealing with family of the patients. Great book!

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