



# Saving Lives: Why the Media's Portrayal of Nursing Puts Us All at Risk

By Sandy Summers, Harry Jacobs Summers

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For millions of people worldwide, nurses are the difference between life and death, self-sufficiency and dependency, hope and despair. But a lack of understanding of what nurses really do -- one perpetuated by popular media's portrayal of nurses as simplistic archetypes -- has devalued the profession and contributed to a global shortage that constitutes a public health crisis. Today, the thin ranks of the nursing workforce contribute to countless preventable deaths.

This fully updated and expanded edition of *Saving Lives* highlights the essential roles nurses play in contemporary health care and how this role is marginalized by contemporary culture. Through engaging prose and examples drawn from television, advertising, and news coverage, the authors detail the media's role in reinforcing stereotypes that fuel the nursing shortage and devalue a highly educated sector of the contemporary workforce. Perhaps most important, the authors provide a wealth of ideas to help reinvigorate the nursing field and correct this imbalance.

As American health care undergoes its greatest overhaul in decades, the practical role of nurses -- that as autonomous, highly skilled practitioners -- has never been more important. Accordingly, *Saving Lives* addresses both the sources of, and prescription for, misperceptions surrounding contemporary nursing.

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

Recipient of the *American Journal of Nursing* 2015 Book of the Year Award in the following subcategories: Consumer Health and History and Public Policy.

"SAVING LIVES has a serious point, that the devaluation of nursing -- both by overlooking nurses' contributions to positive outcomes for patients, and more subtly by emphasizing their devotion, compassion and self-sacrifice over their lifesaving skills -- discourages students from the field and contributes to a critical nursing shortage." --Newsweek

"An important book because it so clearly delineates how ubiquitous negative portrayals of nursing are in today's media, particularly three common stereotypes of nurses -- the 'Naughty Nurse,' the 'Angel' and the 'Battle Axe.'" --New York Times

"Invoking stereotypes about nurses is easy, sloppy, and all too common. Summers and Summers challenge us to imagine a world where nursing is fully recognized, funded, and supported. *Saving Lives* is a media activism roadmap crucial for reaching this destination." --*MarySue V. Heilemann, PhD, RN, Associate Professor, UCLA School of Nursing*

"*Saving Lives* explains in painstaking detail how our society's chronic trivialization of nursing as a profession diminishes the quality of health care for all patients, creating ripple effects with sometimes dire consequences. This book should incite a demand for a cultural shift in which nurses are valued as the indispensable and highly-trained health care professionals they are." --*Claire M. Fagin, PhD, RN, Dean Emerita, Professor Emerita, University of Pennsylvania*

Featured in *Doody's Life Sciences Book Review*

"A valuable resource for nursing students and professionals." -- *Choice*

About the Author

**Sandy Summers** is the founder and executive director of The Truth About Nursing. She practiced nursing for many years in the emergency departments and intensive care units of major U.S. trauma centers. Ms. Summers has master's degrees in nursing and public health from Johns Hopkins University. A native of Connecticut, she lives with her family in Baltimore.

**Harry Summers** is the senior advisor of The Truth About Nursing. A lawyer who practices in Washington, DC, his background includes international development work in Cambodia and a Fulbright scholarship in New Zealand. Mr. Summers has degrees from Columbia and Georgetown. A native of Pennsylvania, he lives with his family in Baltimore.

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#### Gerald Stewart:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a book your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand up than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading a new book, we give you this particular Saving Lives: Why the Media's Portrayal of Nursing Puts Us All at Risk book as beginner and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

#### Stephen Stovall:

This book untitled Saving Lives: Why the Media's Portrayal of Nursing Puts Us All at Risk to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book shop or you can order it through online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, since you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this reserve from your list.

#### Donald Jones:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended to you is Saving Lives: Why the Media's Portrayal of Nursing Puts Us All at Risk this reserve consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented how can the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some research when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book suitable all of you.

**Jenna Quintana:**

This Saving Lives: Why the Media's Portrayal of Nursing Puts Us All at Risk is completely new way for you who has interest to look for some information because it relief your hunger details. Getting deeper you onto it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having bit of digest in reading this Saving Lives: Why the Media's Portrayal of Nursing Puts Us All at Risk can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this kind of book is easy to get simply by anyone. These books produce itself in the form that is certainly reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in book form make them feel tired even dizzy this book is the answer. So you cannot find any in reading a guide especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for you. So , don't miss that! Just read this e-book variety for your better life as well as knowledge.

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