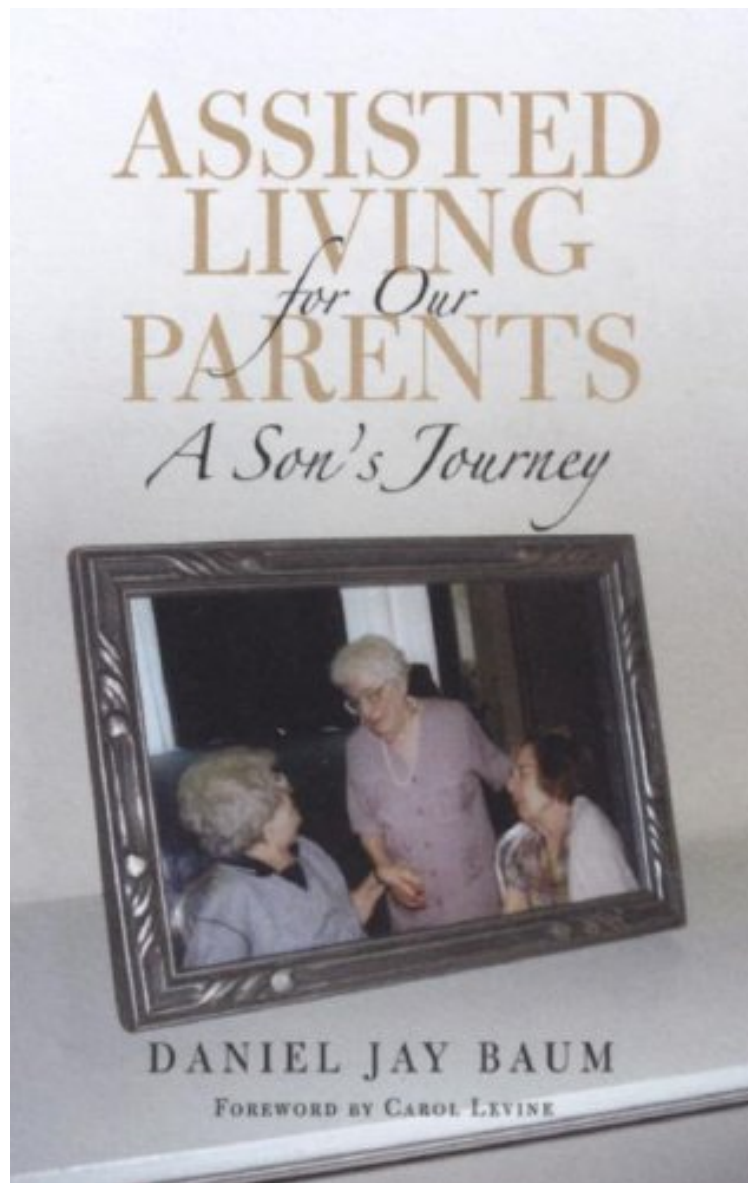


(Download pdf) Assisted Living for Our Parents: A Son's Journey (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work)

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Daniel Jay Baum

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Daniel Jay Baum : Assisted Living for Our Parents: A Son's Journey (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Assisted Living for Our Parents: A Son's Journey (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Timely!By Elizabeth GriggsI am currently in the process of researching and selecting long-term living arrangements for my mother, who will be leaving her home of 43 years and moving across the country and has entrusted me to pick her new residence. I feel the weight of that responsibility and want to be sure that she is safe, happy, and well cared for, and able to remain independent as long and as well as her condition permits. Baum has provided great insight into questions we must ask and assurances we must get in writing. His documentation of the journey has helped me pay special attention as similar experiences arise. And further, Baum suggests that we take his experience and think about how we want our last years to be spent. Well written and not preachy, with a good checklist to apply before final decisions have been made. I am thankful to have found this book before completing our search, and have recommended it to others.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. jAn important bookBy noviceEvery older person, especially those living alone, and their family members should read this book. Anyone who is considering an assisted living situation for a parent will learn invaluable information.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. ALF - your parent's new caregiversBy Barbara A. GilmanThis is a very good book for anyone who has to put their parent in an Assisted Living Facility, even if you live close to your parent. You can tell Dan always had his mother's over-all well-being at the center of his decisions. The future is so uncertain, this is a good book to read as Dan tells of his personal experience with their choice of ALF. Sharing Ida's experience has helped me when it came time to put my own Mother in an ALF in Dec 2006. My sister, Mom I visited various ALF's, and Mom chose the one she liked best. My sister and I made sure it will give her the support she will need when her health will require more assistance. Mom has early-stages of Alzheimer's; physically she is fine, but mentally, she cannot remember current events. Dan covers every aspect of life in an ALF, his experience with the good parts and the bad. All of this knowledge is best found out before-hand, so you are more prepared for what can happen in the future. Due to his insight, I hope to be able to give Mom a comfortable and well-assisted life. Barbara

"It is because I want to help other parents and adult children understand the problems and risks in choosing an assisted living facility and thus avoid some of the negative experiences my mother and I had that I decided to write this book." Daniel Jay Baum

As the population of North America ages, millions of adult children are faced with the challenge of how to help their parents make the transition to their later years of life. For elderly parents in reasonably good health for whom living on their own is no longer possible, assisted living facilities (ALFs) are becoming an increasingly popular option, ideally providing some measure of independence with varying degrees of assistance and support. The author was sixty-four years old when it became obvious that his eighty-nine-year-old mother, Ida, could no longer live alone. After considering a variety of options, including home health care assistance, he and his mother decided to sell her home, and she moved into an assisted living facility. In *Assisted Living for Our Parents*, Baum chronicles every step of his and his mother's journey into the world of assisted living, providing guidance for the millions of adults who face these same decisions. Baum's story is the intensely personal one of a son learning to cope with his evolving relationship with his mother, balancing his own concerns for his mother's health and safety with her desire for independence and a role in decisions about her own life. Readers follow Baum and his mother over six years, from their initial decision to move her into an ALF to discussions about her end-of-life wishes. Complicating all of these issues was the fact that Baum lived hundreds of miles from his mother, a situation he shared with seven million other adult children in North America who live more than three hundred miles away from their parents. The author's remarkable honesty about his mistakes and misunderstandings on this journey will inform a wide range of readers about questions to be asked and preparations to be made. Baum also discusses the usefulness of informative meetings with facility administrators, staff, and residents. He distinguishes between the various levels of nursing care found at ALFs and advises about the problems of hospitalization for residents. He helps readers understand complicated and emotionally fraught financial matters (from insurance to escalating facility costs). In his final chapter, he considers alternatives to ALFs. A moving and honest guide to a growing and often confusing phenomenon, *Assisted Living for Our Parents* provides much-needed help to anyone having to navigate through the questions, problems, and risks involved in choosing an assisted living facility.

"Daniel Jay Baum's story is about his mother's life in a residence which he calls Glengrove, vaguely defined as an assisted living facility (ALF), a term which now accounts for about 200,000 places in the United States. This book is a good read. The justifiable bitterness that occasionally breaks through is balanced by a fair measure of (dry Jewish) humor. The text is full of well-chosen references to media report, the gerontology literature, and statistics on the ALF's and nursing home industry and the not always successful regulatory laws. It is, therefore, appropriate not only for any adult son or daughter in Baum's predicament but also for teaching gerontology and for field workers in the old-age care industry." *Ageing and Society*

Assisted Living for Our Parents is an informed, impassioned book that maintains the difficult balance between objective investigation and subjective revelation. Daniel Jay Baum shows us the facts of an aging parent's decline and the nature of care provided in an assisted living facility, the political and cultural pressures, the legal and economic realities. He also shows us the agony of grief and loss, the difficult path that must be traveled by those who love and care. It is rare for readers to find a book that provides this much information as well as

this much personal candor."Floyd Skloot, author of *In the Shadow of Memory and A World of Light*"This excellent and accurate personal documentation by a long-distance caregiver as he 'travels' with his mother from her fierce independence to dependence is a very helpful guide to assist us as we care for our loved ones in their advanced years and plan ahead for ourselves."Hon. Dorcas R. Hardy, Former Commissioner of Social Security and 2005 White House Conference on Aging Chair"So few books today are a must-read for every professional working with older adults who can no longer live alone. But this is one of them! Daniel Jay Baum's incredible and spellbinding portrayal of his mother's last few years of life informs geriatric care managers, geriatricians, elder-law attorneys, policymakers, and others about the realities of long-term care and challenges us to turn anger and passion into action."Karen S. Kauffman, PhD, CRNP, BC, University of Maryland School of Nursing and President, Life Passages Care Consultants, Inc."Daniel Jay Baum tells a compelling story about a loving and respectful son trying to do the right thing in caring for and about his mother in a world that is complicated, convoluted, and, at best, paternalistic toward older people. This book focuses on that gray area called 'quality of life,' which he continually strove for as his mother and the settings in which she lived changed."Fredda Vladeck, Project Director, Aging in Place Initiative, United Hospital Fund

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About the AuthorCarole Levin is Willa Cather Professor of History at the University of Nebraska. She is the author of several books, including *Dreaming the English Renaissance: Politics and Desire in Court and Culture*.