

Popular TV shows like *Grey's Anatomy*, *ER*, and *House* lead people to think that nurses simply push gurneys, drive romantic plots, and provide a human backdrop for the real action. However, those of us among the 12 million nurses worldwide know the reality is far more fascinating, demanding and important.

Written by the leaders of The Truth About Nursing, the organization at the forefront of challenging and changing representations of nurses, *Saving Lives* highlights the essential role nurses play. It explores the public's perception of nurses and spells out the greatest myths about nursing, drawing on examples from television shows, ads, news, and other media.

Saving Lives exposes the media's role in reinforcing stereotypes that help fuel the nursing shortage. But it is also a call to action. *Saving Lives* offers concrete steps to help nurses and their supporters educate the public about nursing.

For millions of people worldwide, nurses are the difference between life and death, self-sufficiency and dependency, and hope and despair. Nonetheless a lack of appreciation for nursing has contributed to a global shortage that is one of our most urgent public health crises. There are not enough nurses available to monitor patients, provide high-tech treatments, advocate for patients, and teach patients how to live with their conditions. Poor understanding of what nurses do undermines claims for adequate staffing, and leads to a lack of resources for nursing practice, education, and research. All of that means worse patient outcomes, including death.

Saving Lives is destined to change public perceptions, thereby empowering nurses and helping them get the respect they need to save lives.

Reviews and Advance Praise for *Saving Lives*

"In the new book *Saving Lives: Why the Media's Portrayal of Nurses Puts Us All at Risk*, co-authors Sandy Summers and Harry Jacobs Summers explore the dated and false images of nursing that still persist in the media, ranging from popular television shows to the crossword puzzle. ... *Saving Lives* is an important book because it so clearly delineates how ubiquitous negative portrayals of nursing are in today's media... The problem with how nurses are portrayed in the media is that it has the potential to devalue the way we view nurses in the real world."

— **The New York Times**, Theresa Brown, from "Why Nurse Stereotypes Are Bad for Health," in Tara Parker-Pope's *Well* column.

"*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**, Jerry Adler, Senior Editor.



"Written with the general public in mind, but with a lot of valuable information for nurses, *Saving Lives* outlines all the damaging images of nursing in the media including in popular TV dramas and comedies. The naughty nurse, the battle-axe nurse, they're all described in this must-read book. Then the Summers duo discuss why and how these images minimize the highly scientific, fast-paced, demanding profession of nursing and what that means to patients. ... Chapter 11 is the meat of the book. It is chock full of great tips... on how to promote a better, more accurate image of nursing. Every nurse should read *Saving Lives* and then pass it on to their family and friends to read as well." — **ADVANCE for Nurses**, Gail Guterl, Editor.

"Every nurse should recognise the damage that negative portrayals of nursing in the press, films, television and even books can do to our image. ... This well-researched text explores the negative effects of adverse publicity and how it inhibits our professional growth. ... The book deserves wide reading. Hopefully some firebrand may even be driven to duplicate this study in the UK." — **Nursing Standard** (UK), Dame Betty Kershaw.

"*Saving Lives* is a fascinating look at how Hollywood and other media undermine nursing by feeding the public damning myths. The book instills an awareness that will forever change the way the reader views nurses. Reader take warning: you may be left with a strong desire to change the system. Luckily, the authors tell you how." — **Echo Heron**, RN, author of *Intensive Care: The Story of a Nurse*

"This wonderful book hits the reader in the heart and the mind. But the book is not only evocative and educational; with a strong sense of hope, it points the way forward." — **Claire M. Fagin**, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean Emerita and Interim President Emerita, University of Pennsylvania

"In this irreverent tour of the popular health media, Sandy and Harry Summers lift the cloak of invisibility from the health care professionals who are the front line of healing." — **Andrew Holtz**, MPH, former CNN Medical Correspondent and author of *The Medical Science of House, M.D.*

"*Saving Lives* provides a stunning exposé of the media's inaccurate portrayals of nurses, and documents the impact this has on public health. It should be mandatory reading for media creators, physicians, policymakers, and the public. There's no longer any excuse for media creators to fail to speak truth about the essential contributions of nurses." — **Diana J. Mason**, RN, PhD, FAAN, Editor-in-Chief, *American Journal of Nursing*

"I did not just 'read' *Saving Lives*; I could not put it down. With compelling prose and examples, the book reveals how the media has failed at portraying the profession of nursing." — **Richard Kahn**, Independent Filmmaker and Producer, *Lifeline: The Nursing Diaries*