

“*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

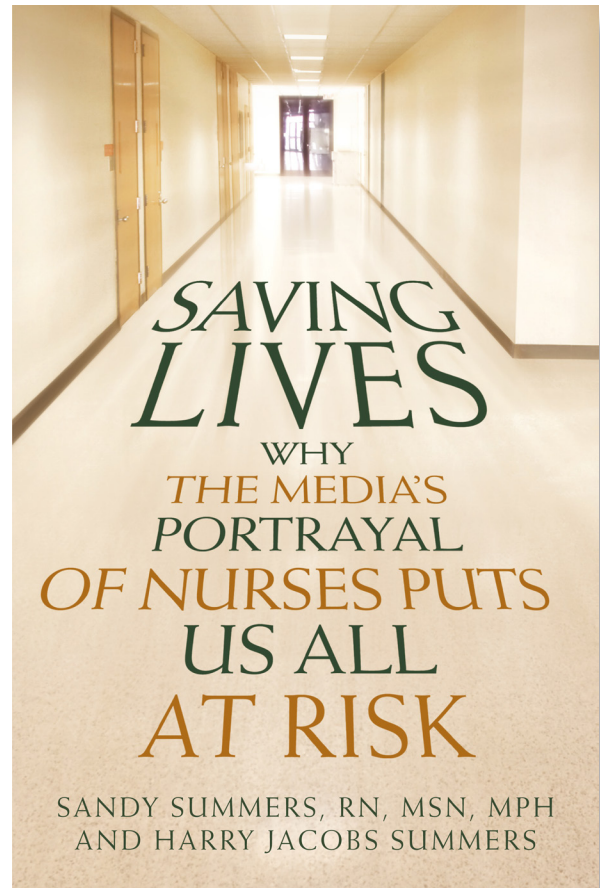
“*Saving Lives* is a fascinating in-depth look at how Hollywood and other media undermine nursing by feeding the public damning myths and derogatory views of nurses decade after decade. The book instills an awareness that will forever change the way the reader views nurses in the media. Reader take warning: you may be left with a strong desire to do something to change the system. Luckily, the authors tell you how.”

— Echo Heron, RN, author of *Intensive Care: The Story of a Nurse; Tending Lives: Nurses on the Medical Front*

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Saving Lives: *Why The Media's Portrayal of Nurses Puts Us All At Risk*

By Sandy Summers and Harry Jacobs Summers

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.