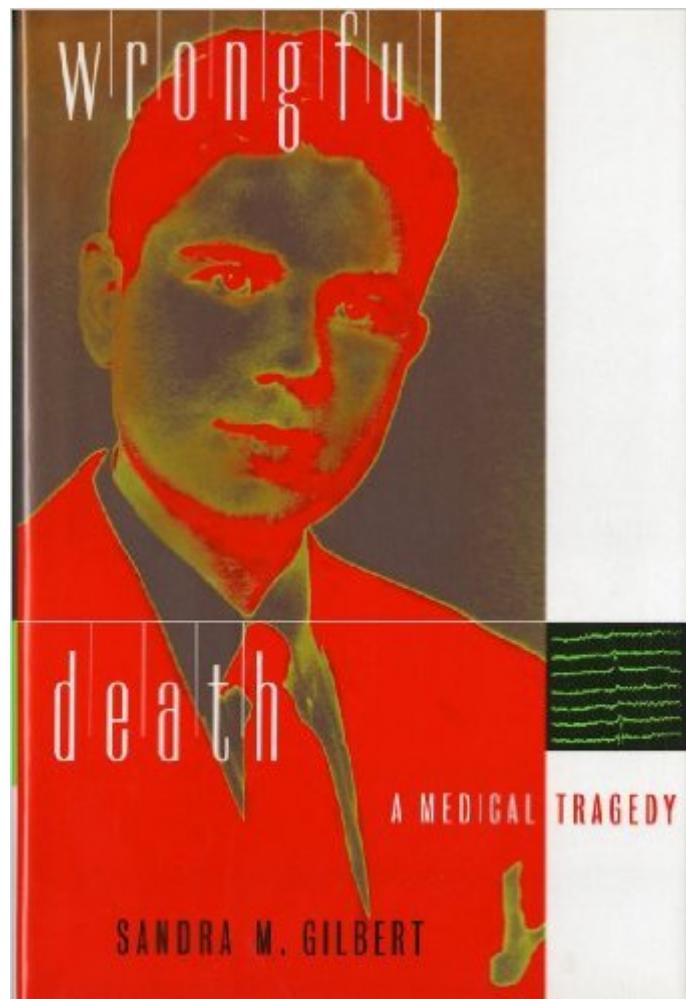


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# Wrongful Death: A Memoir



## **Synopsis**

"A wrenching tale of medical mistakes, death, shock, grief, and frustration, told with love and anger."--Kirkus Reviews, starred review Sandra Gilbert's husband, Elliot, underwent surgery for prostate cancer at a major medical center, and then inexplicably died hours later in the recovery room. To this day, no one from the hospital has told his family how or why he died.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1st edition (March 17, 1995)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1.3 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ  [See all reviewsÂ \(10 customer reviews\)](#)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,001,597 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 inÂ Books > Law > Health & Medical Law > Malpractice #2161 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Death #93554 inÂ Books > Parenting & Relationships

## **Customer Reviews**

Book Review on "Wrongful Death: A Medical Tragedy" How does one grieve the loss of a loved one without any answers as to how or why they died? This is the dilemma that Sandra M. Gilbert must face after the successful prostatectomy her husband, Elliot, underwent. Sandra, a distinguished poet and professor at the University of California Davis, produces a piece of work describing her family's experience through this malpractice tragedy. Her memoir Wrongful Death: A Medical Tragedy, was published by W. W. Norton & Company Inc. and copyrighted it herself in 1995. Sandra's story makes a clear argument regarding medical malpractice suits that never change the way doctors and practitioners use defensive medicine. It never becomes clear to her how her husband died, or when. Documents related to her husband's unexpected death were unreadable, autopsy reports were misleading, and the doctors told her they simply "didn't know." Even when lawyers were introduced to the case, answers never emerged. Several malpractice suites occur every year, yet the way doctors practice defensive medicine has never changed. Mrs. Gilbert outlines this book in three sections; Adverse Event, In Discovery, and Claim. Every section then has many sub-sections that are labeled by the date. Sandra writes in past tense, first person narrative.

There is some medical terminology that she uses, but for the most part it is easily read. The book was written in 1991 when Sandra started to get lawyers involved in the case. At the end of the book she writes a series of powerful letters that are addressed to any attending medical personnel that dealt with Elliot's case. The day of her husband's initial surgery, a team of anesthesiologists failed to intubate Elliot.

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