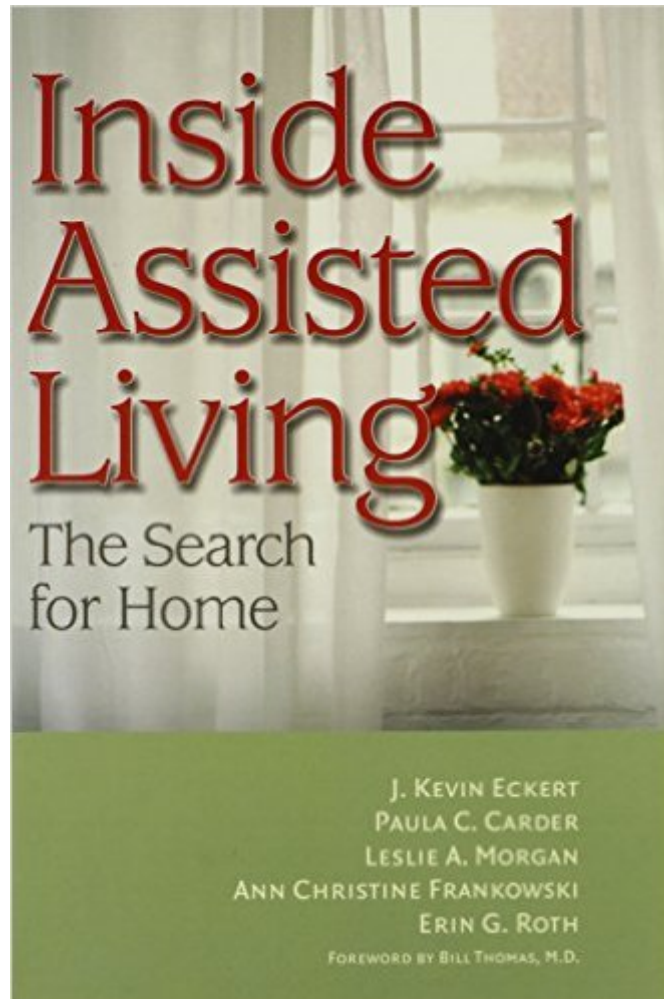


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# Inside Assisted Living: The Search For Home



## Synopsis

Assisted living is the fastest-growing alternative to skilled nursing care for frail older persons in the United States. The expectations, settings, and missions of these residences are varied, making it difficult for prospective residents and their families to anticipate what it would be like to live in them. This book is a unique portal into the real world of assisted living and the key issues facing consumers, providers, and policy makers. Drawing on in-depth interviews with residents, their family members, staffers, and administrators, *Inside Assisted Living* opens the window on day-to-day life in six different types of assisted living residence. From "Miss Helen at Valley Glen Home" to "Mr. Sidney at Laurel Ridge," the detailed profiles of individuals show the commonalities among the residences while highlighting the positive and negative aspects of each. The voices of those living, visiting, and working in the homes clarify the important local (social relations, staff dynamics, leadership) and national (funding, regulation, aging-in-place) challenges presented by assisted living. Introductory and concluding chapters synthesize new findings that cross the six settings and reflect issues vital to all participants. The book also features an appendix detailing the research process involved in creating the profiles.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When I realized that I had to start learning about assisted living, I bought 5 books - OK so I'm compulsive but then this is something you need to get very clear on. This is a fine book. It is empathetic and compassionate but it is also somewhat detached. It is more of a sociological/anthropological exploration of assisted living than anything that will help you figure it

out. In terms of utility and information it's the one I recommend you read last after you've grasped the concepts and the decision process. At that point it provides valuable context that may lead you to prefer one choice over another - assuming you have a choice when the time comes - but that's another book.

I'm studying aging in place and found this fascinating book in the library. It is an ethnographic study, which means that researchers physically immersed themselves in a range of assisted living facilities so that they became an accepted part of the environment. They observed and interviewed residents, staff, and owners over consecutive 10-month periods, beginning in 2002 and ending in 2007. They provide case studies of 6 of the ~100 residents they followed at 6 different facilities in the Baltimore MD area. The facilities ranged from small board and care (group) homes to large high-end assisted living institutions. This book gives you an in-depth understanding of the issues facing residents, their families, the staff, and the owners. Basically, people are moving to assisted living at later ages - in their 80s - when they have already developed several disabilities or moderate cognitive impairment. So hanging over them is the fear that they will be discharged from assisted living because they need a higher level of care such as in a nursing home or a locked down dementia unit. At the same time, the owners are trying to figure out how to keep residents in their facilities without over-taxing staff and resources, and still keep the place pleasantly running. It is a conundrum, and there are no easy answers.

This is an excellent book about assisted living. A previous reviewer suggested that it should be read only after one has read several other books about the subject. I agree completely. However, I also think that this book should not be missed by anyone attempting to get a more complete picture of assisted living.

This book is an excellent look into the world of life for elders who live in the assisted living housing environment. Assisted living is much better than trying to live in an independent house on a street.

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