

A small and mighty book!, January 5, 2011

By [Elana Golden](#)

If The Dalai Lama has said "my philosophy is kindness" then Michael Ortiz Hill lays the foundation for the practice of such a philosophy in his new book: *Conspiracies of Kindness*. I had read so many spiritual books in my life that I had become burned out on them finding them repetitive and predictable. Not so *Conspiracies*! Michael's book weaves together esoteric theories and personal stories in a way that reads like a page-turner memoir. He extracts the juiciest, darkest and most heartbreaking incidents from his 20 year experience as a nurse, in oncology and hospice, and shows how practices like shamanic healing, meditation, song and prayer will trouble shoot in moments where Western medicine will not! As the subtitle of the book - *The Craft of Compassion at the Bedside of the Ill* - indicates, Michael Ortiz Hill 'crafts' the 'philosophy of compassion' into four progressive, applicable steps: Self-Compassion, Compassion for Another, Radical Empathy, and Living Compassion. And as such it is a must-read for anyone who is called to have more compassion and empathy toward oneself, one's family, students, co-workers, community, and the world at large! This book should be mandatory in schools! It will change your life as it changed mine!

[Chuck Madansky](#) (Brewster, MA)

I've always felt that the endorsements on the back of most books are hyperbole, but these were quite accurate! Real stories, lived wisdom, an original synthesis that goes to the essence-- not only of nursing in the broadest sense-- but of our life's purpose and possibilities. I've grown from reading this book.

What a Nice SurpriseBy

[Power of 1](#)

This review is from: *Conspiracies of Kindness* (Perfect Paperback)

Finding this book is like turning a corner and discovering a bag of treasures. Michael Ortiz Hill talks about hospital situations that

may be unfamiliar to many of us. What he discusses is the way every hospital should be like, instead of the impersonal, cold, even frightening ice box we may face if we run out of luck.

I've been lucky enough to grow up with a Mother, and two Grandmothers who knew how to use herbs, homeopathy, aroma & color therapy, compresses, all kinds of natural and holistic healing. So, I stay safely away from hospitals, doctors and their bag of drugs full of side effects that are sometimes worse than the disease they purport to cure. However, should I get run over by a truck and have to depend on the knowledge of some doctor to put me back together, I hope Michael, or someone with such a heart of gold, will be there to treat the part of me that needs the touch of Grace.

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5.0 out of 5 stars **A Heartwarming Read, [Andrea Garrison](#) "[onlinewithandrea](#)" (USA)**

Conspiracies of Kindness The Craft of Compassion at the Bedside of the Ill by Michael Ortiz Hill is a wonderful cozy book that truly reflects the gentle heart of the author. When I started reading this book it was my intent to read a few pages and to continue it at another time. It was such a captivating, heart moving read that I could not put down the softness, the tenderness that it inspired. I felt such a great sense of warmth, compassion and love in my heart that I was speechless. It is a very powerful experience when the writer can actually write about kindness and ignite it in the heart of the reader. This book is genuinely a warm and sensitive read that goes beyond words. Quite honestly anything that I write, anything that I say would be inadequate and certainly fall short of the experience I had reading this precious book by this gentle soul. If you would like to learn more about kindness and compassion this is the book to read. If you would like to feel kindness and compassion in your heart this is the book to read. If you want to

curl up with a good book this is the book to read. What else can I say other than thank you Michael Ortiz Hill for your gift of kindness and compassion. I am genuinely touched and inspired by your journey, your work and your book *Conspiracies of Kindness*. For more information on Michael Ortiz Hill visit the [gatheringin](#) site and listen to the [Onlinewithandrea](#) interview with Michael Ortiz Hill.

Andrea Garrison

Host/Producer [Onlinewithandrea](#)

Author/Producer *The Crossing Over of Mattie Pearl* [The Crossing Over Of Mattie Pearl](#)

A MUST READ IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES,

By [anjika mcelroy](#) (Venice, CA)

"Michael Ortiz Hill has been gifted with what we need so badly in this world now. Deep connection with another. We need to open ourselves up and invoke kindness, compassion and understanding in our day to day lives. This man is an extraordinary teacher who can show you the path to your heart. It is the only thing that matters. Not only for doctors, nurses and family members of the ill, but for all of us who desperately need to move into the heart in this time of great transformation."

- Anjika

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Like the Hippocratic oath, this book should be taken seriously.,
[Pami Ozaki](#)

Everyone who is in, or going into the health care profession should read this book.

Anyone who has done hospice work, or sat vigil at the bedside of

the dying will surely understand the profound wisdom this book speaks of, and anyone who hasn't should definitely read it.

A book that literally inspires compassion by awakening the eyes of the heart while engaging your mind.

Let My Heart Fly Open

By [Owl O'Pines](#)

After meeting Michael at a workshop in California recently, and hearing him speak, I was moved to get a copy of his latest book. Reading "Conspiracies of Kindness" has been an extremely powerful and moving experience for me. Crying is not, for whatever reason, something that comes easily to me. So it is a great gift when I find myself filled to overflow with tears and choking back sobs. For whatever reason, Michael's authenticity has touched me in such a deep and profound fashion. His words are far softer than those of most men. (That's a compliment.) Thank you Michael, for your continuing good work and for sharing it with the world through your inspired and inspiring writing. I plan on getting many copies to give to all the nurses and others I know who move through those hospital and nursing home dream landscapes.

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A remarkable contribution to healing practices, by [Mary Fillmore](#)

This book provides exactly the hands-on examples that health care practitioners, patients and families need to see that there are alternatives to the dehumanizing atmosphere that pervades so many hospitals. Michael Ortiz Hill gives just the kind of specific counsel that can help all of us behave differently despite being in an environment that structures people's behavior for the worst rather than the best. He shows us that there are always choices, and that even the most intractable situations can be addressed

differently and creatively. As someone who was recently hospitalized and in dire straits for some months, I know that any of my caregivers (nurses, doctors, nursing assistants and family members) could profit from reading this book and taking it to heart. The compassion in this book radiates off the page, and asks the best of all of us in some of life's most difficult situations.

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5.0 out of 5 stars **A Beautiful Meditation on Compassion**, By [David Steinberg](#) (San Francisco, CA, USA)) [Michael Ortiz Hill](#) has put together a beautiful and compelling book, looking at compassion through a wide variety of personal experiences ranging from spiritual work in Zimbabwe to his long experience as a nurse. The book will reach you and open your heart (and your mind) to compassion in a new way.

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5.0 out of 5 stars **This one becomes a great friend**, February 18, 2011

By

[Linne Gravestock](#) (Sacramento, CA USA)

The first time I read this book, I cried all the way through it. And I'm not at all a crier. Much of the time I feel I have to be emotionally defended during a normal day but like most people, when I see a genuine, heartfelt, truly generous scene, tears come. This book relates one moving scene after another, seasoned with wisdom and without sentimentality. It opened my heart. This is the atmosphere that we hope for when we have to give ourselves over to the medical machinery.

The second time I read it, it was like being in the presence of an old friend who could tell the best stories that I didn't want to end.

I bought ten copies and handed them out to my friends who are doctors and nurses, therapists and patients who are longing for a kinder vision of a medical system. Michael Ortiz Hill gives it to you---here it i