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# A Desperate Passion: An Autobiography



## Synopsis

"She showed me what one set-on-fire human being can do to shift the consciousness of the world." â "Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*" Dr. Helen Caldicott," the *Sunday San Francisco Chronicle* declares, "is back on the scene." *A Desperate Passion* is Caldicott's engaging, inspiring memoir, chronicling her life both on and off the scene. Raised in Australia and trained as a physician, she first found her voice protesting French nuclear tests in the Pacific. Years later she rose to international prominence, founding Physicians for Social Responsibility, "which did perhaps more than any other group to thrust the nuclear issue under the public eye" (*New York Times*). "Driven by intense passions, she seems to have adopted the world's population as her children. And all of us are probably better off as a result" (*East Bay Express Books*) â "but Caldicott, wife and mother of three, found that her success did not come without cost. This is a personal story too, a candid, revealing self-portrait of a woman who has not relinquished her remarkable efforts to save the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Helen Mary Caldicott (born 1938) is an Australian physician, author, radio show host, and anti-nuclear advocate, who has also written *Nuclear Power Is Not the Answer*, *War in Heaven: The Arms Race in Outer Space*, *If You Love This Planet: A Plan to Save the Earth* (Revised and updated), *Nuclear Madness: What You Can Do*, etc. She said in the first chapter of this 1996 book, "I have ... an intense and unreasonable fear of death, which has plagued me all my life. Clearly this is one of the reasons I decided to study medicine." (Pg. 15) After a life-threatening illness, she thought, "I knew that I had been saved for a reason. My life in a strange way almost didn't belong to me anymore. I felt that I would be called upon to act in service, not to myself or even my family but to something greater." (Pg. 96) While studying intensely for a medical exam, she admits, "Often I sent the kids out of the room when they needed me because I required absolute quiet in order to concentrate ... I feel bad about this now, and I wish I hadn't been so single-minded and had given them the time when they needed it. After all, what was more important, my career or my children?" (Pg.

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