

"Pssst! a little secret: The most influential force in our world is not power but compassion, empathy, and love. *Conspiracies of Kindness* by Michael Ortiz Hill shows why. Handle with care: This luminous book can change your life."

Larry Dossey, MD

Author: *The Power of Premonitions and Reinventing Medicine*

Conspiracies of Kindness by Michael Ortiz Hill is a marvelous revelation into the practice of being compassionate made all the more radiant by Michael, himself, who tells the story of his journey toward being more compassionate. Michael builds upon his experiences in nursing to provide rich teaching tales from the everyday work of a hospital that point us toward love and kindness. He writes about compassion as feeling the sorry of others within ourselves, just as we feel their delight. Most engaging was Michael's idea of loving one's fate. He writes that we learn to love our fate in any circumstance in which we are undone by the unforeseen. Equally enlightening were Michael's descriptions of death and dying and the love that emerges in those final moments, reminding me so many physicians I know whose patients have told them at the end of it all, that they came to realize that the purpose of living was just about learning to love one another. I'm certain Michael would agree with this conclusion for love implies the cultivation of compassion beyond what our social neurons give us. I recommend this book most highly as an engaging and uplifting read that's both inspirational and educational – perfect for both the beach and the classroom setting in health sciences and anthropology. One story leads to the next in seamless fashion, leaving us wishing for more at the final chapter, but realizing, that a book, like a life, must end, and the ending puts meaning to all that has come before.

Lewis Mehl-Madrona, MD, PhD

Author of *Healing the Mind through the Power of Story and Coyote Medicine*
Core Faculty, Union Institute and University, Brattleboro, Vermont

This book invites a deeper level of the work of caring . I hope it will
Brimming with insights, alive with stories that anchor them in your heart, this
banquet of a book shows that compassionate presence is ever and always a
choice we can make. And we can make it over and over again. fresh,
unpredictable, and uncontrived.

Joanna Macy, author *World as Lover, World as Self*.

Michael Ortiz Hill is a gifted teacher, and the lessons from the workshop have
deeply enriched my work as a family medicine physician. The idea that
compassion is a teachable craft with skills to be practiced brings it from the
mystical into the daily world, which of course is where we all need it. I
recommend this workshop to anyone involved in caring for the ill.

Dr. Kjersten Gmeiner. MD

This book is an invitation to enter the territory of the boundless heart. Rich in
from-the-soul- stories, and rooted in deep recognition of our human kinship,
The Craft of Compassion has much to teach us about healing, living, and
loving.

Aura Glaser, author *A Call to Compassion: Bringing Buddhist Practices of the
Heart into the Soul of Psychology*.

Drawing on his own struggles with the mysterious microbial demons of MS
and a range of fascinating encounters with patients and doctors,
Michael Ortiz Hill gives us a soul-stirring meditation on the nature of illness,
life and death. Reading these stories on the healing qualities of compassion,

you feel empowered and encouraged on your own journey toward wholeness.
Ralph Metzner, Ph.D.

Author of *The Well of Remembrance* and *The Unfolding Self* Will of the Body
and Letting Stories Brea

Michael -

I am sorry for the delay in getting this to you. It has taken me a while to complete the reading of your book draft. I've had many irons in the fire, but the primary reason has been that it is so chocked full of beautiful, elegant wisdom that it is not something one sits down to blow through like a novel. I found myself savoring every page and letting it sink in.

Michael, it is truly a magnificent piece of work. It resonates with heart, depth and the humility of real experience. It is a gift to us all.

I have put down the following endorsement blurb if you would still like one. I also can edit or completely re-write it if you need something different. I am not at a loss for spectacular things to say about it.

"With grace, beauty and loving humility Michael Ortiz Hill illuminates a path to our one true calling. Careful, this book will change you."

Dr David Forbes, MD president of the American Holistic Medical Association

Reading Conspiracy of Kindness repeatedly generated rich and meaningful tears sliding down my cheeks. I was deeply moved by his stories that so resonated with my own experiences with very ill people. Michael Ortiz Hill's book touched my soul deeply.

Dr William Manahan, MD former president of the American Holistic Medical Association

Michael Ortiz Hill never fails to capture you, reaching deep into your heart and "soul", stirring thoughts and emotions that ultimately bring peace of spirit. Absorb his words in Conspiracies of Kindness.

Mary Horan RN, MN

Michael Ortiz Hill is truly a alchemist. Patient care experiences that are often perceived by direct care providers as lead in Conspiracies of Kindness are illuminated as golden opportunities and should motivate all nurses to live compassion. Once his message is swallowed and absorbed the effect is powerful.

Lisa Speer RN