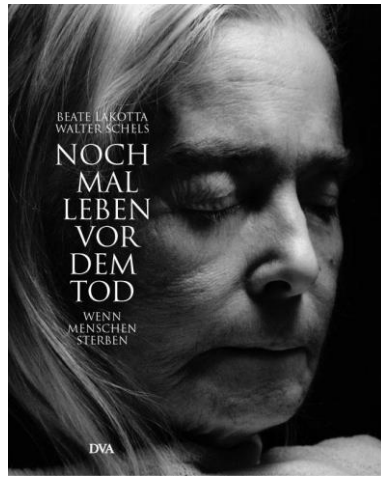


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**Beate Lakotta** was born in 1965 and is a *Spiegel* science editor.



Beate Lakotta, Walter Schels

**Life before Death**

[Noch mal leben vor dem Tod]  
Encounters with the Terminally ill

Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt  
224 pages  
71 b/w illustrations  
Format 22,0 x 27,0 cm  
September 2004

Few subjects affect us as profoundly as an encounter with death. Nowadays, hardly anything retains the same taboo as death and dying. The journalist Beate Lakotta and the photographer Walter Schels asked terminally ill patients if they might remain with them during the final weeks, days, and hours of their lives.

From these vigils they were able to put together a collection of detailed descriptions and photos of people as their lives drew to a close. Most of them spent their last days in hospices, places allocated to the dying, where their hopes and fears hang in the balance: Whoever comes to one of these places will be able to experience the final phase of their life with as much awareness and freedom from pain as can be achieved. But only a short time remains in which to assess one's life, make peace with oneself and others, to face up to death and the question of what comes after.