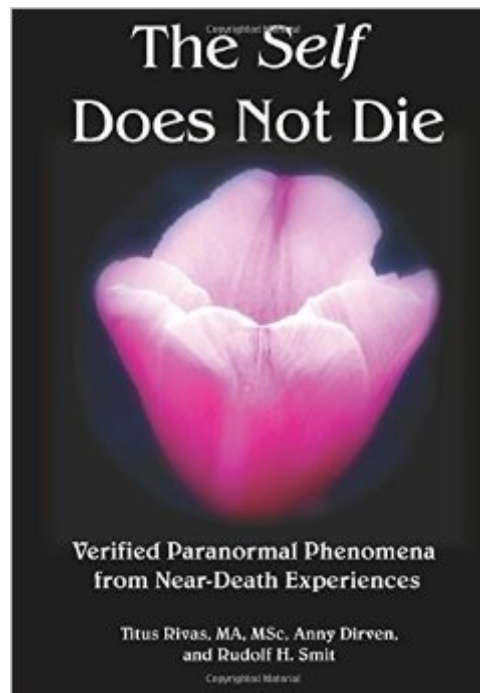


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The Self Does Not Die: Verified Paranormal Phenomena From Near-Death Experiences



Synopsis

Are near-death experiences (NDEs) just elaborate hallucinations produced by a dying brain? Or the exuberant fantasies of attention-seeking narcissists? As the accounts in this book abundantly demonstrate: Neither! This book contains over 100 reliable, often firsthand accounts of perceptions during NDEs that were later verified as accurate by independent sources. These near-death experiencers were everyday people from all over the world—many of whom were clinically dead, unable to see or hear, and yet able to perceive new vistas of a world beyond the senses and even beyond death. *The Self Does Not Die* is a trailblazing effort to present the most confirmed cases of consciousness beyond death ever compiled. In these cases, the authors have gone back to the original sources, the people involved in each case, whenever possible, rather than relying on secondhand sources. In so doing, they have assembled a unique collection of empirical data that any scholar worthy of the name must take into account. By carefully studying and describing many convincing and corroborated cases, during cardiac arrest and other cases, the authors conclude that there are good reasons to assume that our consciousness does not always coincide with the functioning of our brain: Enhanced consciousness can sometimes be experienced separately from the body. This book is a must read for anyone wanting to know more about this fascinating subject with its implications about the very nature of human consciousness and its survival of physical death. It has the potential to radically change the currently still widely accepted materialist paradigm in science.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I think it's fair to say that the majority of influential scientists and philosophers would dismiss the

experiences described in this book without wasting more than a few words or even turning the first page. "That"can't happen or if it appears to "happen" they might add, then there has to be a satisfactory alternative explanation, without resorting to the "outlandish" suggestion that a person's mind can operate when their brain is not functioning. If such scientists and philosophers were asked to actually examine the cases in this book with an open mind, the majority would more than likely decline the invitation. "I don't need to do that, "such and such a body" has already investigated the subject years ago and it's all simply the tricks of a dying brain. Or if not that, then it's most certainly just lucky guesses allied with the natural human tendency to tell a good story ! "This is the predicament that researchers who actually take the time and effort to look at these experiences, find themselves, because this book presents more than one hundred cases of verified veridical OBE's during the time the person's brain function was completely absent or at best, so severely compromised that no conscious experience should have been possible. Brain tricks, lucky guesses and imaginative stories can be categorically ruled out. The detailed reports come not from "attention seeking fantasists" or "credulous believers," but accomplished medical professionals of varying levels and disciplines who have reported to their astonishment, that patients can indeed sometimes accurately describe what is occurring in detail around their comatose or actually "dead" bodies.

Full Disclosure: I just finished writing a lengthy, and very positive, review of this book for The Journal of Near-Death Studies. I'll make just a few comments here: First of all, despite the title, The Self Does Not Die is not about the more exotic aspects of the NDE that the general public has come to expect. No life reviews, no meetings with deceased loved ones, and no Being of Light. Rather, it is a sustained epistemological analysis involving evidence with respect to two competing hypothesis: (i) the Materialist hypothesis which asserts that consciousness is produced by the brain and (ii) the Dualist hypothesis which asserts that consciousness is transmitted, but not produced, by the brain. This way of putting it ---production vs transmission ---goes back to William James, who also demonstrated in his Ingersoll lecture that the facts of neurology are forever neutral with respect to these hypotheses, a point that Materialists often forget whenever they claim to have evidence that their hypothesis is true. What they sometimes cite as evidence is just correlations that are observed between brain and consciousness, correlations that are equally explained by the transmission theory. But what does decide between these two theories, conclusively in my opinion, are clear cases of conscious experience happening at a time when the brain is not functioning, or not functioning in the way required by neurophysiological theory to produce consciousness. The Self Does Not Die features many cases of this kind: veridical perceptions, independently verified, and

anchored to a time when it is known that there is no blood flowing in that person's brain. There are over 100 cases with extensive documentation, each one of which independently falsifies the Materialist hypothesis.

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