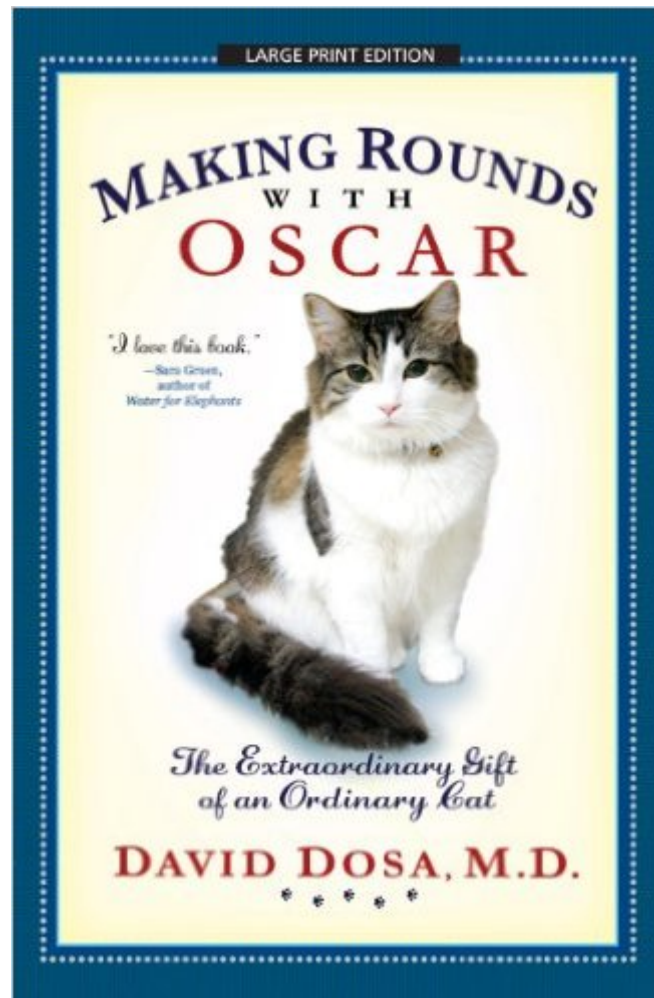


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Making Rounds With Oscar



Synopsis

The staff at Steere House nursing home in Rhode Island adopted a cute little kitten with attitude. He loved to stretch out in sunlight and chase his tail -- and consented to a cuddle when it suited him. Oscar was an ordinary cat -- or so it seemed. It wasn't long before he created a stir. It seems Oscar possessed an extraordinary gift: he instinctively knew when the end of life was near. This is the story of Oscar -- his patients -- caregivers and one stubborn doctor who learned how to listen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is about Oscar but it's much more. It's the backstory of the patients and their families in the dementia ward where Oscar makes his rounds. For someone whose beloved Mother struggled with dementia, these families in the book looked a lot like ours and helped us not to feel so alone.

I had already read this book, I liked it immensely. So, I decided to send it to a friend because it makes a wonderful gift. I recommend it to everyone who likes animals and believes in unconditional love. It is a sweet story that opens your heart.

Anyone who loves animals will enjoy this story. The bonus lies in the bigger story of a facility serving residents with dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Dosa leads us through his own awakening to the complexities of these patients and the lives of their families and caregivers. Oscar, of course, is one of the most endearing caregivers in the unit. You will come away with compassion for all

touched by dementia and have a better understanding of the ethical and economical issues involved. There are many beautiful scenes in this book that allow the reader witness profound grace in blissful moments spent with a cat purring next to a patient as death draws near. Oscar teaches us all that there is nothing to fear.

I am an animal lover though I consider myself more of a dog person than a cat person. Regardless, I still appreciate the stories of cats and other animals who are extraordinary. It is almost impossible not to adore Oscar who is a fairly unfriendly cat when he is not helping the dying with their transition. Dr. Dosa is an interesting narrator because he is an open minded skeptic. Many doctors are resistant to anything that seems even remotely supernatural and even though Dr. Dosa never fully figures out how Oscar can tell that a patient is dying he does eventually come to believe that Oscar has a gift. I also love that Dr. Dosa is willing to admit that Oscar is not infallible and he occasionally makes mistakes. On the surface this is a book about a special cat but we also get many stories about patients and families. Especially those dealing with Alzheimer disease. Their stories even more than the wonders of Oscar and the character of Dr. Dosa make the book worth reading. Aging is a natural part of life and so many of us will spend some portion of time caring for elderly family members and possibly being elderly and sick ourselves one day. In many ways I feel like *Making Rounds with Oscar* is a story of hope. Geriatric patients can lose their memory but still hold on to threads of who they are. Children can love parents who no longer know them. Alzheimer disease is often fatal but for Dr. Dosa's patients there is kind staff, support for family members, and Oscar to help patients and their family get through some of the hardest times of their lives.

A quick read... Very well written book by a geriatric physician who is initially very skeptical about Oscar's special talents. This book will make you laugh and maybe want to cry a little too. Highly recommended for anyone who likes cats, or has to care for elderly family members suffering from dementia and/or Alzheimer's disease.

Living in Rhode Island, I am very familiar with Oscar's story. What impressed me with this book, even more than Oscar's extraordinary story, is the way Dr. Dosa delved into research with the families of patients who had been visited by Oscar in their last hours of life. Their poignant tales of living with a loved one with dementia or Alzheimer's disease shed great light on what to expect when my mother-in-law was in her last stages of life. Though she did not have Alzheimer's, she did

suffer from dementia while we were caring for her at home under hospice care. After she passed, I gave my copy of the book to her wonderful home health care aide from Home & Hospice, an animal lover who noticed the increasing bond between my own cat and my mother-in-law during the last two months of her life.

This is a fascinating story that kept me intrigued from the beginning to the end. I heard about the amazing Oscar from the media but didn't know there was a book about him until recently. Somebody bought me a copy of the book and I can only say I highly recommend it for anyone that has a family member with dementia or Alzheimer's. The story covers so many issues with understanding the elderly but with a twist of an amazing cat. I found it to be very enlightening.

This book allows for the reader to see through the eyes of the medical staff and the family of those who suffer from Alzheimer's disease. This book also does a great deal in explaining the disease and its physical and mental aspects in an easy to associate with narrative format. I highly recommend this book especially if you know someone with any form of dementia.

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