

Angels Among Us

The Choice in helping those in Need

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PREFACE

In every city, town, and country, there live people long ignored or forgotten. The busy pace of daily life makes our own needs seem so great that often we have little energy to consider the needs of others. Those who have been forgotten tend to stay forgotten.

This is a tragic condition—not only for those who are forgotten, but also for those of us who are forgetting. For in frantically living to meet our own needs, we forget our own greatest need.

One relearns this need when fate brings him face to face with a forgotten soul. For the forgotten ones have within them a great healing power: the power to do what all of our exertions cannot—the power to simplify and slow down the world. For example, who can spend time with a child in need without feeling the need to rethink priorities? Those with great needs bring perspective to our own—which is to say, our own greatest need is to be alive to *theirs*.

This book, *Angels Among Us*, tells the true story of one with such needs. From that story emerges a way to think about life, others, and needs that slows the world to its actual and proper pace. For those blessed souls who devote their lives to working with people in need—whether that work be in a family, on the street, or within a formal caregiving program—this book introduces a way of doing so that increases the effectiveness of every caregiving effort.

To the woman whose life is shared in these pages, we say thank you. The richness of life depends on our finding others with similar stories, and feeling the need to thank them as well.

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