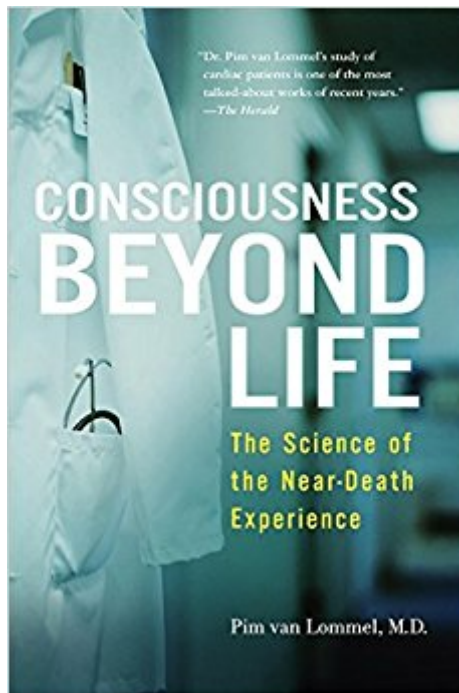




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# Consciousness Beyond Life: The Science Of The Near-Death Experience



## Synopsis

In *Consciousness Beyond Life*, the internationally renowned cardiologist Dr. Pim van Lommel offers ground-breaking research into whether or not our consciousness survives the death of our body. If you enjoy books about near-death experiences, such as those by Raymond Moody, Jeffrey Long, and James Van Praagh; watch television shows like *Ghosthunters*, *Touched by an Angel*, and *Ghost Whisperer*; or are interested in works that explore the intersection of faith and science, such as *Spiritual Brain*, *Signature in the Cell*, and *When Science Meets Religion*; you'll find much to ponder in *Consciousness Beyond Life*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Dr. Pim van Lommel’s *Consciousness Beyond Life* is an exciting, informative, and thorough overview of near-death experiences. As one of the foremost experts in the field, his work moves us closer to rational comprehension of human kind’s deepest mystery—life after death.”

(Raymond A. Moody MD, PhD, author of *Life After Life*) “In *Consciousness Beyond Life*, cardiologist Pim van Lommel constructs a model of consciousness that courageously builds on all we know. The resulting view is bright and hopeful and has the redeeming feature of being consistent with scientific data, which in our era makes all the difference.” (Dr. Larry

Dossey) “Pim van Lommel shows that the symphony of human consciousness does continue—even at the portals of death. His evidence is robust, and can no longer be ignored either by the science community, or by society at large.” (Dr. Ervin Laszlo) “Most books on NDEs only touch

on some of the ideas that are presented, but the distinctive contribution of this book is that it presents and defends a complete theory of consciousness.... What a brilliant, erudite and magisterial book. A magnificent achievement, clearly a landmark book. • (Dr. Kenneth Ring, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, University of Connecticut) • Consciousness Beyond Life confronts the apparent enigma of clear thinking, accurate perception, and enhanced memory in people who are clinically dead. This rigorous and provocative book may change our ideas about the mind and how we practice medicine. • (Bruce Greyson, M.D., Carlson Professor of Psychiatry & Neurobehavioral Sciences at the University of Virginia School of Medicine) • I highly recommend Consciousness Beyond Life. Van Lommel is convinced that NDEs are real experiences, not just some sort of brain malfunction. He... has studied NDEs for more than 20 years and this is an authoritative look, with solid medical background. • (Dr. Charles T. Tart, Ph.D.) • There have been several books published which explore consciousness, the near-death experience, or the brain, but van Lommel's book is the most comprehensive.... Human beings are something more than physical bodies. There is life after death. Read Consciousness Beyond Life and expand your mind with hope. • (Basil & Spice) • The most significant contribution to the field to appear in many years, containing as it does [van Lommel's] mature philosophical reflections on the implications of the findings of his study on near-death experiences in survivors of cardiac arrest. • (David Lorimer, editor of the Network Review)

As a cardiologist, Pim van Lommel was struck by the number of his patients who claimed to have near-death experiences as a result of their heart attacks. As a scientist, this was difficult for him to accept: Wouldn't it be scientifically irresponsible of him to ignore the evidence of these stories? Faced with this dilemma, van Lommel decided to design a research study to investigate the phenomenon under the controlled environment of a cluster of hospitals with a medically trained staff. For more than twenty years van Lommel systematically studied such near-death experiences in a wide variety of hospital patients who survived a cardiac arrest. In 2001, he and his fellow researchers published his study on near-death experiences in the renowned medical journal *The Lancet*. The article caused an international sensation as it was the first scientifically rigorous study of this phenomenon. Now available for the first time in English, van Lommel offers an in-depth presentation of his results and theories in this book that has already sold over 125,000 copies in Europe. Van Lommel provides scientific evidence that the near-death phenomenon is an authentic experience that cannot be attributed to imagination, psychosis, or oxygen deprivation. He further reveals that after such a profound experience, most patients' personalities undergo a permanent

change. In van Lommel's opinion, the current views on the relationship between the brain and consciousness held by most physicians, philosophers, and psychologists are too narrow for a proper understanding of the phenomenon. In *Consciousness Beyond Life*, van Lommel shows that our consciousness does not always coincide with brain functions and that, remarkably and significantly, consciousness can even be experienced separate from the body.

This book looks at information cardiologist Pim Van Lommell and others collected over 25 years and paints an amazing portrait- consciousness may very well be non-local (not originating in the brain) and may continue after physical death of the body. This book goes into detail describing some amazing cases, such as a case where a woman who was clinically dead (she was hooked up to an EEG and EKG machine and both were flat) remembers specific details, comments and medical procedures during a time when her brain registered NO brain wave activity. Her descriptions were later verified by nurses and doctors who were in the operating room during the time this woman was- according to modern science- clinically dead and incapable of witnessing anything. Because her heart was deliberately stopped for the procedure, every second she was dead was accounted for and the details she described definitely took place during her "death". The book tackles some common misconceptions about NDEs (such as they are all the result of oxygen deprivation) and debunks the debunkers (such as mentioning that during NDEs, experiencers report heightened visual acuity, heightened senses, increased logical abilities and more and a sense of moving quickly at incredible speeds and hearing music... none of these symptoms are associated with oxygen deprivation). It looks at more than a quarter century of NDE information and discusses why mainstream scientists shun the phenomenon (in short, they are materialists and accepting the data would require a complete paradigm shift and invalidate a lot of commonly held beliefs about the nature of our consciousness and reality), An excellent read for those interested in the possibility that we are more than we appear to be and that consciousness is far more complex than most believe it to be.

I've noticed people don't want to talk about death until it hits near home. This book defines what death means to the medical community who in turn are more knowledgeable in the area than the average person. Oxygen deprivation, hallucinations and dreams are broken down clearly enough that people who try to "shoot from the hip" to explain an NDE with any of those three are uninformed. I enjoy research so having all his references presented means a layman like me can check it out for myself. I didn't notice any religious babble...just facts and theories. My take on the

book is...the mind is not the body so nobody dies. Now what?

Written by a renowned cardiologist who simply did not ignore the evidence he saw and the testimonies of his patients, this is a truly scientific research into the phenomena of near-death-experiences and their ramifications for understanding the cosmos. The "dead" universe paradigm is on its way out thanks to scientists like Pim van Lommel and many others who are not dogmatic but look the reality they encounter in the face and say yes, I saw it, I heard it, there must be something to it.

The author explores what used to be a forbidden subject with the skills of a scientist and the courage of an explorer. The result is a stunning affirmation of life and the continuity of consciousness beyond death. What is really great is how he explores the current science of consciousness and provides a great deal of evidence to support his conclusion that life goes on and on. You will learn the scientific underpinnings of consciousness and some really interesting theories about how it all works together. I am re-reading this one again and probably again and again.

Received extra early in pristine shape. This book has certainly etched my already positive belief in the afterlife, in stone. Also has provided me with ammo to use in some very animated conversations I've had on the subject because it's not spiritual ... it's scientific!

The book mainly focuses on the scientific evaluation of a seemingly unscientific phenomena - the near death experiences. Still, it covers a variety of modern researches and theories concerning life and consciousness through NDEs, which makes it at least an interesting, revealing, and thought-provoking reading experience. I am a part of the current scientific community and an agnostic myself. I am a person of logic and skepticism. However, I did find this book fairly convincing (although there are still parts of the arguments hard to believe, but basically from the lack of a definite verification systems) while introducing many interesting aspects in possible further researches. The writing itself was accessible and thoughtful. Just prepare to be very open-minded. And now I am extremely curious about what science would take us in the future for sure!

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