

DENES Magda dr.

IN NECESSITY AND SORROW:

Life and Death in an Abortion Hospital

By Magda Denes

One thing will become incontrovertibly obvious to the readers of *In Necessity and Sorrow*: abortion, be it morally right or wrong, socially acceptable or forbidden, involves the taking of human life. That is the only worthwhile message in this book by a doctor of psychology and psychoanalysis and a self-described supporter of abortion on demand. Perhaps we owe Dr. Denes gratitude for forcing us to face what antiabortionists have been saying for years. Abortion, she demonstrates in spite of herself, is killing. It is intended to cut off, to end, a developing life.

Dr. Denes had the potentially excellent idea of spending time in a New York hospital dealing exclusively in abortion (before the practice was legal in other states), to document the mental and physical anguish of the staff and patients. But the only result, other than the single important lesson cited above, is a

series of awkward, self-serving interviews, spliced together with her own embarrassingly bad writing. (Basic Books, \$10)

—B. D. Colen

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