

CAREGIVER: A LOVE STORY - A Film



<https://youtu.be/jtKTngulal4>

CAREGIVER: A LOVE STORY challenges viewers to **acknowledge the growing strain placed on family caregivers and to envision a new approach**

Over the past decade, we've gotten better at caring for the dying. But now we have a new crisis on our hands: the plight of those who care for them.

This film highlights an essential, yet largely unseen workforce—the family caregivers of America, and challenges viewers to acknowledge the growing strain placed on them.

CAREGIVER: A LOVE STORY is the tale of one man struggling to care for his dying wife. When 59-year-old Bambi decides to forgo further treatment for her cancer and die at home, her husband Rick leaves his job to become her primary caregiver—a role for which he has no experience and little support.

We must find another way.

The Film.

While most documentary films about death focus on people who are dying, **CAREGIVER: A LOVE STORY** **directs our attention to the millions of family caregivers who support them at home.**

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Bambi and Rick's journey begins on a high note. Her pain is under control and family and friends flock to her bedside. Death may be fast-approaching, but there is an air of celebration, even optimism. The atmosphere changes quickly when family members must return to their homes abroad and Rick is left to manage Bambi's growing needs on his own. Without a full night's sleep in months, the around-the-clock responsibilities eventually send Rick into a state of physical, financial, and emotional exhaustion.

***If interested to see the FILM:**

[Link to Caregiver: A Love Story website](#)

Available virtual screenings:

Dec 18-Jan 28th at the Roxie Theater ([link](#))

Jan 1-Feb 4th at the Laemmle Theater ([link](#))

ABOUT THE FILM

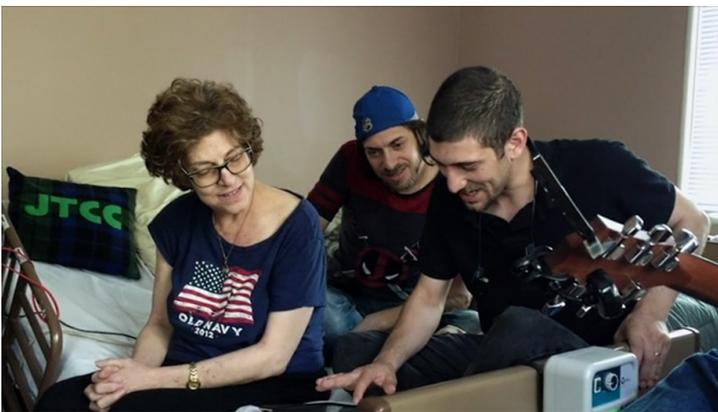
CAREGIVER: A LOVE STORY is a short film (approx. 24 minutes) about Bambi and Rick. When 59-year-old Bambi decides to forgo further treatment for her cancer and die at home, her husband Rick leaves his job to become her primary caregiver. It's a role for which he has no experience and little support.

Where most documentary films about death focus on the dying person, *CAREGIVER: A LOVE STORY* shines a light on Rick, the loving husband. Too often, family caregivers stay hidden behind the scenes as supporting characters. But while Rick's presence starts small, it builds to a crescendo that none of us can afford to ignore.



Bambi and Rick at their wedding. Bambi had already been diagnosed.

Bambi and Rick's journey begins on a high note. Her prognosis is heartbreaking, but there is an air of celebration, even optimism.



Bambi with two of her three children - her two sons, who both live abroad, in Israel.

Bambi's pain is under control and a steady stream of visitors, bringing food, music, and companionship, flock to her bedside.



Dr. Jessica Zitter, their personal friend and a medical specialist in end-of-life care offers medical advice and support. She helps the family arrange for hospice care once Bambi decides that it is time. Bambi, Jessica, and Rick agree to film Bambi's experience, specifically to show how beautiful a death at home can be. "If it will help others, I'm in," says Bambi



Rick is happy to have Bambi at home and relieved that she is finally comfortable. But he is beginning to feel the pull of responsibility between helping the increasingly weak Bambi and caring for his two-year-old granddaughter Mya, for whom he is permanent guardian.



Stress mounts even more when family members must return to their homes abroad, leaving Rick alone with Bambi and Mya.



As Bambi's needs escalate, Rick begins to realize that he is, for the most part, on his own. Even though the hospice support is excellent, it is simply not enough. He tries to stay organized, making charts, writing progress notes, administering medications



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Rick's situation eventually forces a difficult choice on the couple. Physically and emotionally exhausted, Rick gets extremely sick. Bambi agrees to go to a nursing home for five days of respite care, which is something she never wanted to happen.



Bambi approaches death with Rick by her side.



Although weak and fragile, she takes comfort in being able to live the way she wanted, all the way to the end.



Rick, speaking at memorial service for Bambi



Bambi Fass; 1957 - 2016

CAREGIVER: A LOVE STORY highlights the struggles of those who try to support the dying at home, where most of us would wish to be. Caregiving is indeed an act of love; it's noble and self-sacrificing. But as viewers witness Rick's struggles, they will inevitably wonder whether they could actually do what Rick did for Bambi. Or if they would choose to. There has to be a better way.