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## Book Review

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## Book Review

### Erratum

The citation for this review is *4 RISK 357 (1993)* in most commercial databases.

**STANLEY M. ROSENBLATT, MURDER OF MERCY: EUTHANASIA ON TRIAL.** (Prometheus Books 1992) [352 pp.] CIP: 92-25910; ISBN: 0-87975-772-8. [\$24.95. 59 John Glenn Drive, Buffalo NY 14228-2197.]

This well produced and clearly written book tells of what its jacket calls the “legal ordeal” of Dr. Peter Rosier, who was tried for murder after unabashedly trying to help his terminally ill wife commit suicide.

Rosenblatt, a well-known civil trial attorney, explains his strategy and tactics leading to Rosier’s acquittal. He develops the story on both legal and moral planes and enhances it with many excerpts from the trial transcript.

While Rosenblatt sometimes seems more focused on his own moral qualms, personal challenges and triumphs, *MURDER OF MERCY* delivers on its promise to describe the ordeal of Rosier.

One of his book’s most broadly applicable features is Rosenblatt’s repeated discussion of the fact that Rosier was tried at all, much less for first degree murder. In his final chapter, *Closing Thoughts*, he states:<sup>1</sup>

Our legal system has not been creative enough to treat assisted suicides by family members or physicians differently from a murder that occurs during an armed robbery. The practical solution... has been for prosecutors to look the other way. The situation is... [similar] to what existed when abortions were illegal; prosecutions were extremely rare and almost unheard of against middle- and upper-class women....

Rosenblatt goes on to mention several quite similar situations where the public and officials evidenced notable lack of concern.

Readers should not expect an impartial account of either the defense or of euthanasia. Yet, even as a sometimes self-centered tale, the book has much to commend it. If nothing else, it is highly entertaining.

Timothy J. Arel<sup>†</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> At 341.

<sup>†</sup> Mr. Arel received is B.S. (Economics) from St. Anselm’s College and is a 1994 candidate for the J.D. at FPLC. He has a strong interest in health law.