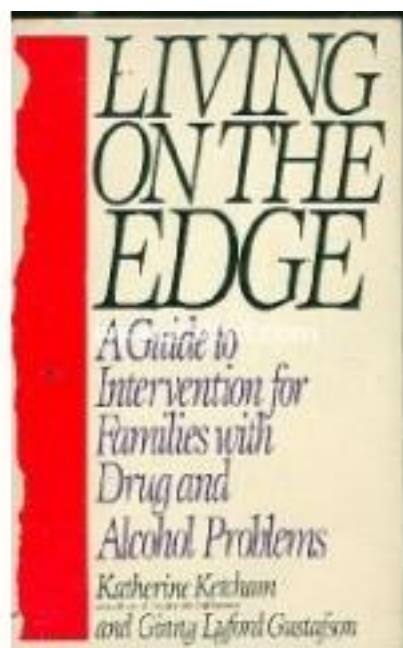


Living On/edge



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著者:Katherine Ketcham

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[f you are like most people who live with or love a Dependent--
 someone who is addicted to alcoholii¼¢ cocaineii¼¢ heroinii¼¢ or
 prescription pills---you want to get right to the \"action\" part of
intervention. You want to find a way---quicklyii¼¢ if possible--to
fix your \"problem.\" You don't want to do any more soul-
searching. You don't need to hear again that you are part of the
problem. Your patience and understanding are all used upii¼¢ and
you're ready to :hand this problem over to the professionals and
have them fix itii¼¢ Thenii¼¢ you hopeii¼¢ all will be wellii¼¢ and life will
be worth living once again.
 We wish we could offer you easy answers and fast solutions.
But we can't. We'd be deceiving you if we did. Addiction to
alcohol and drugs affects not only the body but the mind and
even the soul; it affects not only its victims but its victims
families and friends. The addiction has entrapped you--an inno-
cent
bystander--in its tentaclesi¼Œ and it has blinded you to your
own imprisonment.
You know that things are not righti¼Œ but the
reasons escape youi¼Œ and you
blame yourself for the joyless-
ness of your life.
 Intervention--stepping in and
stopping the addiction--must
begin with self-assessment and self-discovery. As a
process of
education and enlightenment as well as actioni¼Œ intervention
must take into account the depth and power of the addiction s
tenacious hold on
both the Dependent and the Dependent s
family. Thusi¼Œ we must start at the
beginningi¼Œ by identifying
~at has happened to your life and why it
happened.
 In the next seven chaptersi¼Œ we will lead you gradually into
understanding the disease of addiction. Our goals are to help
you:
3

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