

December 9, 1997 changes the holiday season for Barbie Perkins-Cooper when her father is diagnosed with esophageal cancer. During the early stages of cancer treatments, Walter W. Perkins swallows his stubborn pride, reaching out to his daughter for support and unconditional love. Realizing he will no longer have independence, Mr. Perkins wants to take back his life — to die with dignity. While she watches his condition deteriorate, the author is defenseless to provide for his care. She finds roadblocks everywhere she turns. She researches issues of elderly care, discovering that our society is slightly anemic where care for the elderly is concerned. Thus begins her excruciating struggle to accept her father's terminal illness, nursing home care, and the decisions she must make as his primary caregiver.

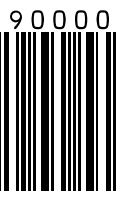
Serving as a caregiver opens Barbie's eyes to the needs, wants and desires of the elderly. These discoveries teach her how to forgive, moving her forward to new experiences. When Mr. Perkins dies, the grief she suffers reminds her not to look back on life with regret, but to move forward with her life, with grace and passion.

Writing is one of the passions of **Barbie Perkins-Cooper**. Intrigued with the beauty of words since early childhood, she published a science fiction story in the third grade. An English teacher in high school encouraged her to become a writer. Years later, Barbie completed an unpublished novel, deciding the story would make an interesting movie. In 1994, the screenplay placed as a semi-finalist and finalist in a national competition. Her screenplays continue to receive national recognition, placing as semi-finalists and finalists in the Chesterfield Film Company Writer's Film Project, Fade-In Magazine competition, the Writers' Network Screenplay and Fiction competition, and America's Best Screenplay competition, for the Writers Foundation. She and her husband, Phillip R. Cooper, Sr., resides in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. Barbie works as a freelance reporter, screenwriter, and business writer while achieving her professional dreams as a writer.

Cover photo by Barbie Perkins-Cooper

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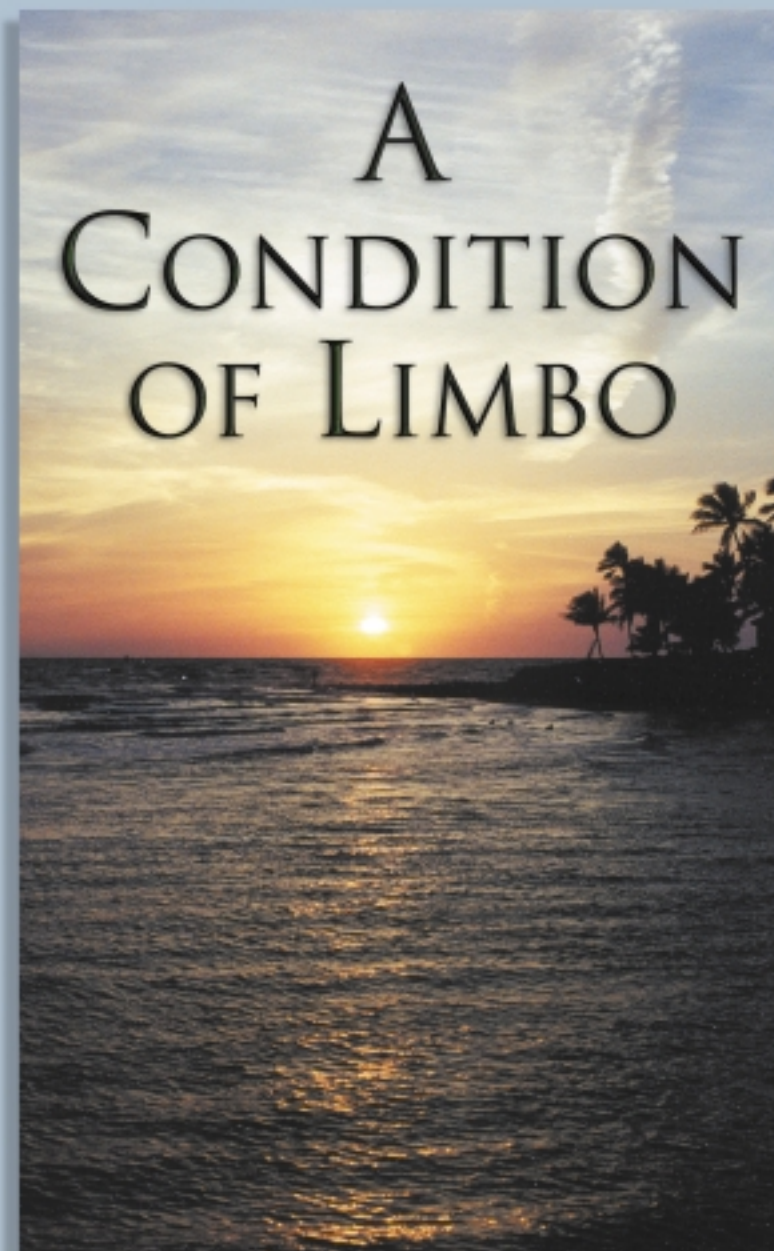


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BARBIE PERKINS-COOPER