



# Life Support

*Candace Calvert*

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## **Life Support** Candace Calvert

Nurse Lauren Barclay put her life on hold to keep a watchful eye on her troubled sister. It's why she's back in Houston. But that means confronting the brooding physician assistant who caused painful turmoil in her family--and left Lauren with memories her heart can't forgive. PA and single parent Elijah Landry is no stranger to stormy relationships, including one with his father, who is threatening him with a restraining order. It won't stop Eli from protecting his disabled brother--or from making peace with Lauren. He wants that and so much more. But as Lauren and Eli draw closer, a powerful hurricane roars toward Houston. Survival instincts take priority and everything changes. Can hope weather the storm?

## **Life Support Details**

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# From Reader Review Life Support for online ebook

## Sarah says

Excellent medical drama!

Life Support is book 3 in the Grace Medical series, I've loved all of Ms. Calvert's books and had very high expectations for this book. I am very happy to say that it surpassed them!

The characters were wonderful! I quickly came to love and sympathize with each of them. Lauren had such faith, but she had to learn that there's a difference between leaving it in God's hands and ignoring a problem. Eli had such little faith and believes God doesn't care anymore. He had to learn what real faith is and that even when God seems silent, it doesn't mean that He doesn't care. Sometimes we're just not listening to hear His answer. Eli's daughter Emma may have been my favorite character! She was so sweet and completely adorable, and had such a strong faith. She was a good balance for her father's unbelief.

Ms. Calvert is a wonderful storyteller! I love how she brought everything to life; it seemed as though you were actually there peering over someone's shoulder. The medical scenes were technical without leaving us laymen confused. It was quite easy to follow and it wasn't gory like some medical dramas are known to be. The descriptions were great and I could practically see Grace Medical, Lauren's home, Mimaw's and all of the other locations the characters find themselves.

This book deals with two hard topics: drug addiction and mental health problems. I appreciate that Ms. Calvert didn't try to gloss it over or wipe it away with platitudes. She made it real without glorifying it. That is a thin line to try to write and I believe she did an excellent job!

I enjoyed getting to see the story from several different points of view. It gave the story more depth and I just liked knowing what the others characters are thinking about each development. I was surprised to read it from Drew's position, but looking back over it, I believe the story would have lost a lot, if she hadn't included him.

My only disappointment was how the book ended. While some of the threads were tied up nice and neat, we are left with a few to imagine on our own. I know this was intentional, but I would have liked to know what was going to happen with a couple of the characters. I really hope they are included in another book so we know where they went from there.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys medical drama with a good dose of God interwoven throughout the story.

I received an Advance Reader Copy from the author for my honest opinion, which I have given. I was not required to write a positive review and have received no compensation for it.

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## Mrs Giggles says

Life Support brings us to another Grace hospital, this time to Houston Grace. If you are not familiar with this series, it's an inspirational one, or Christian romance to be more precise, which means God is always hovering over the bed, so to speak. Candace Calvert is one of the less preachy authors in Christian romances, however, so this one is pretty light on the sermonizing. It is only late in the book that God makes an appearance to fix up all the nonsense in this story, and He's actually the most awesome character in this story because of that.

Oh, and I hate to say this, but this review would contain spoilers because I can't discuss what bugs me about this story without discussing things that happen late in this story. Hit the back button if you want to read for

yourself how God saves some silly people from themselves.

When it comes to the synopsis of this story, it's basically "Crap happens. A lot!" Basically, Lauren Barclay, a nurse at Houston Alamo, and Elijah Landry, a physician assistant, used to have a thing until Lauren's parents decided that Eli was the bad influence that drove Lauren's younger sister into running wild and getting hooked on drugs. Lauren agrees with her parents, so when Eli suggested that Jess might want to seek help, Lauren is like, "Kiss my virtuous rear end!"

It's awkward enough that they work at the same place, but Eli also sends his disabled brother to a home that Lauren contributes her time to, so yes, awkward. In the meantime, lots of things happen. Other colleagues have home drama. Patients have medical drama. Creepy children run around acting cute in heinous ways like singing with dogs during life-threatening situation. And when things seem to calm down a bit, look out, here comes the hurricane.

The author ramps up so much drama in this story that the main characters have rarely any chance to talk. This is a problem when the issue between Lauren and Eli is Lauren's refusal to talk and instead live in complete denial. It's definitely a problem when the story moves past the page 200 point and the characters are still the same as they were on page 10 and still carrying the same baggage. I get this impression that the author doesn't have much of a story to tell so she tries to hide this by putting in one drama after another.

Lauren is a very difficult heroine to root for because of she doesn't do anything other than to judge other people when she's in a good position, while deliberately ignoring the fact that her sister may very likely be a screw-up responsible for much of the drama in this story. She tries to cut Eli off for daring to suggest that Jess may need intervention, is offended when her superior says that she doesn't want to treat Jess with leniency just because Jess is Lauren's sister, and is angry at Eli when Eli points out late in the story that Jess's usual thoughtlessness might have killed his daughter. Everything is about Lauren. My favorite moment is when she whines that there have been so many tragedies in this story - including two dead people - and the biggest people affected are Eli and herself. People are dead, but Lauren is the one suffering the most.

And when Lauren discovers that, oops, Jess isn't completely as wonderful as Lauren insists on thinking, and she may have lost Eli because of her attitude, Lauren wails to God that she has believed in Him all this while (never mind that she has never been caught praying in the story up to that point) so WHAT MORE CAN HE EXPECT HER TO GIVE? I'm not God but hey, I can suggest that she may want to pull her head out of her rear end and take a deep breath, for a start.

Compare her climatic prayer to Eli's, who, after doing all he can to save the world, asks for strength and guidance. No "I'm your best fan, so why are you doing to me?" nonsense like Lauren.

The story is also disappointing because, initially, the author introduces an interesting conundrum - Eli wants his brother to die with dignity, so this means not resuscitating Dave should the circumstance arise. This puts him at odds with his father. However, this matter is soon swept under the rug in favor for one drama after another, and is resolved basically by having everyone put his or her faith in God. Perhaps that is an acceptable resolution, considering the type of story this is, but given that the title of this story is based on Eli's dilemma, the way the author handles this matter feels like a big cop-out.

"Have faith in God and He'll fix everything" is actually the catch-all solution here, but given how the characters, especially Lauren, have behaved so far in this story, it also means that God steps in and fixes everything, leaving people like Lauren with no need to be held accountable for their actions. Like Eli's father, who treats his son like crap to assuage his own ego. Like Lauren, who enables her sister for so long

and acts like a bitter judgmental twat throughout the entire story - someone should have slapped some sense into her, at least. Apparently putting their trust in God somehow enables them to hug and make up, and all their issues evaporate with the dawning of a new day. I'm not too convinced, unless God also gives these characters brand new personalities to go along with their rejuvenated faith in Him.

This story also tells me that simply going to church solves the problem of drug addiction. Think about that for a minute.

Too much drama, not enough credible resolution, and not even a good romance, with the added bonus of a mostly unlikable cast that get rewarded in the end without earning the happy ending. As I've said, God is the most awesome character in this story, and that is not a good thing here.

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### **Michelle says**

Life Support, A Grace Medical Novel by Candace Calvert

Lauren Barclay is an ER nurse working for Grace Medical when Elijah Landry's brother Drew is brought in. Elijah and Lauren have a history. Her family believe he is responsible for her sister Jessica's problems. Because Elijah is a PA at the same hospital their paths continue to cross. Lauren seems to be her sister's keeper, trying to keep her out of trouble, get her to school and work on time and making sure she has eaten. In the midst of this chaos a hurricane is soon to hit their area. Elijah wants to be there for his brother who is disabled from a traumatic brain injury he suffered as a child. His father will do everything in his power to keep him away. Lauren and Elijah fight to keep those they love safe and find themselves fighting an attraction to each other.

The author Candace Calvert covered some very difficult subjects. Mental illness, suicide, and long term care were all addressed with love and knowledge. I found I could relate to both Lauren and Elijah because I have a adult child that suffers from mental illness. The author also hinted to Hurricane Katrina that devastated New Orleans a few years ago. Her knowledge of New Orleans and Hurricane Katrina were factual. I love the references to my beloved state.

I want to give a high-five to the author Candace Calvert and publisher Tyndale for bringing compelling Christian books that are entertaining and give hope to the reader with stories of faith. I won a copy of this book through a Facebook contest.

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### **Kris says**

I loved this book. very well written and a great story!

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### **Cindy says**

I enjoyed this book, it was a page turner. Lots of drama, with two characters who were bi-polar, I was never sure what was going to happen next. I felt sad for Lauren, she had so much responsibility on her shoulders, trying to be on guard for her sister, and trying to keep her parents informed. Her heart was prime for love, but could it survive love from someone with as many problems as she had or more. A great story, I think this

was the first book I have read from this author. A solid 4 star story.

This book was provided for review purposes only, no payment was received for this review.

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### **Sarah says**

Not the best in the series (the first two were better) but I enjoyed it. My biggest issue was that the main guy flat out told the girl he didn't care for God and she still dated him.

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### **Kirby says**

I've come to really appreciate the way that Candace Calvert can write a beautiful, clean romance that keeps the faith element as a primary focus. As I'd really enjoyed the first two books in the Grace Medical series, I had my hopes up pretty high for this final installment in the trilogy, but it ended up not being quite as good as I'd hoped for.

Nurse Lauren Barclay was introduced in the last book, and in this book, she's traveled back home to Houston, to try and help her sister Jess get her life back under control and on track. Her parent's have blamed physican assisatant Eli Landry for the bulk of her sister's recent issues, and Lauren's determined to keep her distance from him at any cost. However, God seems to have other plans as the two are constantly thrown together at the hospital, the care home where Eli's brother Drew is a patient, and even at the local park where Eli is prone to popping up with his daughter and their dog. Soon Lauren's questioning why she tried so hard to stay away from him in the first place, but with all the hurt and history between them, can they ever truly move on towards a future together?

Unfortunately, right from the start I had a hard time connecting with either main character. Compared to all the warmth, spunk, and strength that's present in the other main character's in the series, Eli and Lauren seemed really lackluster. While I generally enjoy slow burn romances, this was a really really really slow burn romance, and I never did feel there was enough chemistry between the two of them for their developing romance to make any sense to the reader. I really wanted to love this one, and while I did still enjoy the setting, the story line, and numerous secondary characters like Drew and Fletcher, it took me a long time to truly become invested in the story, and I never really did warm up to the main characters.

While I applaud Candace Calvert for tackling mental illness in this particular novel, I didn't care for the way the characters handle it. While it was completely believable that Lauren and her parent's would be in denial over Jess' issues, their insistent ways of enabling her behavior started to get to me, especially when Lauren starts covering for her at the hospital, despite the fact that Jess could be putting numerous patients at risk in the process.

Final Rating: ???

While there were definitely moments I enjoyed, and as always, I loved Candace's writing style, I had too many issues with the main characters, several plot points, and the way certain issues never seem to be resolved for it to be any higher than a three star read for me. While I will still continue to recommend this series as a whole, I definitely did not enjoy this one as much as I enjoyed the first two.

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## Carissa says

Readers familiar with the series have already met the affectionate Lauren Barclay in *Rescue Team*, the 2nd book in the *Grace Medical* series by Candace Calvert. Lauren always puts other people's needs before her own, to the detriment of her own relationships and happiness. It is a part of her genetic makeup, and it is strongest when troubles pop up in the life of her younger sister, Jessica. When Lauren's parents need her to keep an eye on Jess while they head off to Colorado for family business, Laurence has little choice. She leaves Austen for Houston and takes up residence at Houston Grace Medical. Between the jitters she gets whenever she encounters Eli Landry, local PA and friend to Jessica, and the constricting fear that Jessica might have one of her extreme "lows," Lauren is torn more ways than she can count. Especially when Eli starts sneaking his way into her heart, not hard to do since he's a loving and capable man in possession of an adorable daughter, Emma, and blind Newfoundland, Shrek. Lauren and Eli butt heads over care of disabled individuals since Lauren is an enabler and Eli wishes, for all the world, that the older, disabled brother he loves so much could be permitted to die if the time came. The two learn to cope together, Lauren discovering that enabling Jess is not the answer, and Eli realizing that there is always hope where his brother is concerned.

For Christian fans of medical dramas, this book series, and this author, will really hit the spot. I connected better to the characters in *Life Support* than I did to Kate and Wes in *Rescue Team*, probably because I suspect Lauren of being an ISFJ (we can be enablers), and that I understand her need to protect a younger sister. Lauren is a good reminder that Christians aren't perfect and that, no matter how sincere in our faith we might be, we will still make mistakes and wrong choices. Lauren is prone to it because she thinks she's protecting someone when she's really doing damage by not addressing the elephant in the room that no one wants to discuss. She realizes this by the end of the book, thank goodness, but the journey from point A to point B was fascinating.

Eli is an excellent male lead because he is logical and prefers to not let his emotions run his life. Except where his daughter is concerned, naturally, and he is an excellent father. I'm not sure what part was my favorite, his sheepishly telling Lauren that she is his music (*Phantom of the Opera* much?) or when he and Lauren are snookered into dressing like pirates for a party Emma, in full Elizabeth Swann attire, must attend. Both scenes were awesome, but I think the Jack Sparrow references really clinched the story for me, and my liking of Eli.

I don't know what it's like to live with a handicapped individual. But I do know what it's like to live with someone who suffers from clinical depression. Jessica's problem is bipolar disorder, caused by a chemical imbalance, just like clinical depression. And just like many Christians, Lauren and her parents are convinced that bipolar disorder can be beat with just prayer. Nope, I'm sorry, it doesn't work that way. Medication is there for a reason, and the worst thing in the world a pastor can tell a Christian suffering from a chemical imbalance is that they aren't praying enough or that they don't have enough faith. So, I was pleased with the outcome of this book because it gives a solid wake-up call to those Christians who think that people who suffer from depression or bipolar disorder are somehow in sin. That's not the way it works, and it certainly isn't biblical. There is no sin in taking medication for a chemical imbalance, and I was so happy that was Candace Calvert's conclusion.

Ms. Calvert always offers a solid story of realism in the life of medical personnel, a world in which I have absolutely no familiarity. Her characters feel real, their situations convincing, and the world in which they

live compelling. Once again Ms. Calvert has written a winner, and I hope that she will continue to be a steadfast voice for medical drama in Christian fiction.

- I received a free copy of this book from Tyndale House Publishers in exchange for an honest review, which I have given.

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### **Gail says**

Nice story. The heroine has spent her life watching over her younger sister who may or may not have bipolar issues. Nobody in the family wants to discuss the possibility, except for the heroine. The hero works at the same hospital as the heroine, but he's a former friend of little sister's, so off limits. There's a hurricane approaching Houston, which isn't a big problem usually, except for flooding, and Houston tends to flood at the least downpour. Calvert uses the storm well, and appropriately. It's a nice story about family dynamics that throws in mental health issues and quality of life after traumatic brain injury (hero's brother) as well as the family issues Calvert seems to specialize in. I liked it. Good Read.

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### **Katrina Epperson says**

Candace Calvert once again brings us a wonderful romance interlaced with suspense that will keep you turning the pages. This author never disappoints on any level. A signature of her writing is that her characters give you a glimpse of their heart and soul thru true to life dialogue that details family and relationship concerns. This is a story about second chances, both on a personal and spiritual level.

We are introduced to Lauren Barclay who is a young nurse who has returned from Houston to help keep a close eye on her troubled sister. Lauren knew from the time she saw her sister that she would be expected to be her keeper. She loves Jess with all her heart and really only wants to help her in any way possible, of course there are times when your love for a person can cloud your judgment. Lauren is a nurse in the ER which comes with it's one set of responsibilities, but when her parents leave her in charge of their home and taking care of Jess things suddenly become really complicated.

Elijah Landry is a PA at the walk-in clinic attached to the hospital and is a single father. He has had his own tragedies to contend with, but some have a more lasting consequences than others. Elijah's older brother, Drew, suffered a near drowning as a teenager and as a result has lots of medical issues. Elijah hates to see his brother suffer and fights with his parents constantly about his medical treatment. As a result his father, a retired judge, has just placed a restraining order against him intervening on any medical treatment.

Lauren is not a fan of Elijah's but she has such empathy for his predicament when Drew arrives by ambulance having breathing problems. She knows that when Jess needed help the most he had let her down and that was not something she was going to forget or forgive. The problem is the more she's around him the more she wants to trust him. Elijah feels Lauren is a good nurse, but feels she's blinded to the problems that Jess has.

When a huge hurricine sweeps into town both will be tested, not only their abilities, but their very faith. Will they come out stronger? Will they learn to turn everything over to God and trust in his guidance to help them through this storm?

I absolutely loved this story on so many levels. I loved the strength of the characters. There were times I wanted to them to see what was so obvious, but just like in real life a lot of us don't see what's in front of us. It was hard to put the book down. I would recommend this to anyone who loves romance, suspense, or a good inspiration.



I received this ARC from the author for a honest and complete review which is above.

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### **Katie Converse says**

This book really kept me hooked! I love the way she writes!

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### **Susan Snodgrass says**

I wish I could give this book 10 stars. It's that good. I discovered Candace Calvert's books a few months ago and have had the pleasure of reading several one right after the other. I loved it!

Candace Calvert is a former ER nurse and writes Christian medical suspense novels. But they're much more than that. They provide wonderful spiritual lessons along the way, too, and great plot lines.

She always includes more than one plot line in her books, so the reader is never, ever bored. My attention never wandered in this book. Never.

Lauren Barclay works at Grace Medical. This is the 3rd book in this series and we met Lauren in the last book. Remember the different plot line? Lauren's life is complicated by having to watch her troubled sister Jessica nearly all the time. It seems as if she's never given an opportunity to just rest or totally relax her guard.

PA Elijah Landry works at the same hospital. He's a single parent with a father who is giving him a horrible time, issuing a restraining order against seeing his own brother, who is disabled. Eli's life, too, is far from peaceful. PLUS he has a bit of history with Lauren's sister Jessica.

Add to all that, a powerful hurricane is heading toward Houston and threatens their lives and those around them. Will they be safe? Will God's grace help these two people find peace? Is there any hope for a solution to all these problems?

Also, there are several other stories running through this book that are very heartrending and painful to those involved. Including the reader.

This book totally awed me. Rarely am I affected as deeply as I was by this novel. I wept all the way through one chapter and part of another. Out loud. I kept having to wipe my eyes so I could see to read more.

I loved how the grace of God is portrayed in Life Support. Also the hope. With God, our hope is found. If we trust Christ, there is always hope in Him! He just stand there loving His children through all their problems, working things out and showing them that all they had to do in the first place is just to leave it in His hands. There is one short quote in this book that I underlined: "God's hands are big. He's got it covered." Amen! That is one quote I'm going to always remember!

Saying I loved this book is such an understatement. It truly is. It is an amazing novel. If you do not read this book, you are denying yourself a very pleasurable reading and a huge blessing.

(An ARC of this book was provided to me but it in no way influenced my review.)

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## Beverly says

*Life Support* is the third book in the Grace Medical series by Candace Calvert. *Trauma Plan* is the first book while *Rescue Plan* is the second. All three books are completely independent of each other as a Christian medical series. Each book is a romance which touches on some serious yet interesting topics that are relevant for today's readers.

Lauren Barclay is a nurse in ER at Houston Grace Hospital. This is her home town where her parents and sister lives. Although she has worked at Austin Grace Hospital for a short time, she is back and taking up where she left off--helping her folks look after her younger sister, Jess. Jess was always a little bit unstable emotionally. For the most part, she would be normal, but once in awhile she became restless, impulsive, irresponsible; one time she even ran away. Her family, including Lauren, tip-toed around her, afraid of upsetting her fragile state of mind. Lauren figured that's what family was for. Helping her sister took a lot of her time and attention, but eventually Elijah Landry began to claim some of her time as well. This did not sit well with Jess because at one time she and Eli had a history.

Elijah Landry is a Certified Physician Assistant (PA-C) in charge of the Urgent Care unit in the Houston Grace Hospital. When he and his brother Andrew were young, they enjoyed water sports with their dad. But one day Drew suffered a head injury that left him with brain damage and physical problems. Eventually he ended up in care facilities with serious health complications. Eli and his father, Judge Julien Landry, disagreed how Drew should be cared for, especially in emergencies such as the one at the opening of this book.

Eli had been friends with Jess once. But after she disappeared and returned a year ago, he had tried to help the family in a professional capacity. Jess and her parents did not appreciate his suggestions that Jess get psychological assistance. Neither did Lauren, but she did not hold it against Eli. She enjoyed his company and the company of his young daughter Emma. The question is whether all these family complications will keep Lauren and Eli from getting closer.

First off, I love how Candace Calvert writes her medical dramas. I have read several of them and in each one she creates characters that are likable, interesting, and growing. The action is usually fast-paced and gripping. She chooses topics which offer something for the reader to think about, above and beyond the medical scenes. The family dynamics she writes about are spot on, true to life and credible. *Life Support* is Calvert's newest book with plots and subplots that draw us close to her characters. One additional thing I enjoy about this author is that sometimes the supporting characters in one book become the main character in another one. This is true for Lauren who was a nurse in one of the other books in this series.

This book's subplot, intricately intertwined with the main plot, touches on an intriguing topic in this book: bipolar and its effects on family life. This is a subject close to my heart because I have been living with my own diagnosis of bipolar, and grew up with a mother who was never diagnosed with it, but in my opinion had the condition. The pattern of enabling and denial was a familiar scenario to me, and I recognized it when the author demonstrated it effectively throughout this story. Her descriptions, the problems that cropped up, the crisis which climaxed and the solution presented were all realistic and completely believable. The one thing I drew from this subplot is that anyone living with a mental health problem needs a team of supporters. People like me living with this condition should not have to deal with it alone. The sufferer needs support

from family, friends and professionals. I saw this all fleshed out in this book. I am very impressed with the author's acumen and sensitivity when writing on this topic.

In spite of the serious nature of the subplot's thread, the writer includes a metaphor that brings out comic relief when it's needed most. Just look for the dogs, especially the shih tzu and her situation with the Barclay family. There is definitely a good dose of irony with the dog drama that runs parallel to the family drama. I can't help but appreciate that level of humor used in this book. I hope you enjoy it too.

I am reading and reviewing this book for the Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. summer reading program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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### **Mary O'Brien says**

I must start off by saying that I am really starting to like Candace Calvert! I have only read a few of her books but I have really enjoyed them!

Lauren Barclay continues to put her life on hold in order to help her sister. That is why she left her job and moved back to Houston. The move back home came with a price. She would have to deal with the PA that not only put her family through hell, but left Lauren with feelings that won't go away.

Elijah Landry is a single father who knows all too well about stormy relationships. In fact, he is out of sorts with his father but that won't stop him from protecting his disabled brother.

A storm is fiercely moving in and so are his feelings towards Lauren. Houston is about to get hit with some grueling weather. When the storm is over and everything is calm, will the stormy relationships that both Eli and Lauren know all too well, be calm as well?

5/5

**\*\*I fell in love with Eli and Lauren! I loved how these two characters were in the previous book. I loved how much Eli cared for his brother and how he would do anything to protect him!\*\***

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### **Brittany says**

Life Support by Candace Calvert is book three in the Grace Medical series, however, I have not read the others in the series and had no trouble at all understanding the story. In fact, I loved this book! It is, as far as I can recall, the first medical drama that I have read. I am so very happy to have discovered a new-to-me author and look forward to reading more of her books!

Life Support has everything I want in a book. The characters are so very vivid. The author has done a wonderful job of creating main and side characters that I care about. They are complex and the issues they must work through are pretty intense. There was a character that frustrated me, because of some issues she has, but I realized that I was frustrated with her because she was so real to me!

There is a great romance in this book, conflict, drama, tense medical situations, big decisions to be made regarding the care of family members, all with the threat of a possible hurricane heading toward the area! Life Support kept me interested from start to finish and it was very hard to set down! I highly recommend it.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. in exchange for an honest review, which I have given.

You can read this review on my blog at:  
<http://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.co...>

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