A Revealing Introduction to the Compassionate, Dedicated and Wise Women and Men at the Heart of America’s Healthcare System

In her unprecedented new book, *The American Nurse*, photographer and award-winning filmmaker Carolyn Jones, through quiet photographs and deeply moving text, tells the personal stories of 75 nurses from across the U.S.—and in doing so gives voice to millions of women and men playing an important role every day in America’s healthcare system. It is also an ode, a celebration, a vote of gratitude to these extraordinary people. While books, television shows and New Yorker articles by and about doctors abound, nurses have remained mostly unsung—until now. What they know, what they have experienced, the stories they have to share reveal everything about their extraordinary personal world. Never before have nurses been so beautifully and poignantly given voice as they are in Carolyn Jones’ photojournalistic journey, *The American Nurse*, a journey that took her across the country.

“I expected warriors out there and in a way that’s what I found—just not the way I expected. Nurses do fight to care for us, in spite of ourselves, in spite of the obstacles in their way. And, they fix us, and when they can no longer fix us, they make sure that we are comfortable and that our time leaving this earth is as rich as it is entering.” – Carolyn Jones

An eye-opening and touchingly intimate photographic and biographical journey, *The American Nurse* introduces a broad spectrum of nurses from across the country—from big cities to small towns, tiny clinics to mega-hospitals and places in-between (transport nurses).

The journey began in New York City, where Carolyn met nurses working in a district with the highest rate of hunger in the U.S., stopping in Baltimore to meet nurses on the cutting edge of healthcare and nurse educators training the next generation, on to San Diego and a VA hospital that is home to the largest concentration of veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. She spent time with prison nurses in Louisiana; in Riverton, Wyoming she learned about the health needs of the Native American population; in Kentucky, she drove with a nurse up creeks to the homes of coal miners; in Wisconsin she found a Sister running a nursing home and a farm while also caring for foster children.

The stories are as varied as the nurses, as varied as the locations, as varied as the focus from end-of-life care to neo-natal, from AIDS to cancer but always, always the stories come down to compassion. We learn an incredible amount in these pages. Gratitude comes often to mind.

“All of us at some point before we die, most likely, are going to encounter a relationship with a nurse. Whether they are caring for us or a family member, we are going to cross paths with a nurse.” – Carolyn Jones

This book, and the entire American Nurse Project, would not have been possible without the support of Frenenius Kabi.