Suicide and suicidal behavior are long misunderstood phenomena. To those in the field it provides an often frustrating and complicated issue when dealing with clients, research committees, and the public. *November of the Soul* provides an excellent primer for both those individuals in the beginning of suicide research, as well as clinicians or clients looking for greater understanding of this behavior. A thorough and in-depth look at multiple aspects of suicide, *November of the Soul* is divided into six sections, each examining this behavior from a unique angle.

The book begins with a look at adolescent suicide and the often tragic lives individuals face at a young age. Comprised of five case studies, the reader gets a first-hand look at the lives of those people who decide to attempt, and in many cases complete, suicide. The second section of the book takes the reader through the surprisingly long history of suicidal behavior. Though quite a change in tone and subject from the case study driven adolescent chapter, the information provided about the historical roots of suicidal behavior stands on its own as an excellent summary of differing culture and time periods’ view on suicidal behaviors. These historical attitudes and viewpoints are likely to surprise many readers given the wide variety of levels of acceptance and even encouragement to commit a suicidal act in the case of some cultures.

Perhaps the most controversial and thought provoking section of the book comes near the end, after a solid foundation of information regarding suicidal behavior has been established. This section considers the various issues surrounding the right to die. Again, several case studies are employed to give further depth and understanding to the issue. Both sides of the right to die argument are presented and recent examples are examined including the Terri Schiavo case and Pope John Paul II’s end of life decisions. Several movements and organizations are described including Oregon’s Death with Dignity Act and the Hemlock Society.

Poignant and heart wrenching throughout, *November of the Soul* is an excellent example of both the reality of suicide, as well as the current status of research surrounding suicide. This book is an exceptional reference for individuals dealing with suicide personally as well as beginning researchers in the field. Its strengths lay in the breadth of information covered, from the earliest roots of suicidal behavior to the grief process for those who survive a suicide. Though unlikely to provide new information to those well-established in suicide research, the case studies and up to date information on society’s perception of suicidal acts certainly make this book a staple in the field.