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And the Living

Author: Barbara Abel

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Barbara Abel's latest thriller demonstrates a remarkably elaborate plot, while exposing the roller-coaster psychology of the characters' emotions that revolve around Jeanne's body, both inert and dramatically present, right up until an unexpected twist at the end.

After a car accident, Jeanne, 29, has been in a coma for four long years. Her chances of emerging from it grow slimmer with each passing day. For months now, Dr. Goossens has been advising ending life support in the name of the recent end-of-life Leonetti law, which forbids unnecessary therapeutic persistence. So when he calls Jeanne's parents and husband in for a meeting, Micheline, Gilbert and Jérôme know perfectly well what he's going to say, and they're dreading it. But it turns out that nothing had prepared them for what the doctor actually tells them. The unthinkable has happened. And now they're faced with a big dilemma...

Sales in France: 22,000 copies

Rights Sold: Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain

Adaptations: Two film adaptations of *Behind the Hate* (previous title): one Belgian and one Hollywood production