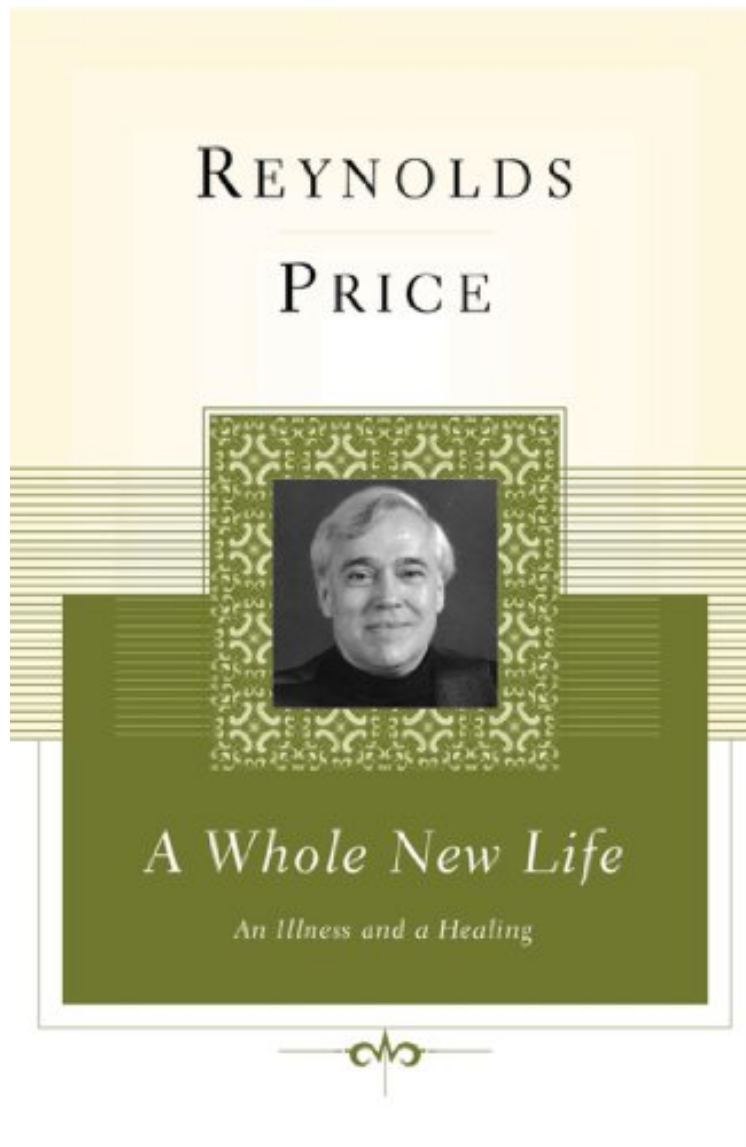


[FREE] A Whole New Life: An Illness and a Healing (English Edition)

A Whole New Life: An Illness and a Healing (English Edition)

Von Reynolds Price

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Von Reynolds Price : A Whole New Life: An Illness and a Healing (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Whole New Life: An Illness and a Healing (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. How one man surmounts near-fatal cancer and terrible painVon Ein KundeIf you are interested in how a man copes with the precipitate fall from health to paraplegia and near-death in a horififyingly short time, read this book. If you are

interested in how a person copes with agonizing, intractable pain, which a wide variety of medical treatments are unable to affect, read this book -- and learn about how biofeedback, to his surprise, enabled him to continue to endure his pain but ignore it. An inspiring book that shows what an extraordinary human spirit is capable of enduring and overcoming, if it must. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A great message for those with cancer
Von Kathy LaTour
I was sitting at the edge of a lake when I read *A Whole New Life*. I had finished by own book about the cancer experience and begun traveling to talk about the psychosocial (read emotional) issues of healing from such an experience. And then I read the words "the best thing the radiologist could have said to me was the old Reynolds Price is dead, who do you want to be now." It summarized for me much of my searching for what I had tried to say about what had happend tome. My old life is gone, was over the day they found the lump. I had forged a new one, but wish that someone along the way had told me that the cancer journey means becoming someone different -- and I think better. Thanks Reynolds Price. I recommend your book every time I speak.

Kurzbeschreibung
Reynolds Price has long been one of America's most acclaimed and accomplished men of letters -- the author of novels, stories, poems, essays, plays, and a memoir. In *A Whole New Life*, however, he steps from behind that roster of achievements to present us with a more personal story, a narrative as intimate and compelling as any work of the imagination. In 1984, a large cancer was discovered in his spinal cord ("The tumor was pencil-thick and gray-colored, ten inches long from my neck-hair downward"). Here, for the first time, Price recounts without self-pity what became a long struggle to withstand and recover from this appalling, if all too common, affliction (one American in three will experience some form of cancer). He charts the first puzzling symptoms; the urgent surgery that fails to remove the growth and the radiation that temporarily arrests it (but hurries his loss of control of his lower body); the occasionally comic trials of rehab; the steady rise of severe pain and reliance on drugs; two further radical surgeries; the sustaining force of a certain religious vision; an eventual discovery of help from biofeedback and hypnosis; and the miraculous return of his powers as a writer in a new, active life. Beyond the particulars of pain and mortal illness, larger concerns surface here -- a determination to get on with the human interaction that is so much a part of this writer's much-loved work, the gratitude he feels toward kin and friends and some (though by no means all) doctors, the return to his prolific work, and the "now appalling, now astonishing grace of God." *A Whole New Life* offers more than the portrait of one brave person in tribulation; it offers honest insight, realistic encouragement and inspiration to others who suffer the bafflement of catastrophic illness or who know someone who does or will. From Publishers Weekly
Novelist and poet Reynolds Price (*A Long and Happy Life*) here manages to turn his battle with spine cancer into a tough, sometimes funny, always moving and optimistic tale. His writing is eloquent enough to encompass his worst anguish; but his intellectual rigor, combined with religious convictions that never desert him, precludes self pity. Price now cheerfully calls himself "a certified gimp, in working order." He was first diagnosed in 1984 and during the next four years had surgery, suffered continual and severe pain and became permanently confined to a wheelchair: "My whole body felt caught in the threads of a giant hot screw and bolted inward to the point of screaming." He was heavily drugged and unable to function as either a writer or a friend. In 1987, he began treatment with hypnotist Patrick Logue of Duke University's psychiatric department with remarkable results: "I instantly knew I was free in a way I'd never felt before in my life, surely not for a moment of the past three years." Price learned from Logue to manage his pain without drugs and is writing again: fiction, essays, movie and TV scripts and the affecting poems here. His book is for all who suffer. Through it, with utter simplicity, threads a testament to the power of prayer, which Price calls "the first strong prop beneath my own collapse." He concludes "I've lead a mainly happy life," and, more astonishingly, "I know that this new life is better for me." What higher praise is there than to say we believe him? Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist
The bad news is that this is not a new Reynolds Price novel. The good news is that it's Reynolds Price, period. His latest book is a serious, tough account of his "mid-life collision with cancer and paralysis." In 1984, he was found to have a malignant tumor of the spinal cord, and three surgeries and radiation therapy arrested the growth but left him unable to walk. Although he has not written an essay on illness per se, he embraces elements of an essay as he pauses to ponder nature's systemic breakdowns, the importance of friendships in times of stress, or how to handle pain psychologically. His book is primarily a chronological narrative of events in the treatment of his disease and his rehabilitation. He hasn't written it for sympathy or to rail against modern medicine; he wrote it because he's a writer and had to. And even about disease and pain, he speaks beautifully. (Here's his description of a Valium-induced state: "I was gliding at the end of a very long tether, farther out than I'd ever been from my body or mind and entirely at ease.") Ultimately, Price comes to the perfect survivor's conclusion--"I've yet to watch another life that seems--to have brought more pleasure to its owner than mine has to me." A special book. Brad Hooper