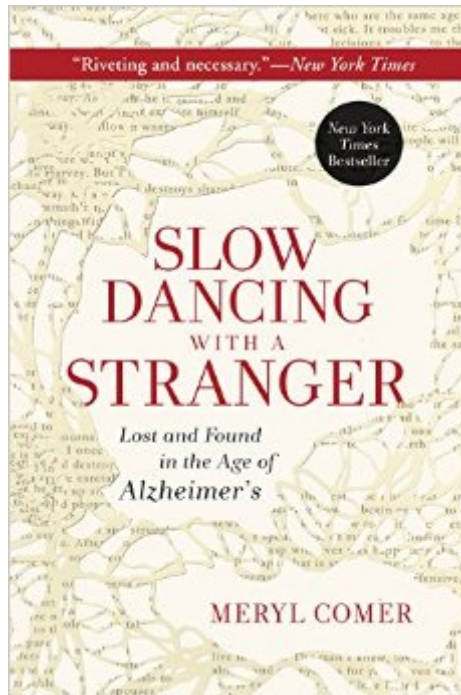


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Slow Dancing With A Stranger: Lost And Found In The Age Of Alzheimer's



Synopsis

Emmy-award winning broadcast journalist and leading Alzheimer's advocate Meryl Comer's *Slow Dancing With a Stranger* is a profoundly personal, unflinching account of her husband's battle with Alzheimer's disease that serves as a much-needed wake-up call to better understand and address a progressive and deadly affliction. When Meryl Comer's husband Harvey Gralnick was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease in 1996, she watched as the man who headed hematology and oncology research at the National Institutes of Health started to misplace important documents and forget clinical details that had once been cataloged encyclopedically in his mind. With harrowing honesty, she brings readers face to face with this devastating condition and its effects on its victims and those who care for them. Detailing the daily realities and overwhelming responsibilities of caregiving, Comer sheds intensive light on this national health crisis, using her personal experiences "the mistakes and the breakthroughs" to put a face to a misunderstood disease, while revealing the facts everyone needs to know. Pragmatic and relentless, Meryl has dedicated herself to fighting Alzheimer's and raising public awareness. "Nothing I do is really about me; it's all about making sure no one ends up like me," she writes. Deeply personal and illuminating, *Slow Dancing With a Stranger* offers insight and guidance for navigating Alzheimer's challenges. It is also an urgent call to action for intensive research and a warning that we must prepare for the future, instead of being controlled by a disease and a healthcare system unable to fight it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Slow Dancing With a Stranger: Lost and Found in the Age of Alzheimer's" (2014 publications; 238 pages) is a memoir by TV business reporter Meryl Comer on how she has been dealing with her husband's descent into the hell of Alzheimer's disease. As the book opens, we are reminded that this disease strikes frequently (every 68 seconds). Early on in the book (on page 4), the author notes that "I do not hold myself up as an example to follow", and you wonder why she would make a statement like that. Then you start reading the book, and you start getting the idea. The most harrowing part of the book is when things start going wrong for Harvey (the author's husband), who is a highly respected and successful doctor at the National Institute for Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD. The tales of getting lost, lashing out at people, the bewilderment of both the person suffering the disease and those around him, etc.: if you have been through it, all of it will sound completely true and authentic. (And I'm not even going into the more ghastly details in the later phases of the disease.) Comer's situation is all the more remarkable because (i) Harvey gets Alzheimer's at an early age (56) and somehow remains alive now 20 years later, and (ii) Comer's mother, herself in her mid-80s, also deals with Alzheimer's. My father, who like Harvey also was a highly respected and successful professional (he was a banker), suffered from Alzheimer's just a few years after retiring. When he finally passed away at age 81 a few years ago, it was a blessing both for him and for my mother, who, like Comer, went beyond the call of duty, and then some, to take care of my dad.

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