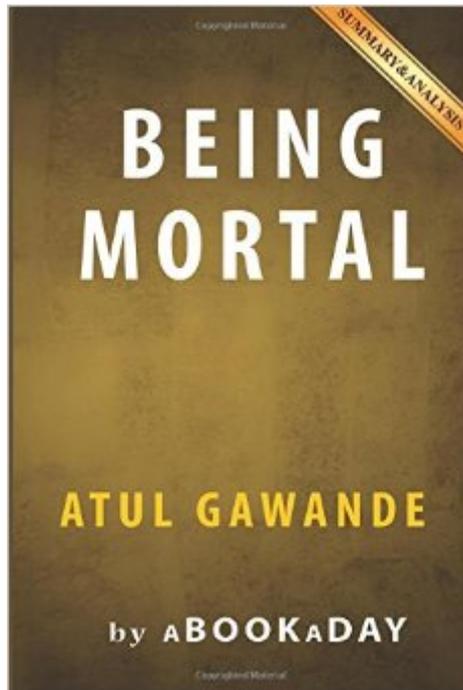


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# Being Mortal: Medicine And What Matters In The End By Atul Gawande | Summary & Analysis



## Synopsis

This review of *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande provides a chapter by chapter detailed summary followed by an analysis and critique of the strengths and weaknesses of this book. Gawande draws on clinical studies, case histories and stories from his own experiences as a doctor and a son to illuminate the subject of mortality relative to modern medical systems. His treatment of the subject covers a broad range of institutions and individuals that shape the lives of the aged and terminally ill. The central thesis of the book is that the experience of the end of life has been problematized and addressed by medical models that place extending life over quality of life and institutional frameworks that place safety and efficiency over the ability for people to have autonomy over the last part of their lives. Gawande is a surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital and a professor at the Harvard Medical School. He is a writer at *The New Yorker* magazine and author of three New York Times bestselling books. Download your copy today! Available on PC, Mac, smart phone, tablet or Kindle device. © 2015 All Rights Reserved

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I accidentally bought this book when I intended to buy the original volume. I knocked down one star as it was not obvious to me that this was not the original work. That is my own fault as well. The last chapter of this volume may be worth its price as it appears to discuss what was not in the original book-very important. I will now buy the original volume.

Excellent book and eye-opener dealing with #1 desirable facilities for aging and dependent

individuals. True examples and stories of innovative and creative individuals who have found ways to help make facilities a place of joy rather than a dread. The second half of book seems to be written more to those in the health care professions, but also good examples of how and how not to discuss a patient's needs and desires for care. I plan to buy this book for each of my children and hope they will read the first half devoted to finding the right facility if and when the time comes when they will be a part of making decisions involving my care. We always hope we can stay in our own home as long as we live, but if that is not possible, this book is a great guide for the caregivers and decision makers! I have recommended it to many of my friends as well as my doctor. Highly recommend reading it and since it includes many stories it's an easy read....nothing dry or boring about this book!

This book is definitely in my top 20 reads. It deals with the symptoms of aging, the attitudes of doctors and caregivers and the history past and present of the options available for those who are aging. I think parts of it should be required reading for anyone who works with or loves someone who is aging, I cannot recommend it highly enough. JW

After reading the book and review, I think the summary of the book in the review hits the high points quite well and the criticisms are right on target. Just two additional points -- I wish the author had included the list of questions he asks the dying and their families, and the reviewer should have mentioned that those getting closer to the end than the beginning ( I am 81) could also be interested.

I've read the actual book and just wanted a refresher for a book discussion. It was fine until I started noticing small editorial slips. The most egregious was a reference to the "spinal chord." That kept me from being fully engrossed in this summary as I would have liked.

although I only read the short version it was good enough and interesting that I am going to borrow the full book from a friend and read it all. For me that speaks of quality. Mr. Gawande gives an interesting perspective of the doctors of our world dealing with the elderly and not always considering what may be quality of life over quantity of life. he also explains how little information is given to doctor students to give them an understanding that just keeping people alive may not be the most beneficial for the patient.

This book gives great alternatives for very difficult decisions during end stage illness. It is more hopeful for peaceful death bed decisions and also for assisted living and nursing home alternatives. Patients should encourage your medical care givers to read. It should also be read by assisted living and nursing home administrators.

The book deals with very relevant issues in a straight up manner. The author deals with his father's treatment making it a personal way to deal with the many questions that arise with aging, inability to care and ultimately death. This book opens the discussion on matters that need more thought and discussion.

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