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When Breath Becomes Air

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#1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER • For readers of Atul Gawande, Andrew Solomon, and Anne Lamott, this inspiring, exquisitely observed memoir finds hope and beauty in the face of insurmountable odds as an idealistic young neurosurgeon attempts to answer the question *What makes a life worth living?*

NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY
THE WASHINGTON POST • THE NEW YORK TIMES • NPR

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. *When Breath Becomes Air* chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student "possessed," as he wrote, "by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life" into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality.

What makes life worth living in the face of death? What do you do when the future, no longer a ladder toward your goals in life, flattens out into a perpetual present? What does it mean to have a child, to nurture a new life as another fades away? These are some of the questions Kalanithi wrestles with in this profoundly moving, exquisitely observed memoir.

Paul Kalanithi died in March 2015, while working on this book, yet his words live on as a guide and a gift to us all. "I began to realize that coming face to face with my own mortality, in a sense, had changed nothing and everything," he wrote. "Seven words from Samuel Beckett began to repeat in my head: 'I can't go on. I'll go on.'" *When Breath Becomes Air* is an unforgettable, life-affirming reflection on the challenge of facing death and on the relationship between doctor and patient, from a brilliant writer who became both.

Praise for *When Breath Becomes Air*

"I guarantee that finishing this book and then forgetting about it is simply not an option. . . . Part of this book's tremendous impact comes from the obvious fact that its author was such a brilliant polymath. And part comes from the way he conveys what happened to him—passionately working and striving, deferring gratification, waiting to live, learning to die—so well."**—Janet Maslin, *The New York Times***

"An emotional investment well worth making: a moving and thoughtful memoir of family, medicine and literature. It is, despite its grim undertone, accidentally inspiring."***—The Washington Post***

"Possesses the gravity and wisdom of an ancient Greek tragedy . . . [Kalanithi] delivers his chronicle in austere, beautiful prose. The book brims with insightful reflections on mortality that are especially poignant coming from a trained physician familiar with what lies ahead."***—The Boston Globe***

"Devastating and spectacular . . . [Kalanithi] is so likeable, so relatable, and so humble, that you become immersed in his world and forget where it's all heading."***—USA Today***

“It’s [Kalanithi’s] unsentimental approach that makes *When Breath Becomes Air* so original—and so devastating. . . . Its only fault is that the book, like his life, ends much too early.”***—Entertainment Weekly***

“Split my head open with its beauty.”**—Cheryl Strayed**

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From reader reviews:

John Ferguson:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be update about what going on or info even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which can be always change and progress. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know which one you should start with. This When Breath Becomes Air is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Peter Chatman:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled When Breath Becomes Air your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a e-book then become one web form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get previous to. The When Breath Becomes Air giving you an additional experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful facts for your better life on this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

James Fox:

Many people spending their time period by playing outside together with friends, fun activity having family or just watching TV the entire day. You can have new activity to pay your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, you think reading a book can actually hard because you have to take the book everywhere? It okay you can have the e-book, having everywhere you want in your Mobile phone. Like When Breath Becomes Air which is getting the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's view.

Vickie Duke:

That publication can make you to feel relax. This kind of book When Breath Becomes Air was colourful and of course has pictures around. As we know that book When Breath Becomes Air has many kinds or genre. Start from kids until youngsters. For example Naruto or Detective Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. So , not at all of book are make you bored, any it offers up you feel happy, fun and unwind. Try to choose the best book for you and try to like reading that will.

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