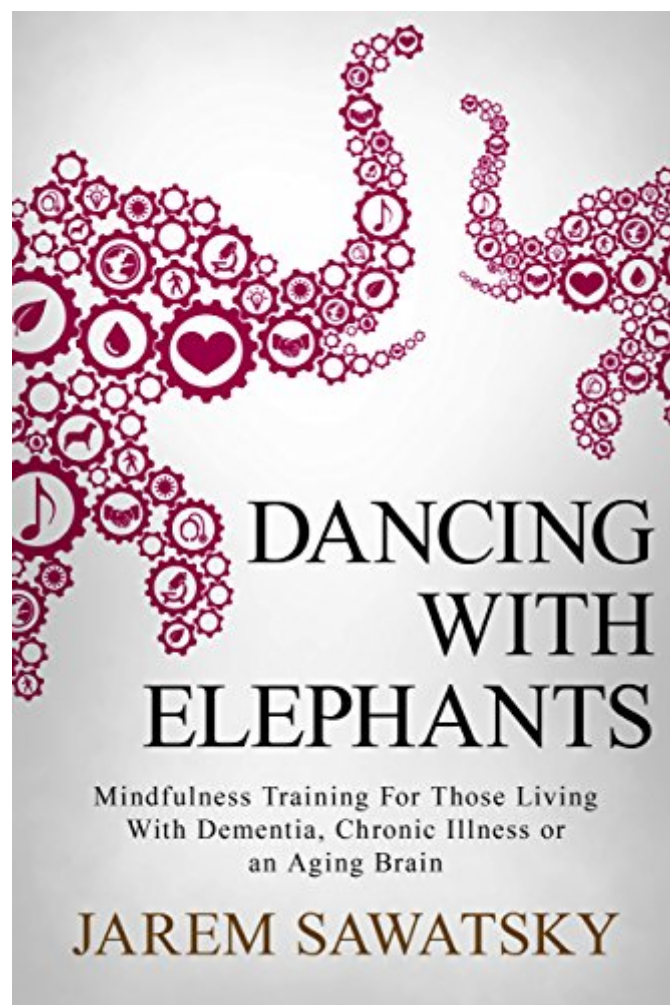


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# Dancing With Elephants: Mindfulness Training For Those Living With Dementia, Chronic Illness Or An Aging Brain (How To Die Smiling Book 1)





## Synopsis

Praise for *Dancing with Elephants*: "If you need some encouragement in living with joy, read this book. It will change your perspective on everything." —Lana Philips "Sawatsky beautifully models a way to dance in the gale of full catastrophe, to celebrate life, to laugh with it and at himself." —Jon Kabat-Zinn, national bestselling author of *Full Catastrophe Living* "...beautiful and inspiring book...full of humor and wisdom about the pain of loss in our life, by someone living with a debilitating disease." —Jean Vanier, national bestselling author of *Becoming Human* Want to enjoy the life you are living, even as you face major life challenges? Is your mind succumbing to age? Is your body failing you? Can you ever find joy, peace, or fulfillment in these challenging conditions? The answer is a resounding YES. Author Jarem Sawatsky saw the countless guides out there for those caring for the ill and healing the curable, but when he was diagnosed with Huntington's Disease he found there was nothing for those living with incurable illness. He quit his job as a professor and devoted his life to exploring the possibilities of living with chronic conditions. Now he's bringing his findings and insights to you. In *Dancing With Elephants* you'll discover: Simple practices to bring healing to your heart and life to your new outlook Humorous (and occasionally heart-wrenching) stories of Sawatsky's own journey Multiple ways to build confidence in yourself, even when you've been shaken to the core A new perspective to transform your pain and renew your spirit Practical tools to face your seemingly inescapable fears, and much, much more! Based on the popular blog of the same name, *Dancing With Elephants* includes insightful interviews with chronic disease experts Jon Kabat-Zinn, Lucy Kalanithi, and Patch Adams. Sawatsky's landmark book provides support that only a fellow traveler down this road can offer. If you like touching stories, mindful wisdom, and a touch of irreverent humor, then you'll love Sawatsky's life-changing book. Buy *Dancing With Elephants* today to discover a new way to live!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I read an advance reader copy, and I've been trying to figure out what to say about it since. The amount of wisdom contained in this book is unbelievable. Jarem interviewed Jon Kabat-Zinn, Patch Adams, Lucy Kalanithi (wife of Paul Kalanithi who wrote *When Breath Becomes Air*), Jean Paul Lederach, and Toni Bernhard about living with chronic illness. He comes from a Christian background, but is heavily influenced by the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh. It's a unique spirituality that makes this book just that much more special. His story of living with Huntington's Disease as a family member (it is genetic) and after he received the diagnosis he had expected to get is not sad or sentimental in any way. You don't feel sorry for him in any way when reading this narrative. He "transformed fear into joyful dancing." The cover is one of the most fun I've ever seen. I would never have considered dancing with elephants as a way of going through, but Jarem not only makes it seem bearable, but a love-filled joy. If you need some encouragement in living with joy, read this book. It will change your perspective on everything. Even if you don't have a chronic illness, I recommend this book. It's one that will stay with you and teach you something new with every page. I love his poetry as well. It enhanced the prose in a way that blessed me.

Bought both hardback and digital copy of *Dancing with Elephants*, by Jarem Sawatsky, PhD; With my dementia symptoms, reading requires extra time and extra tools, so I have only completed the first six chapters. So far, this book is not just profound in an esoteric way, but with important applications to the life of each Person With Dementia (and those who care about them).

“Honey, you go on to bed; this book is just so profound that I need to keep reading.” Yup; when reading this book that was what I told my husband. This is a book for facing disease and aging in a “healing” way; the clarity to help each of us learn

about loving, letting go, and living in the present moment. If I were able, I would read it like a quality textbook; quick scan, then very slow thoughtful digestion of each chapter. Filled with jewels of thought, Jarem Sawatsky's words reflect many of my friends' thoughts on what are the most crucial actions and attitudes for best well-being after diagnosis with excellent suggestions for follow-up. Congratulations on this book, Jarem! Truthful L. Kindness

I was diagnosed with aggressive brain cancer a year and a half ago. I've read a large stack of books about living with serious illness. This one was, by far, the most helpful and the most enjoyable one of the stack. Every chapter gave me practical wisdom I could apply in my own life, and also good stories to laugh with and savor. One of my favorite practices that I borrowed from the book was taking a healing walk with an ancestor. Since learning of the practice in the book, I've done it many times. I highly recommend this book for anyone who is living with serious illness, anyone who loves someone who is, and anyone who is aging and thinks they might die someday! Cultivating practices and an attitude to help us die smiling is about the best gift I can imagine.

Clever, interesting and helpful

If there's anything "sick" people need, it's a great dose of hope and humor. That's exactly what Jarem Sawatsky delivers in *Dancing with Elephants*. It's a completely outside-of-the-box look at life with chronic or terminal illness, dealing with the body's declining abilities in humorous yet meaningful ways. I have spoken very highly of this book to my support group and hope to see this become THE book to read for everyone who deals with chronic/terminal illness, whether personally or from the outside.

*Dancing with Elephants: Mindfulness Training For Those Living With Dementia, Chronic Illness or an Aging Brain (How to Die Smiling Book 1)* By Jarem Sawatsky WOW! Just wow! I am a 52-year-old woman with a history of Dementia in my family. It is a fear, of mine, that I too will come down with this disease. Especially now when I can't remember the names of my grand-children or the names for kitchen tools or office supplies. (I'm told this is very normal at my age but still) I have read a few, more science-y books on Alzheimer's and dementia. Some I've actually understood. None of them did I enjoy. THIS BOOK, however, *Dancing with Elephants* was a JOY to read. Dr. Sawatsky is an incredibly talented writer. His humor and wit are woven all throughout this book in such a way that it never takes away from the

seriousness of the topic and yet, you and the reader are left with a smile on your face and hope in your heart. He touches on several different subjects, not just dementia. Chronic, terminal illnesses for example. He himself has been diagnosed with Huntington's Disease—a terminal diagnoses in which the brain cells are slowly destroyed stealing away the vestiges of who the bearer is and was. It's a devastating condition. And yet, Dr. Sawatsky is facing it with dignity, resolve, planning and humor. Through his writing, I have feelings of sorrow for him and his loved ones. Yet, I do not pity. I can only hope to face my own end whenever it may come with as much wit and wisdom, temerity and courage. I do not at this moment in time have dementia. I may never get it. Who knows. However, the other facet of this book is the fount of information just on aging in general. This book is filled with passages, stories and information that brought me both joy and comfort along with a great deal of information that I can use and understand. In addition, Dr. Sawatsky's spiritual underpinning was a delight to see in his writing. Though his background is in Christianity he also leans toward Buddhism and the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh a Vietnamese monk. (While I personally do not follow Buddhism, and am a very conservative Christian and all that entails I am wise enough to know there are wiser men and women than I.) Thich Nhat Hanh's teachings are of peace among human beings, human rights and giving. Those teachings are both astute and beneficial. Following your heart to the benefit of others as well as yourself is a main theme in *Dancing with Elephants*, one that touched my own heart and moved me with emotion. I am not usually a self-help kind of reader. Yet, I'm so glad I stepped out of my comfort zone to read this book. It HAS helped me to focus on the things that matter in my life. Not my weaknesses or fears. I am concentrating on the joy in my life. My husband, my kids, my grandkids, parents, siblings and so forth. THEY are what's important. If I age gracefully or not so much it doesn't matter. If I can find humor and joy, comfort and peace in all my circumstances, that's what matters.

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