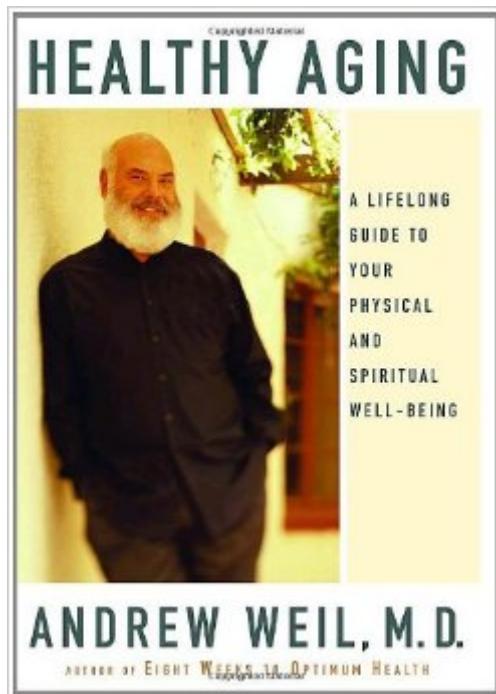


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# Healthy Aging: A Lifelong Guide To Your Physical And Spiritual Well-Being



## Synopsis

Spontaneous Healing . . . Eight Weeks to Optimum Health . . . Eating Well for Optimum Health . . . The Healthy Kitchenâ “in each of his widely acclaimed, best-selling books, Dr. Andrew Weil has been an authoritative and companionable guide through a uniquely effective combination of traditional and nontraditional approaches to health and healthy living. Now he gives us a book about aging that is unlike any other in the breadth and depth of its information and understanding. Hugely informative, practical, and uplifting, it is infused with the engaging candor and common sense that have been the hallmarks of all his books. At the heart of Healthy Aging is Dr. Weilâ ™s belief that although aging is an irreversible process, there are myriad things we can do to keep our minds and bodies in good working order through all phases of life. To that end, he draws on the new science of biogerontology (the biology of aging) as well as on the secrets of healthy longevityâ “ diet, activity, and attitudeâ “that he has gathered firsthand from cultures around the world. In Part Oneâ “The Science and Philosophy of Healthy Agingâ •â “he explains how the body ages, and he explores the impact of gender, genes, environment, and lifestyle on an individualâ ™s experience and perception of the process of aging. He describes the various would-be elixirs of life extensionâ “herbs, hormones, and antiaging â œmedicinesâ •â “separating myth from fact and clearly delineating the difference between the spurious notions of preventing or reversing the process of aging and the real possibilities of inhibiting or delaying the onset of diseases that become more likely as we age. He writes movingly about the ways in which an acceptance of aging can be a significant part of doing it well, and of recognizing and appreciating the great rewards of growing older: depth and richness of experience, complexity of being, serenity, wisdom, and its own kind of power and grace. In Part Twoâ “How to Age Gracefullyâ •â “Weil details an easy-to-implement Anti-inflammatory Diet that will protect the immune system and aid your body in resisting and adapting to the changes that time brings. And he provides extensive practical advice on exercise; preventive health care; stress management; physical, mental, and emotional flexibility; and spiritual enhancementâ “all of which can help you achieve and maintain the best health throughout the lifelong process of aging. Healthy Agingâ “a book for people of all agesâ “is Andrew Weilâ ™s most important and far-reaching book yet.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This review is written by a former hospital administrator of just under 2 decades. I have been studying health and nutrition for more than decade. I became very interested in alternative medicine when a family member was diagnosed with kidney cancer and the allopathic doctors (traditional MD's) could give no reason for the tumor. If you have not read one of Dr. Weil's books before, I think you will enjoy his writing style. His tone is very conversational, you feel as though you are talking to a friend while you are reading his books, this one included. Dr. Weil has a gift for taking a dry and complicated subject and explaining it in a manner that anyone can understand. The purpose of this book is NOT to stop aging, but rather to prevent or minimize the impact of age-related disease, to learn how to live long and well, and to age gracefully. He subdivides his book as follows:

**PART ONE:**  
The Science and Philosophy of Healthy Aging  
1. Immortality  
2. Shangri-Las and Fountains of Youth  
3. Antiaging Medicine  
4. Why We Age  
5. The Denial of Aging  
6. The Value of Aging  
7. Interlude: Jenny

**PART TWO:**  
How to Age Gracefully  
8. Body I: The Ounce of Prevention  
9. Body II: The Anti-inflammatory Diet  
10. Body III: Supplements  
11. Body IV: Physical Activity  
12. Body V: Rest and Sleep  
13. Body VI: Touch and Sex  
14. Mind I: Stress  
15. Mind II: Thoughts, Emotions, and Attitudes  
16. Mind III: Memory  
17. Spirit I: Unchanging Essence  
18.

My wife and I bought three books recently to help re-charge our health and fitness motivation. They were: Slow Burn by Fredrick Hahn, and then two books recommended by a health guru friend, Joe X by Avery Hunicutt, and this book, Healthy Aging by Andrew Weil. To make a long story short we gave thumbs-down to the Slow Burn workout (too painful) and thumbs-up to the Joe X workout (something we enjoy doing). As for Healthy Aging, with some embarrassment, I highly recommend this book. I say with embarrassment because, while I had never read any of Dr. Weil's previous books, I used to think he was some kind of a new-age nut & berry quack. I'm guilty of

judging books by their cover; not used to associating a portly, bearded, bald guy with fitness. I was wrong and now publicly appologize for my pig-headedness. He may eat nuts and berries, but he's definitely not a quack, and now I wouldn't be surprised if he out lives all of us. The book is much more grounded on hard science than I expected. And though there is a good amount of science in the book, there is nothing to fear. Dr. Weil has an engaging and polished writing style. He not only makes it easy for the lay person to follow along, but he makes medical research an interesting story, an enjoyable read. I now understand why his books have become so popular: he knows how to communicate. The first hint that my opinion of him was all wet was his discussion of the battle going on behind the scenes between the hard core medical researchers and the "fountain of youth" profiteers (my term, not his). I expected the author to side with those that believed the aging process could at least be suspended if not reversed. To my surprise he did not.

What's realistic about this book is that it's based upon realistic concepts. Many of the old and recent "aging" books are re-hashed bombardments that focus on the perpetually futile attempt to "turn back the clock." We know this can't be done. Same now, as Ponce De Leon. Dr. Weil calmly and convincingly gravitates toward acceptance and realization, rather than denial. Botox injections and wrinkle creams may help those who use it. It's their choice, and it's fine as long as it's realized that these are cosmetic band-aids. Using food (nutrition), and the physical & mental, can provide ourselves with better quality years as we age. Better lifestyles, less ailments, less pain, lower medical bills, and more longevity. Convincingly, Weil notes basic nutrition, macro-nutrients, EFA Omegas 3 & 6, vitamins, minerals, anti-oxidents, and the G.I. Index and Load. Essential information for attaining a quality of life after the early and mid-sixties, when the body begins to reveal the natural effects of aging more significantly. Reducing stress levels via meditation, Yoga, and breathing exercises can be done at home and for free. Natural Ingredients and activities also act as an insurance policy. These items and actions need not be expensive. And, they ward-off the negative consequences of neglecting ourselves. Dr. Andrew Weil advocates avoiding animal fats (saturated fats) and processed foods. (The food coloring chemical Tartrazine is in over 85% of processed food in the United States.) Hydrogenated oils (often in breads) are bad for us, and there is an explanation in laymen's terms of specifically, why. He did cite research from areas of the world that have a high percentage of older populations.

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