

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

# Somewhere

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# Towards

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# the End

.....

a memoir

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WINNER  
NATIONAL  
BOOK CRITICS  
CIRCLE  
AWARD

# Diana Athill

"A great gift. . . . This is a warm, inspiring book."  
-SUSAN SALTER REYNOLDS, *Los Angeles Times*



Diana Athill

## Somewhere Towards the End: A Memoir



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Winner of the 2009 National Publication Critics Circle Award in Autobiography and a New York Times bestseller: a prize-winning, critically acclaimed memoir on life and aging? "An honest joy to go through" (Alice Munro). Hailed mainly because "a virtuoso workout" (Sunday Telegraph), this book reflects candidly, occasionally with great humor, on the health of being outdated. For more than five years she edited the likes of V. S. Naipaul and Jean Rhys, for whom she was a confidante and caretaker. As a writer, Athill has produced her reputation for the frankness and specifically expressed wisdom of her memoirs. [and the] easy elegance of her prose" (Daily Telegraph), this short, well-crafted publication, hailed as "a virtuoso exercise" (Sunday Telegraph) presents an inspiring work for all those hoping to flourish in their later years..



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Well written A very well written work, part memoir, part explanation of her current lifestyle in old age. Insightful While I am on a different moral/spiritual wavelength than Diana Athill, she's learned a good deal in her 89 years--very much to be appreciated. too bad Diane..I couldn't put the book down. There are anyone who has reviewed this publication and indicated that is a self involved individual. Surprisingly refreshing Close to the end of her lifestyle, Diana Athill has created an interesting and thoughtful record of living and of the knowledge of growing older. The physical incapacities that every human being faces, the modification in focus after retirement, and the refreshing feeling of "letting go" of many things that occupied her in previously years. Her frankness about both her insufficient faith and insufficient desire for children, her fears about having a "nub" of selfishness deep inside her, and her take pleasure in becoming an author so much later on in life that it didn't turn her head but proved to be a delight are views that we aren't often privy to. Award-winning/ For the life span of me, I can't understand why this publication won an award. I, too, am "somewhere towards the end," although nearly as far as Athill [of training course, one hardly ever knows]..as publication wears on, there is less and less..". As simply because a senior in her age group frame, We enjoyed her frankness and honesty of her life story.. Disappointing I am aware this author's earlier works were quite good.but I am getting there. Words to the wise I really enjoyed this book. Though my life has been relatively different than hers she touches on therefore many of the stuff we all have to believe about and cope with "somewhere towards the finish" that it felt such as a good talk with an old friend. A genuine book. There are those who have reviewed . Nevertheless ended up in a wife-like caring function for her companion of over forty years (but lover for just eight), and her known reasons for taking on that function willingly illuminate the requirements of strong individual bonds. To me, this is a very ordinary account of the thoughts and experiences of a mature woman, a few of them mildly interesting. An honest book. Excellent.. She is honest and does not hold back again and she has certainly done her share of self exam. I am not quite as aged as she actually is.. She lighting the reader's way into their very own advanced maturity simply by telling her particular existence and being an individual of perception. Athill has published even more since, so her appearance at one's prospects for one's dwindling days is happily not "the finish" of her reflections. I liked most Diana Athill's honesty about getting old and yet . She's forthcoming and obvious about her past adores, unflinching about her long term and what age takes away, and manages to end up being uplifting and reassuring about existence without dispensing easy assistance. a delightful book This is a delightful book with many interesting observations and reflections about aging and life that resonated with me. In my 80's today, I found her memoir interesting and intriguing. Which means this collection of essays is a rarity. I had hoped for more depth. too bad Diane. This book did not meet my objectives ofinsight and self knowledge about the process of living and aging... I suppose the anal retentive component of my character led me to complete it, but certainly not the pleasure-seeking one...She is an interesting person, being very unlike most women- many lovers, never married or had kids, and (almost) by no means missing those things. Five Stars A wonderful, entertaining writer. And I must say that her undertake life and its own ending time resonated with me. What these testimonials are doing is definitely judging this person for the kind of lifestyle she's chosen. Woman of substance at peace with aging A terrifically talented British publishing professional talks about life as she actually is living it in her 80s, and movements from subject to subject matter with great honesty, minimal sentimentality and zero "humble bragging. I loved most Diana Athill's honesty about getting old and yet enjoying the light approaching through her high home windows as well as thinking about "last words" and yet hoping that the occasion for telling

them will "not come very soon". Satisfies the curiosity in a few of us Boomers about what it is like to be in past due later years. I hope I've her spunk in 22 years. You go woman! Frank and honest documentary of a successful and intelligent woman looking back over her lifestyle and ahead(when there is any ahead). Somewhere towards the finish The author presents a critical reflection of her journey through life thus far. She discovers truths about herself and acceptance of the days, situations and people encountered. Some was quite interesting but much was more for her advantage than for the reader. We enjoy the book I am reading this lovely contemplation about aging to my 97 year old friend. We are discussing ways her aging process is similar and various from Diana's. We really like the book.



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