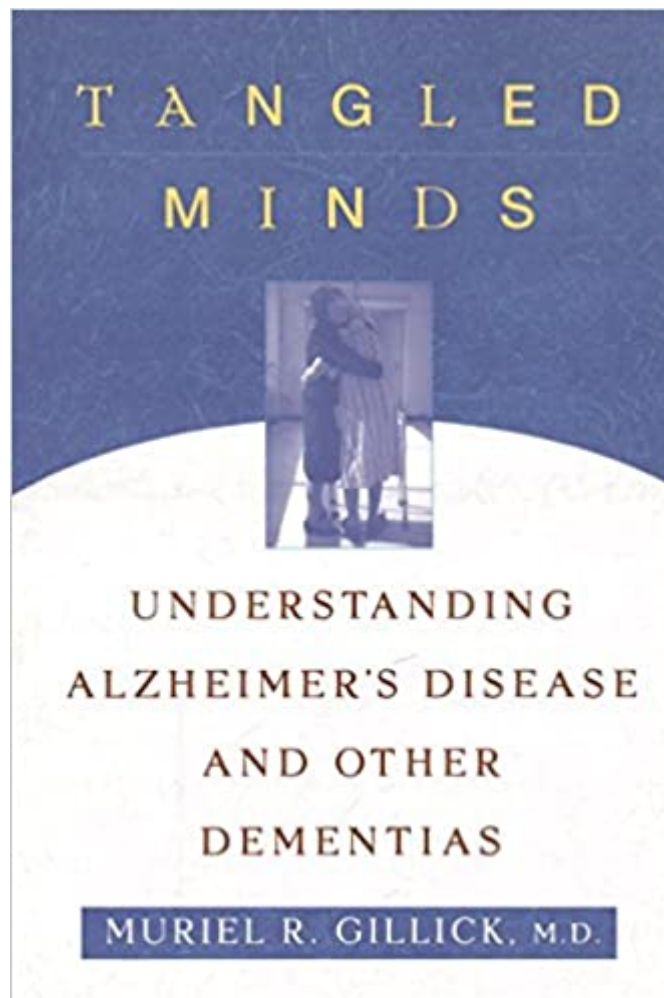


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# Tangled Minds: Understanding Alzheimer's Disease And Other Dementias



## Synopsis

Alzheimer's has struck more than 4 million of the nation's elderly and is the most common form of mental degeneration. In *Tangled Minds*, Dr. Muriel R. Gillick convincingly demonstrates that confusion and loss of memory resulting from Alzheimer's, or in any form, is a disease known as dementia, and not an inevitable part of aging. *Tangled Minds* provides a comprehensive overview of dementia, its history, the politics of its fight for recognition, the research being done to discover its causes, and the treatments now being used to alleviate its symptoms. Weaving these details around the story of one Alzheimer's patient, Gillick provides both a human interest story and an analytical study. Clearly describing medical details while fully capturing the pain of dementia with compassionate insight, *Tangled Minds* is an invaluable resource for family, friends, caregivers, and professionals dealing with Alzheimer's and similar disorders.

## Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Plume; Reprint edition (April 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0452276470

ISBN-13: 978-0452276475

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #585,704 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Aging > Medical Conditions & Diseases](#) #287 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Aging Parents](#) #328 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Mental Health > Dementia](#)

## Customer Reviews

Gillick, an associate director of the Geriatrics Fellowship Program at Harvard Medical School, began this study convinced that to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's was one of the worst things that could happen to you. Yet as a result of her extensive research into dementia, of which Alzheimer's is the most common manifestation, she now concludes that those with mild or moderate dementia can lead acceptable lives, although the illness results in eventual intellectual deterioration. By describing the progression of Alzheimer's through the case study of a composite patient and her family, which she interweaves with an informed discussion of the science, history and politics of dementia, Gillick

points out mistaken public assumptions about the condition. According to the author, although ongoing research should continue, a cure is not imminent, and the elderly cannot prevent dementia just by keeping active and eating right. Gillick believes that to develop a humane and responsible public policy, society must accept the reality that a large number of the very old will experience dementia. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Unlike many popular books on Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, this is not a how-to guide for caregivers. Gillick, a practicing physician and expert gerontologist, brings together two distinct sides of the dementia story. The first side, the toll on the victim and his or her family, is recounted through the representative experiences of an elderly woman diagnosed with Alzheimer's. The second side concerns the science, history, politics, and image of dementia in the United States. These two sides combine to create a compelling narrative with factual information. Although this book will be of special interest to those affected by dementia, it is designed to inform all members of society. The appendix of resources, notes, and references provide opportunity for further exploration of the topic. Recommended for consumer health collections and public libraries that already hold a how-to guide for dementia caregivers. Aida Marissa Smith, Loma Linda Univ. Lib., CA Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A must read for the baby boomers

I bought this book to help understand what my mother was facing. I found it very informative and helpful with dealing with her Dementia. I was particularly interested in the information about how the Alzheimers brain reacts to pharmacueticals. We later confirmed her findings when working with other patients at the Alzheimers unit. In so many cases the patient got worse when given drugs for other problems. The affect was very definite. I thank the author fdor her insights. MK from PA

I picked up this book while browzing the bookstore in an effort to make sense of the behavior my family was seeing in my 87 year old mother who had had a stroke (right brain) in 12/97. Having been told that she was suffering from "vascular dementia", I proceeded to investigate what that really meant. Even my son, a physician, was not really clear on how that differed from Alzheimer's. Dr. Gillick's book outlines a typical course of dementia, from early to late stage using a fictional

composite patient drawn from her medical experience. She interstices this story with factual material on legal, political, medical research, and cost issues. I have recommended this book to friends and colleagues interested in aging, particularly related to brain assaults. There is much good material in this book even if the patient is not a diagnosed Alzheimer's sufferer.

While I found the content of the information accurate the format of the author praising their own good decision making was tedious. I purchased the book expecting a more straight forward approach to the material and soon put the book down for others including "The 36-Hour Day" which was a better fit for my needs.

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