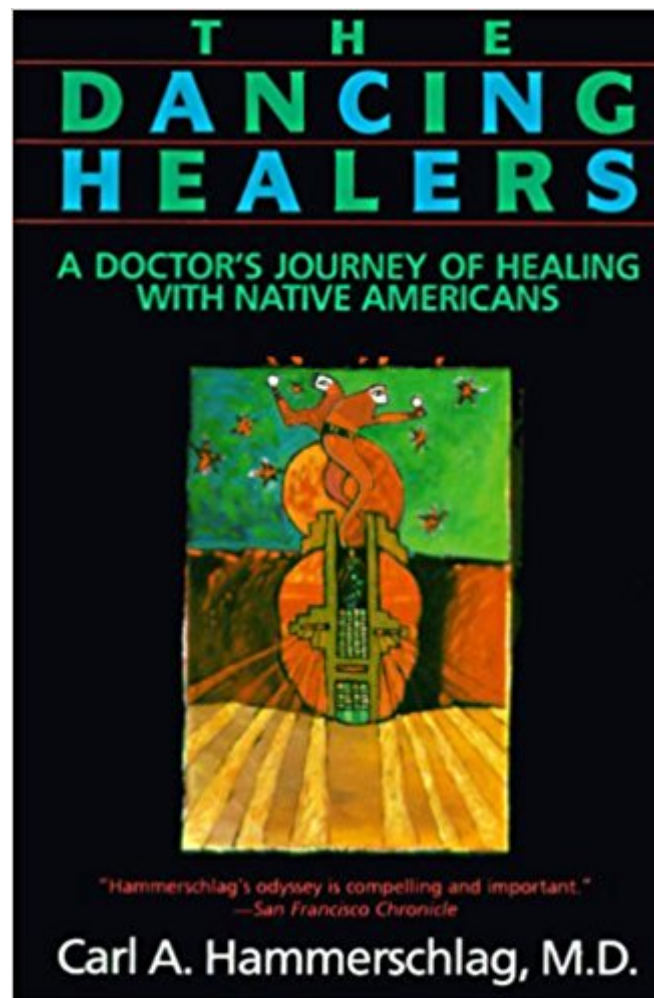




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The Dancing Healers: A Doctor's Journey Of Healing With Native Americans



Synopsis

This fascinating account of a Yale-trained psychiatrist's twenty-year experience with Native American healing interweaves autobiography with stories of the Native Americans who challenged his medical school assumptions about their methods. While working as a family physician in a Native American hospital in the Southwest, Carl Hammerschlag was introduced to a patient named Santiago, a Pueblo priest and clan chief, who asked him where he had learned how to heal. Hammerschlag responded almost by rote, rattling off his medical education, internship, and certification. The old man replied, "Do you know how to dance?" To humor Santiago, Hammerschlag shuffled his feet at the priest's bedside. Despite his condition, Santiago got up and demonstrated the proper steps. "You must be able to dance if you are to heal people," he admonished the young doctor. "I can teach you my steps, but you will have to hear your own music." Hammerschlag synthesizes his Jewish heritage with his experience with Native Americans to produce a practice open to all methods of healing. He discovers the wisdom of the Pueblo priest's question to his Western doctor, "Do you know how to dance?"

Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: HarperOne; 49533rd edition (September 13, 1989)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062503952

ISBN-13: 978-0062503954

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.4 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #159,935 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Tribal & Ethnic > Native American](#) #357 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Native American Studies](#) #591 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Alternative Medicine > Healing](#)

Customer Reviews

The author spent 20 years as a physician working among Native Americans in the Southwest. He began with a conventional medical outlook but grew to regard the traditional Indian ways of ritual, healing, and dying with awe and admiration. This is a glowing personal account of his experiences, which he claims have enabled him to meld Jewish and Native American spiritual concepts and

become a "dancing healer," one who is able to help others pursue the meaning and wisdom of life and cure their diseases. For public libraries. Judith Eannarino, George Washington Univ. Lib., Washington, D.C. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The story of one man's struggle to bring...two traditions together in his own life. -- Los Angeles Times --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Carl Hammerschlag is a wonderful writer and he knows how to convey a message. He describes his professional and personal growth through the stories of his friends or patients in the Native Land of Southwest. The message is: before getting there he was simply a doctor, after his experience with the Native American he became a healer, which is a totally different thing. A healer is someone who participates to the healing of his patients in an active way, with love and compassion, a doctor does not take anything personally, he prescribes meds and perform treatment holding himself at a certain distance (that's what our Western world describes as professional). Through these short stories Hammerschlag describes also the rituals that are a very important part of life, that heals and make a person part of a community...what we are lacking and missing so bad nowadays (and some go crazy and go around shooting people). I think that the book should be read by professional MD, Psychologists, Psychiatrists to get a glimpse on how important it is to become involved as humans in the healing process of somebody else, which is also our own healing process. This book precedes "Zero Limits" of Joe Vitale and it does not talk about energy healing, but it is on the same page. All Carl Hammerschlag books are wonderful, he is a compassionate healer who dedicates his life to touch other people's heart and mind. This is a great book also for those Native American who want to get in touch with their Indian roots and origins they got disconnected from...he's a white man...so...bottom line: love is the most potent healer that connects us with each other disregarding color, race.....it is a lesson we should learn and pass on.

Several years ago I borrowed this book from the library and enjoyed it so much that I decided to have my own copy. I just reread and fell in love with it all over again!! It discusses how people take care of their health problems, using other than conventional medicine!!

Great Book and it was in great condition when I received it .

Great book.

Simple stories that help us understand that established medical drug use is not always the answer. I look forward to reading his second book.

A Jewish psychiatrist living among the natives in the American Southwest. Sounds like a novel, right? Reads that way too. Anyone who plays any part in mental health caregiving should read this book.

Really great book. Had to read this for a college course and found myself really loving it!

This is written in short narrative writing, the stories are great and tell of his experiences working with a group of people whose individual traumas are still effecting the Native American culture today.....

Very good read and insight Thank you

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