

## Summary\*

**My Death Collection: Haiku Quintets and Microstories for Thinking Mortals** is a fearless, elegant meditation on mortality, choice, and what it means to live with eyes wide open. Drawing from a lifetime of observation, experience, and reflection, Dan Dana offers a striking collection of minimalist poems and prose pieces that confront death not as an abstraction, but as an unavoidable part of being human.

Written from the vantage point of a thoughtful elder entering his ninth decade, the book explores end-of-life choice, secular humanism, antinatalism, faithlessness, memory, legacy, and the unsettling beauty of a finite life. Dana approaches these subjects with clarity, candor, and wit, refusing sentimental evasions while still affirming the joy, gratitude, and intimacy that make life worth living. His voice is direct and unflinching, yet often playful, revealing a writer who is serious without being solemn.

The form itself is part of the pleasure. Dana's signature haiku quintets expand the traditional Japanese haiku into a five-part, 85-syllable structure, while his microstories compress larger truths into just fifty words. Together, they create a mosaic of insight: sometimes poignant, sometimes provocative, sometimes darkly funny, but always intellectually alive. Each piece invites readers to pause, consider, and confront their own assumptions about aging, death, family, and freedom.

For readers drawn to philosophical reflection, poetic experimentation, or writing that refuses easy comfort, **My Death Collection** offers a rare blend of courage and craft. It is a book for thinking mortals: a testament to the fact that even at life's edge, there is still meaning to be found, questions worth asking, and language worth trusting.

\*Summary created by perplexity.ai

