



Suddenly Sixty And Other Shocks Of Later Life

Judith Viorst, Laurie Rosenwald (Illustrator)

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From the bestselling author of *Forever Fifty* comes a new collection of poems that tickle, console, and offer the pleasure of instant recognition -- the perfect book for any woman anywhere in the vicinity of sixty.

Judith Viorst's "decade" books of verse -- including *It's Hard to Be Hip Over Thirty*, *How Did I Get to Be Forty*, and *Forever Fifty* -- have delighted millions of readers worldwide who relish her wit, warmth, and wisdom. Now here she is with *Suddenly Sixty*, a funny and touching book that speaks directly to the sixty-ish woman, inviting her to laugh about, sigh over, and come to hopeful terms with the complex issues of this decade of life.

Among the poems in this charmingly illustrated collection are those exploring the joys -- and strains -- of children and grandchildren, and the intimacy of old friends who've "known each other so long/We knew each other back when we were virgins." There are poems that tip their hat to mortality, wrestle with a husband's retirement -- "He's coming with me when I shop at the supermarket/So I won't have to shop alone. I like alone." -- and acknowledge the fact that at this stage of life we'd "give up a night of wild rapture with Denzel Washington for a nice report on my next bone density test." Offering plenty of laughs, a few tears, and cover-to-cover truths, these are poems for everyone who would "rather say never say die than enough is enough." Every woman who has reached this decade will -- rueful and smiling -- find herself in the pages of this book.

Suddenly Sixty And Other Shocks Of Later Life Details

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From Reader Review Suddenly Sixty And Other Shocks Of Later Life for online ebook

Melissa says

I especially liked: The New Alphabet, About His Retirement, and A Very Brief History of Marriage.

Diane Adams says

I am so glad to have found this short and humorous book by Judith Viorst about life after 60.

Emily says

I love Viorst's honest takes on the various decades of life. She doesn't know it but she's helping prepare me for my future.

Cherop says

A delightful, little book of poetry. Quite humorous too.

Marcy says

I love reading Judith Viorst's poems to children I teach, so it made perfect sense, that since I am turning sixty in April, I should read this book. I was surprised how similar my feelings were to some of Judith's poems! After a while, however, I wanted to read the benefits of turning sixty, rather than the ailments, fears, and some hostile feelings that do flit through my brain upon occasion. I loved the poem "The Sweetest of Nights and the Finest of Days" and will save this poem for my adult children to read next Thanksgiving. The poem "Old Friend" rang true for my own life. I know this book is listed under "humor," but every comic, as we know, has an element of truth in his/her comedy. Maybe some of these poems hit too close to real life, and my laughter stopped.

Terri Fleming says

This made me smile. A nice light read.

Mary Alice says

A really lovely book of humorous poems for someone like ME! I identified with the family vacation, weight loss and marriage pieces. Wish I had some grandchildren like Viorst, but maybe this decade of my life will bring me some.

"Did I Do Something Wrong?". That's the poem that got to me.

Peggy Hess Greenawalt says

Definitely a book of poetry that might hit home as you move through the 6th decade.

Elizabeth says

I am 24 years old. I feel like this is important to note. I am obviously not within the age demographic this poetry volume was written for. Regardless, I read it, and now I am reviewing it.

More of this was relatable than I fully anticipated given that it is a poetry collection about aging. Many of the poems were witty and charming. A fair few made me smile, or made me sad (but mostly the smiling). A lot of it wasn't to my taste or was outside my range of life experience. Some of it felt a bit dated given that it is a nearly twenty year old collection.

Overall it is an okay collection of poetry. Recommended for anyone looking for poems about aging. I have only ever read children's books by Judith Viorst before this, but I would read more poetry by her.

Dolly says

I discovered this series of poetry books by Judith Viorst by first reading I'm Too Young To Be Seventy: And Other Delusions. It was on a display of poetry books for National Poetry Month and I thought I'd check it out. I really liked it and discovered that there's a book for every generation of adult woman. I really liked this book as well and I'm looking forward to reading them all.

My favorites:

A Very Brief History of Marriage
1963 - Niagara
1993 - Viagra

The Sweetest of Nights and the Finest of Days
A song for our children and our children's children

(I won't include the whole poem here, but I loved the refrain, which is also the title)

Marylou says

Wonderful

This a wonderful collection of poems evoking all the sides of life that emerge after you reach sixty. People kept interrupting my reading to find out why I was laughing.

Lee says

Read many times. Male, 77 now and just reread. So true, but a good way to look and laugh at your past. Partner, Gracie, now rereading.

Denise says

One of my all time favorite authors beginning as a kid and continuing at 70!

Syd Perry says

This is a fun series of books. I didn't quite like the poems in this as much as the seventy book but there were some rally good ones. Easy read, nice to share in print the feelings of getting older.

Karen says

This is a lovely collection of poems by Judith Viorst with themes that would be expected for someone turning sixty. The most poignant ones are the poems of her love for her grandchildren and her observations of her grown son handling his young daughter. In "When I Watch," Judith writes:

...And when I watch him bathing her,
Or kissing a bump on her forehead to make it better,
Or tenderly tucking her into bed at night,
I know that, though I did a lot of things wrong,
I must have done a few things right.

I think there are eight volumes of poems now in this series, the most recent one addressing life from the perspective of being "nearly ninety." Anyone who can still write poems when they are nearly ninety gets a gold star in my book.

Judith Viorst' fans who have grandchildren or a grandmother would enjoy this book.

