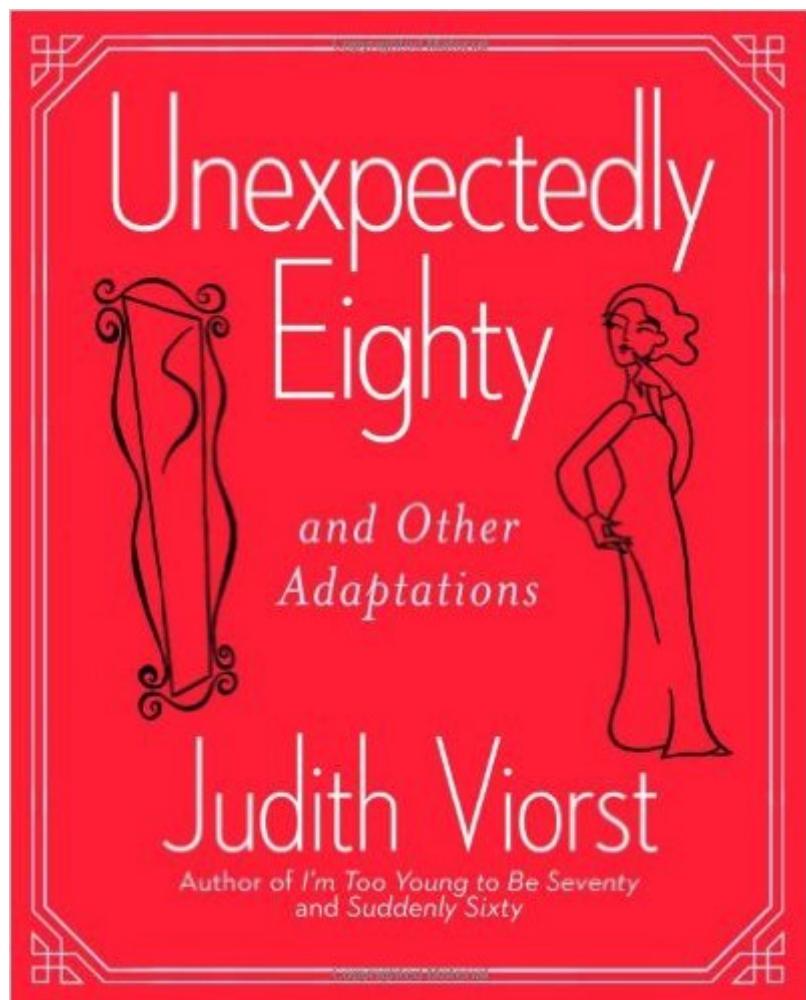


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Unexpectedly Eighty: And Other Adaptations



Synopsis

Judith Viorst returns with more poems in her "Decades" • poetry series detailing the highs and lows of being an octogenarian. Continuing the comedic insight from >, these verses of memories and advice from eighty years of love, marriage, and grandchildren are sure to bring laughs. What does it mean to be eighty? In her wise and playful poems, Judith Viorst discusses love, friendship, grand parenthood, and all the particular marvels "and otherwise" of this extraordinary decade. She describes the wonder of seeing the world with new eyes "not because of revelation but because of a successful cataract operation. She promises not to gently fade away, and not to drive after daylight's faded away either. She explains how she's gotten to be a "three-desserts" grandmother ("Just don't tell your mom!"), shares how memory failure can keep you married, and enumerates her hopes for the afterlife (which she doesn't believe in, but if it does exist, her sister-in-law better not be there with her). As Viorst gleefully attests, eighty is not too old to dream, to flirt, to drink, and to dance. It's also not too late to give up being cheap or to take up with a younger man of seventy-eight. Zesty, hopeful, and full of the pleasures of living, Viorst's poems speak to her legions of readers, who recognize themselves in her knowing observations, in her touching reflections, and in her joyful affirmations. Funny, moving, inspirational, and true "the newest in Judith Viorst's beloved "decades" series extols the virtues, victories, frustrations, and joys of life.

Book Information

Hardcover: 80 pages

Publisher: Free Press (October 5, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1439190291

ISBN-13: 978-1439190296

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 7.5 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (77 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #18,540 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Limericks & Humorous Verse #57 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Aging #80 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Love, Sex & Marriage

Customer Reviews

It seems like only yesterday that Judith Viorst's witty "I'm Too Young to Be Seventy and Other

Delusions," delighted septuagenarians. Now, Ms. Viorst has come up with "Unexpectedly Eighty and Other Adaptations." "My scalp is now showing/ My moles keep on growing/ My waistline and breasts have converged," she announces right off the bat. The author is unafraid to reveal that she still dances to Sinatra, remembers garter belts, and lies in bed worrying about things she can do absolutely nothing about. Fortunately, having lived for eight decades has its advantages. If you are lucky, you have delightful grandchildren who are willing to play with you; you have a loving spouse who is willing to share his Metamucil and accompany you to the doctor's office; and, since your memory is going, you can't always recall what it is about your husband that bugs you so much. Before picking up this book, be aware that you will laugh until you cry; that you will be touched beyond words; and that you will be thrilled to know that someone out there truly understands what aging is like and is willing to tell it like it is. Judith Viorst continues to enchant us with her original, sassy, and clever verse, proclaiming boldly, "I don't intend to gently fade away. There's still a tune or two I'd like to play."

"Unexpectedly Eighty" by Judith Viorst will not be the last in a long series of what I call "Decade" poems by Viorst. She's kept me laughing every ten years for at least forty years. I have all her "Decade" poems. In a world where hope seems to be lost and people are pulling hair and calling names, Viorst keeps us entertained and wary of our foibles and eccentricities and sameness and makes us laugh at ourselves. Sheer genius. Brownie MacKie

Purchased for my mom. There's much truth to generations not understanding those that precede them -- until you are standing in their shoes. I didn't understand all of the dynamics of being in a strong love relationship until I was in one, nor the pain of losing a close friend to death, nor of parenthood. The poems in this collection reach to an age I watch daily, but don't and can't understand until -- hopefully -- I may reach it. That wisdom eludes me -- all of us who aren't 'there' yet. But the stories held within made my mom smile, and wistful, and perhaps touch her. Difficult to expect a lot from a little book. I do wish it had been longer, but perhaps the knowledge and enjoyment is in the brevity, not unlike to joy one can feel not so much in the conversations but in the silence of being with another.

Judith has us rolling on the floor in laughter -- no take that back -- can't get up from the floor anymore. I have followed her from the beginning and have had the same experiences during the decades. How wonderful that she has kept each of the decades alive for us. I love reading about my

20s and 30s again and wondering howl got this old along with Judith. Kids, if you want to know how your parents really were when they were younger -- get all these books, so you can see how they are aging also. I highly recommend buying the whole collection and having a day of remembrance and joy, and what to look forward to as you age. Judith, you have filled my life with laughter, pain, joy and I love you for it.

My niece and nephew gave me this book as a gift upon my becoming an octogenarian. Loved the book just for its title! Who ever believes that one day one will be eighty!? Loved the material--Judith Viorst has entertained me for years via her magazine articles and now I had this skinny, delightful book with her wonderful approach to being a very senior citizen. Upon reading the book, I immediately ordered three more from to give as commiserating gifts to my good friends who would be unexpectedly eighty this year. Thanks Ms. Viorst for the great gift idea and for making me laugh even though I've turned eighty!

I took this book to a ladies luncheon where we were all approaching 80 Street or on it and read a few poems that fit some of us so well, everyone loved it and 3 are planning to order the book.

This latest in Judith Viorst's series of decade-marking birthdays is a winner. I'm only in my seventies, but she's poetically nailed so much of how it feels to be in your dotage. I love the range of subjects--from sex to grandkids. My grandsons loved her poem about being a grandmother. I anticipate with pleasure her next book of poems about being ninety. Rock on, Judith!

I love JUDITH VIORST, having fallen in love with her writings when I first read her "How Did I Ever Get To Be 40 And Other Atrocities", a wonderful, fun and witty look about the transition in our lives from refusing to acknowledge growing older to facing reality. Growing older is an absolute must, unless one wishes to simply give up and face the Grand Reaper at an early age. Growing older is also wonderful: We learn that the important things of life really do matter; that love does last; that our families are our truest friends, our best companions; that the joy of laughter, of looking into the face of a loved one, of listening to the songs of birds, of watermelon and ice cream, of dipping our toes into a pool of cold water on a sunny summer's day, enrich our lives beyond measure. JUDITH VIORST knows all this, and so should we.

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