## THE NATIONAL BESTSELLER

## CAROLYN G. HEILBRUN

WRITING A WOMAN'S LIFE



The
LAST GIFT

of
TIME

Life Beyond Sixty

"LIKE A LETTER TO A FRIEND, THE KIND YOU DON'T UP TO . . .

HULBBUN LOOKS BACK ON HER 60'S WITH BUOUNT PLEASURE."

-THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

## Carolyn G. Heilbrun

The Last Gift of Time: Life Beyond Sixty



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From the author of Writing a Woman's Life Right now, the astute and ever-insightful Heilbrun muses on the emotional and intellectual insights that brought her "to choose each day for now, to live. Also the encroachments of reduction, discomfort, and sadness that come with age group cannot spoil Heilbrun's moveable feast. When she was young, distinguished author and critic Carolyn Heilbrun solemnly vowed to end her existence when she turned seventy. But on the arrival of this fateful birthday, she recognized that her golden years have been full of unforeseen pleasures. comes an inspirational reflection on aging and the gift of lifestyle in your 70s and further than. "There are reflections on her new home and her sturdy, comfortable marriage; They are merely the price of bountiful living. the fascination with e-mail and the pleasure of discovering unexpected close friends. sweet solitude and the pleasures of sex at an advanced age;



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Interesting Memoir of a 70-year-old Woman I found some nuggets in this reserve although it didn't most resonate with me and I'll admit that I didn't go through it word for word. It's even worse to learn someone encouraging others to embrace such mediocrity I'm male, hetero, 65 and discover it depressing to learn of the stereotypes women have endured. I began with the chapters I was most interested in and then continued to the others. What she endure and apparently thought worthwhile, wouldn't satisfy anyone in today's world. Well worth reading. Some readers might believe that Heilbrun isn't in their little league. For example, just how many married women over 60 are able to proceed out and purchase a new house simply for them when they wish for more privacy? encounters but the book reads similar to a lecture she'd share with a feminism class quoting other feminist &I'd heard that she disparaged specific areas of the poet May Sarton's character and temperament and wondered if this would disturb me. Actually I found the way in which she compared herself to Sarton and another writer to be interesting. The first few chapters explore what things to expect when you get closer to pension. In this case, eliminated before into her sixties, her retirement. I have provided 2 copies to friends (one I quit on looking to get it back again from so I had to be gracious and give it to her). Not really that I remember but do most of us have a tendency to look at ourselves even more kindly than we perform others? I was in my fifties when I initial read it. I will always be grateful to her for sharing that one truth about herself since it offered me the courage to acknowledge the same truth about myself, also to be OK with it (while almost every friend I have has gone to Italy at least once in the past few years). She and I certainly agree on one thing--comfortable clothes! I highly recommend it to all women over 50, their husbands, their kids and their close friends. poets.I'm significantly less than a calendar year and a half away from the big 7-0 and I discover myself craving books by old women who are coping with the problems of life after 60. Carolyn Heilbrun was for me a genuine "unmet friend" -- a person who offers you courage because she's gone before you. I'll admit that I'm someone who enjoys an author who is forthcoming with her views. Carolyn Heilbrun gave me several small but meaningful freedoms. She wrote about her dog Bianca. So many of her acquaintances urged her never to get a puppy as it will be a burden and would prevent her from vacationing. But Heilbrun wrote that she really had no curiosity in traveling; Was intrigued with her opinions of Mae Sarton and the concept of solitude. Which means this will be another book in my own library. It's elegantly and entertainingly written. We was saddened when We heard about her suicide but not completely surprised. excellent This book is full of meaningful thoughts, perceptions, and reflections. Came to this publication after reading Anna Quindlen's Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake. I haven't found an writer with whom I've sensed such a connection in an exceedingly long time. Love to all. "EASILY had to keep my library behind and take with me

only 10 books this might absolutely be one of them. I know the writer committed suicide at 77, and am uncertain why. The author is so funny, insightful, and downright excellent. Truly an "Unmet Friend". It had been so perfect I will reread it simply for the satisfaction of it! Enjoyed some parts better than others. Enjoyed certain essays and skimmed over others. what she wanted was the companionship of the lovely pet. Appreciated her honesty provided her attempt to enjoy a rural living while abhorring the subsequent issues of such. Although I have no regrets of scanning this publication, I don't consider her to become an "unmet friend" but someone whose choices are different from mine. Unexplored I enjoyed her other books but not that one. I was also cheered by reading Heilbrun's account of her wardrobe decisions: she decided to no longer use heels or any clothing that wasn't comfy, and settled mostly into pants and tunics. It's honest and personal in a good sense. She takes illustrations from her own existence but is definitely neither boring nor self indulgent. It is very likely never to be comprehended by those who did not go through the 1950s as young women, did not live in that pre feminist globe or experience the tensions between work, marriage, child rearing and being a person in amongst all that. Heilbrun loses track with her chapter mainly devoted to her relationship with poet Mary Sarton, but does return to her core themes. Her writings to me found as a person experiencing depression. I have just bought a copy for my sister which is why I'm on this site. Was she as essential of herself? I have read it more often than once and discover it an excellent publication to dip into as each chapter is certainly a stand alone essay. I am sorry I never saw her speak and mourn her death. A Sad Read Carolyn Heilburn gals of her 60's being truly a wonderful decade for her because she did everything that she wanted to satisfied herself. Nevertheless she writes much less of her decisions predicated on her emotions & Nonetheless it was enjoyable to read about her first evening alone inside your home when it wasn't quite the sanctuary for which she had yearned. I have come back to this publication over and over and have recommended and gifted it to several friends, and also my Book Club. Her insights in to the experience of as an old female in the 1990s and her positive approach to living every day are inspiring. thought provoking at 1st I did not relate to the writer, but further into the book I realized I had a few of the same or similar thoughts and feelings. Perfect I loved this book. Required reading for women in their 50's Great read for anyone in their 50's. She saw that the years ahead wouldn't normally be as pleasurable and that she would not produce any longer important work. I don't believe she went overboard with her criticism. It's almost impossible to mention to today's young females what that actually sensed like. She was therefore pragmatic and wedded to the reality of things. I believe I remember that she left a note saying "Might work is done. A few of it had been very interesting if you ask me and some of it had been forgettable. Five

Stars well worth reading more than once. I also didn't read it from front to back. It's a whole lot worse to read someone encouraging others to embrace such mediocrity. Each chapter can be complete in itself--computers, clothes, romance, men, family members, and so on and shockingly the first chapter is about suicide. Look elsewhere. Gift of time is a handbook for living So far as I'm aware not a lot of non academic writing has been done on aging and the psychology of being old I've read 3 or 4 4 books about them, but Carolyn Heilbrun's book sticks out. Her topic, existence as an older girl, is bursting with possibilities. She didn't explore them with the pleasure and enthusiasm they are worthy of, a lovely read beautiful book



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