

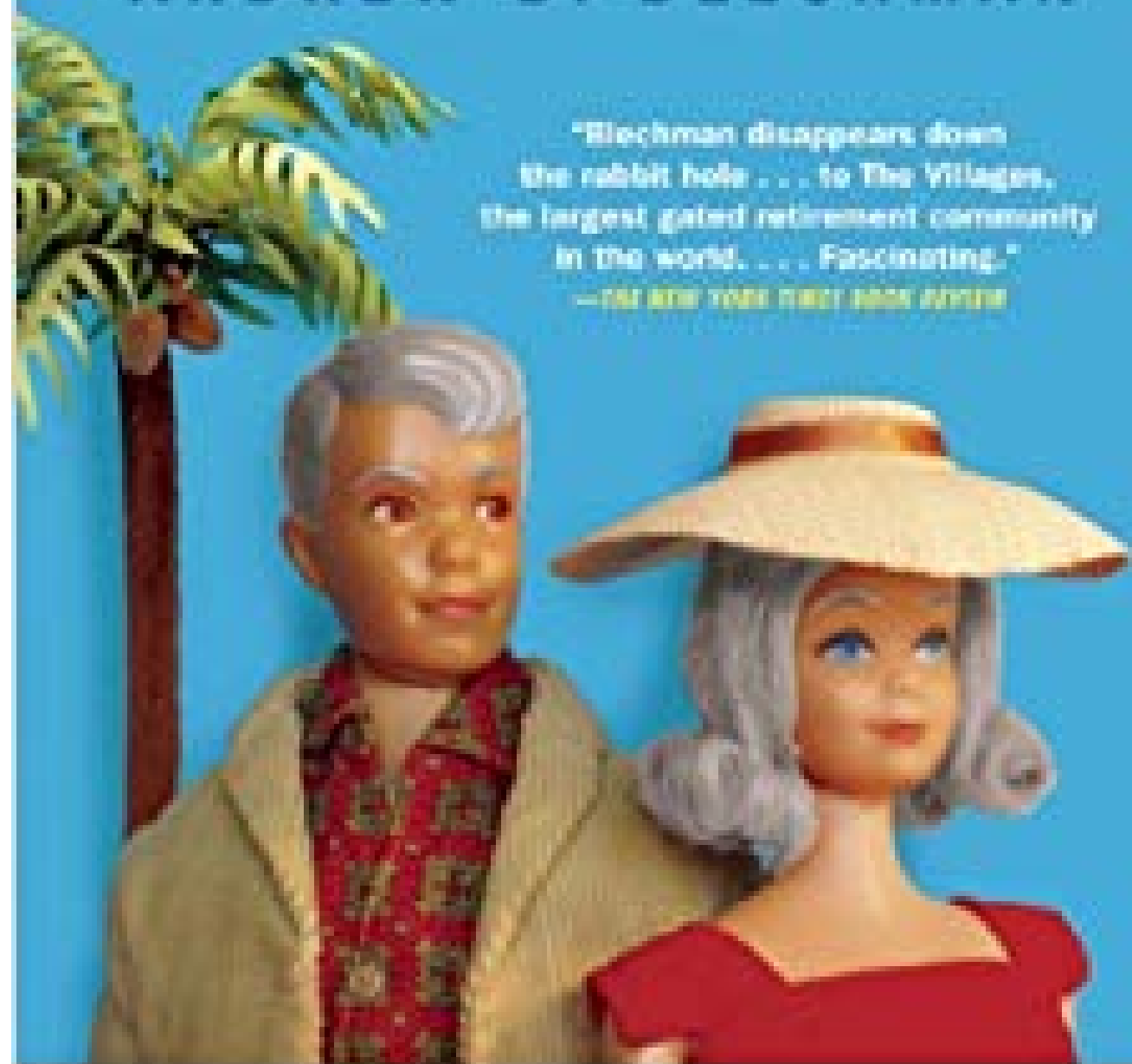
LEISUREVILLE

*Adventures in
a World Without Children*

ANDREW D. BLECHMAN

"Blechman disappears down
the rabbit hole . . . to The Villages,
the largest gated retirement community
in the world. . . . Fascinating."

—THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW



Andrew D. Blechman

Leisureville: Adventures in a World Without Children



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When his next-door neighbors in a quaint New England town all of a sudden pick up and move to a gated retired community in Florida known as The Villages, Andrew Blechman is astonished by their stories, so he would go to investigate. Bigger than Manhattan, with a course for every day time of the month, two downtowns, its own newspaper, radio, and TV station, The Villages is usually a city of nearly one hundred thousand (and growing) lacking only one thing: kids. Blechman traces the annals of the age-segregated pension phenomenon, and travels to Arizona to show what has happened to the pioneering developments after decades of segregation. But this is more than only a romp through a pension paradise; surprisingly energetic sex lifestyle. In the critically acclaimed Leisureville, Blechman delves into life in the senior utopia, offering a hilarious firsthand survey on everything from ersatz nostalgia to the citizens' A fascinating blend of serious history, sociable commentary, and hilarious, engaging reportage, Leisureville can be an important book on a major, underreported trend.



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A grasp of dark comedy. This book should be required reading for everyone considering retiring there. Just like the seniors are looking for whenever choosing The Villages and other expert planned communities. Right away, the author seems to be perplexed as to why anyone would like to leave the area where he made a decision to live and increase a family group once they reached a certain age (in this case neighbors next door reaching retirement). It is extremely friendly and relaxed. Community, safety, staying active, continued learning, golfing carts vs cars, city centers with great facilities and sunshine best the list. We shifted here from Long Island Ny and the Villages is definitely a dream become a reality. He explains the way the Villages works, especially charges and future growth and the security of the investment. Delightful, mirthful book in the Villages in Florida and senior housing. But Blechman reported it without checking out the facts. I loved the book for all the great information on the Village life-style. The author is quite interesting, crafty and comic in a dark method. It is a pleasant examine and I am half method through reading it another time given that I live here in the Villages. Some of us can take a couple of hours of it. I purchased Andrew's book on pigeons and look ahead to reading his additional book. Mr Blechman is normally a expert of dark comedy. Blechman Doesn't Understand AGEING and Started Lies About The Villages Andrew Blechman writes Greater than the three books that follow, but it always seems that he is writing the reserve his editor is telling him to write to get good testimonials and a lot of interest. Found it a far more objective and balanced book. By all means browse Leisureville. I did, and I enjoyed much of it. However, in case you are thinking about retiring in The Villages, start with the three that follow. And what's with this great love of children? "Inside the Bubble: An Unauthorized Guidebook to Florida's Many Popular Community," by Ryan Erisman, is the best place to begin. At first he didn't, but then he seemed to catch on. You open the entranceway and people are waving in fact it is nearly like having a big family for a neighborhood. They could know it intellectually, but the actuality doesn't really kick in until you are there. Wow!, but if you are planning to get by on Social Protection, even though you have the best Social Security, forget it. Go elsewhere. Maybe an older trailer. I then browse Lindsay Collier's book about The Villages. Cut that in two if you buy a cheaper house and pay cash, don't consume out, don't golf or don't play the big programs, etc. Just reading the list of factors to do there is so interesting that I needed to move there immediately, even though I favor surviving in a cooler weather, in the woods, by itself. The through research displays through in the tales, facts and numbers presented. I cherished my grandmother and all my life went on vacations to find her, but I usually saw her as older, even when she was in her fifties. Well worth reading, especially for gray hairs considering alternatives. We moved to the Villages after reading the book. Back again to Blechman. He is certainly in charge of the scurrilous rumor that The Villages includes a higher rate of STDs, though it was the scandal sheet The Daily Mail in the UK that switched Blechman's rumors into reality and circulated it globally. The book hints at all of this and also switches into the more dark areas of living here. Ultimately, it's harder to obtain hard. (Why are younger people so disgusted by the idea that people a generation old still have sex? They often say "Ewww!" or "Too much information. Some of us are crazy about being with family, and some of us weren't elevated that way and aren't that way. If you would like to more about the community, I'd skip this book. Biased Coverage Author writes a good researched book on the aging of America and the pension phenomenon that is age segregated, leisure- oriented communities. I did so. But most people there are married. Blechman sometimes does really seem to understand something about aging. Purchase it from his web-site, and it's cheap in the event that you buy the electronic

version. But this understanding is normally temporary. Hmm, didn't think therefore. He accuses individuals who go there of not attempting to provide for their grandchildren's long term, of not wanting to be part of America, of hating kids. However, I don't believe he understands, despite his analysis, what it means to grow old. Forty calendar year olds usually can't. In short, for an average \$250,000 house, all taxes and costs and a mortgage, figure about \$4,000 per month. They do things that are supposed to make them live a hundred years, and exercise, and take herbal products and all, but it won't help. As for not investing in the community and the next generation, Wrong.) But ultimately, skin thins and wrinkles, and age spots arrive. In comparison, Ryan Erisman actually checked the Florida Health Department statistics and discovered that the counties The Villages are in have extremely LOW STD rates, as you would expect, actually if a tiny percentage of the people were having sex. Ultimately, sex without a lubricant risks injury. Younger people don't understand what it is like to have joints that hurt now and then, or even more. They don't understand that climbing or descending stairs can hurt. They don't know very well what it is prefer to look into the mirror and not recognize yourself. They don't know very well what it is prefer to look at your friends and see individuals who appear to be corpses. By the end of the publication I was ready to put it down. Nevertheless, when I read "The Florida Move Guide," by Ron Stack, I nearly threw up. I never saw her as a real person with actual regrets who had a genuine youth. They are very short, plus they are self-published by amateurs, however they are much more useful. Blechman appears to think that individuals who would prefer to read a book than play with grandchildren are unnatural. That doesn't indicate we don't appreciate them occasionally, but encounter it: raising kids will be a lot of work and stress, often with little gratitude." Blechman also passes on as fact a single old swinger's joke there are ten women for every man in The Villages. Some people are at odds with their children. My wife and I love surviving in the Villages and really found Leasureville an excellent read. He doesn't know what it really is like facing snow and ice with poor backs and arthritis. At one point he complains a healthcare facility focused on the country's largest retirement community (the villages) doesn't have a maternity ward - After all really, how is normally this such a problem? Bought real estate and paid hefty home taxes with most of it going to support the colleges. Maybe there are ten widows for each widower. But does Blechman understand what it is like to grow old? No. We Treatment about the Children, But who cares for Seniors So I want to ask the writer this, would you choose a neighborhood to raise your family where right now there aren't any other children to play with and just adults live there? He goes on numerous times about how exactly choosing to reside in a retirement community is age group discrimination. We moved right here because it was practical, geographically and we are over 55. It is dead on, the history of such communities was fascinating, and the authors undertake this place was accurate but we moved right here anyway. They want many individuals close in age to associate with. (What helps most is staying out of the sun. These seniors did spend money on their communities if they had growing kids. They attended council meetings, school events, fundraisers, teachers meetings, planning board meetings, the town parades. Enjoy it. While renters coasted along and transferred in and out without the fiscal contribution of taxes or setting down roots, (the landlord's taxes could by no means equal the cost of the renters 3+ children in the institution system). Also suggest the book, Inside the Bubble: Unauthorized Guidebook to Florida's Most Popular Community by Ryan Erisman. Our city built a lovely, too architecturally gorgeous, and \$\$\$ school 7 years ago. that you pay for when you own a home in The Villages: We perform like some elements and other things aren't our glass of tea. Outrageous. No problems

or attempts to reduced a portion of taxes for the senior population on a fixed budget to help fund this. Nor will our town ever talk about what can we reserve for senior assets. Yes privatization does a better job when it comesto conference the many needs of an aging baby boomer culture. Hoorah! Everyone is so darn nice here in Florida. When you get old you become vulnerable in many ways. I live in The Villages and examine this reserve out of curiosity. All too often I go through and hear on the news of burglariesagainst older people, not for money or TV's but for the medication prescriptions in the medication cabinet.Your bias is disappointing, aging will hopefully help you grasp the bigger picture. A reminder, self segregationhas always been around, its disguised as the price of the houses in that neighborhood your drawn to are soinflated that you won't be able to purchase and live there, or your children attend their award earning colleges. Hooray againfor the Villages because they have a variety of housing for most retirees to lease or personal. Well it's your turn Andrew and other parents to support the childrenand whats remaining for the following generation. If you want history or a synopsis of The Villages I certainly recommend scanning this book, when you can ignore the tone, which I found judgemental & most annoying-not cute as some other visitors did. I'll get back to him in a minute. We shifted to The Villages not really because we fell in love with everything about any of it. Disney, The Villages, etc. However, when this book arrived, I picked it up fairly quickly and began reading it and finished it in a few short days of selecting it up here and there. We don't play golf or line dance but there is something magical about the area. Certainly, he feels his small hamlet in Massachusetts may be the best place anyone could live, so why leave it? You need to decide if the facilities are important to you, all of the clubs and golfing etc. I understand he is eligible for his perspective, but he just by no means lets up. He was fortunate to be too young to appreciate the requirements of the maturing and retired. This is onlyavailable at the website by same name.To have a network of others who live nearby in close proximity brings protection. I moved right here because my hubby took a job in Central Florida, (yes there are working people here and actually The Villages includes a huge workforce of seniors who live here and so are happy to grab extra cash with simple low-pay jobs in The Villages, for instance gate attendants, after their high stress careers). Author had a bias before even positioning paper to pen I don't read a whole lot of books however when I do, I generally choose books that spark some form of different perspective to stuff that are generally thought to be being loved by the masses.So to have lots of kiddies around is actually choosing an age group segregated community for thebenefit of your kids. There are some beautiful encircling neighbourhoods if you would like to get more for your money in a home. Writer didn't mention his age group specifically, nor a lot of his upbringing and familiar roots (apart from wife, child, a point out or two of a brother and memories of grandmother) but from reading the after publication notes, it appears the writer was in mid to late 30's when the reserve was published and possibly younger during his study. Guess what it needs an addition now at the expense of \$27 Mllion dollars! Two Stars Not sure that is a real representation. Probably there are ten ladies wanting sex there for each and every man able to give it. The opportunity of friendships and community and things to do are the factors that could draw me, and most 55 and old communities are simply too small to provide them. However, the book contains far too much of the author's specific bias towards age segregated communities and their anti-kid policies. Really not a chapter goes by without another comment - like retirees living without access to children was comparable to slavery or pressured segregation.So, sure, read this. They don't understand how for older people, their children, grandchildren, younger neighbors working to be polite and obtain the door, or

whatever are discriminating against them. book should really be titled "why i disapprove of age segregated communities and I dont care what other people think" I wanted to learn more about The Villages, but instead was subjected to 250 pages of the insufferable author railing against age segregated communities. He self admittedly understands nothing of growing old, which when you have been there you know isn't for the meek. Good for history I agree with some other reviewers about this writer's perspective. Garbage! He's judgemental about aging when people are, in a few sense, trying to age with some dignity. I think the author is biased We am 63 and recently visited The Villages. I think the author sees this whole issue from the ignorance of youth. Never mind that person after person after one who he talked to who lived there pretty much liked the development. His evaluation of his seniors in his hometown being thrifty and therefore not caring if their senior middle gets no funding, displays his bias. And, of course, a few of them only want a couple of hours of us. In the event that you know the author personally and have a different opinion than him on any subject, you possess my condolences, as I'm sure he simply endlessly harps on you for having the temerity to possess a different view point than him. I believe he displays no credibility for his subject matter, came at the story with built in bias, and is afraid of facing a world where aging appears different. Would you like lots of reasons never to move to Florida? I've under no circumstances lived anywhere where a lot of people are just happy.



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