"For anyone in their fifties, sixties, or beyond, a new way to think about the rest of your life."

—Alix Kates Shulman

THE TRUTH ABOUT AGING IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY



Lillian B. Rubin, Ph.D.

Author of Intimate Strangers and Just Friends

Ústřední knihovna FSS MU Brno

4240752072

E-10-21-1

60 on Up

Also by Lillian B. Rubin, Ph.D.

The Man with the Beautiful Voice: And More Stories from the Other Side of the Couch

Tangled Lives: Daughters, Mothers, and the Crucible of Aging

The Transcendent Child: Tales of Triumph Over the Past

Families on the Fault Line: America's Working Class Speaks about the Family, the Economy, Race, and Ethnicity

Erotic Wars: What Happened to the Sexual Revolution?

Quiet Rage: Bernie Goetz in a Time of Madness

Just Friends: The Role of Friendship in Our Lives

Intimate Strangers: Men and Women Together

Women of a Certain Age: The Midlife Search for Self

Worlds of Pain: Life in the Working-Class Family

Busing & Backlash: White against
White in an Urban School District

60 on Up

The Truth about Aging in the Twenty-first Century

Lillian B. Rubin, Ph.D.

Beacon Press Boston

MASARYKOVA UNIVERZITA Fakulta sociálních studií

Joštova 10 602.00 B.R.N.C

(8B)

Beacon Press 25 Beacon Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108-2892 www.beacon.org

Beacon Press books are published under the auspices of rhe Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

© 2007 by Lillian B. Rubin All rights reserved Printed in the United States of America

11 10 09 08 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

This book is printed on acid-free paper that meets the uncoated paper ANSI/NISO specifications for permanence as revised in 1992.

Text design by Tag Savage Composition by Wilsted & Taylor Publishing Services

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data Rubin, Lillian B.

60 on up: the truth about aging in the twenty-first century / Lillian Rubin.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references.

18BN-13: 978-0-8070-2929-9 (pbk: acid-free paper)

1. Older people—Psychology. 2. Older people—Conduct of life.

3. Older people—Attitudes. 4. Aging. 1. Title.

HQ1061.R83 2007

305.26—dc22

2007013570

An earlier article featuring some of the themes in chapter 6 appeared in *Dissent* (fall 2006), 88–94.

For Marci and Hank

And for all those everywhere who are struggling with this new stage of life.

Contents

Chapter One	Through the Looking Glass 1
Chapter Two	Out of the Closet 7
Chapter Three	Staying Younger While Getting Older 19
Chapter Four	Does Age Count Anymore? 29
Chapter Five	The Marriage of Self and Society 43
Chapter Six	The Golden Years? They've Gotta Be Kidding! 51
Chapter Seven	And Now About Sex 71
Chapter Eight	The Shrinking Ties That Bind 85
Chapter Nine	Hey Folks, You're Spending My Inheritance 99
Chapter Ten	Taking Care of Mom and Dad 111
Chapter Eleven	Oh My God, We're Old! 133
Chapter Twelve	It's Better Than the Alternative, Isn't It? 147
Chapter Thirteen	One Last Word 165

Acknowledgments 173
Notes 175