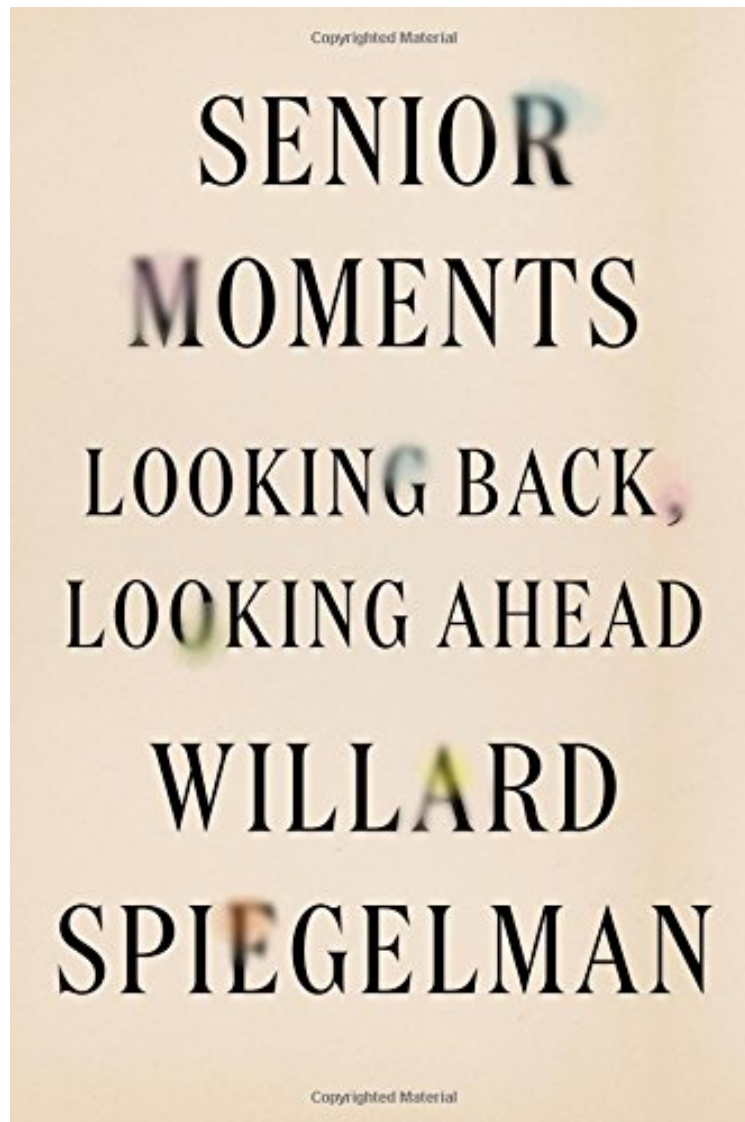


(Read now) Senior Moments: Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Senior Moments: Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Willard Spiegelman

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Willard Spiegelman : Senior Moments: Looking Back, Looking Ahead before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Senior Moments: Looking Back, Looking Ahead:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sage Wisdom and Wit from One of the Best By A. Blankenship I knew I loved Willard Spiegelman in his Modern American Poetry class at SMU, but this book is like having a long dinner with a favorite professor. Insightful, vulnerable, witty, and so so smart, Spiegelman delves into his favorite and

not so favorite experiences and places, taking the reader on a journey through his life. With wisdom and humor, he somehow dispenses courage to discover your own opinions and hold them with fervor. I can't recommend this book enough to anyone who loves words, learning, travel, the arts, etc. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. You need not be a senior (I'm not) to love this book! By CustomerSuch a fun, eureka-provoking and, best of all, HOPEFUL hybrid of memoir, travelogue and meditation on age (every age, really). His short essay on visiting Japan, for example, isn't about Japan it's about how even glancing immersion in the exotic changes us, remaps us from the inside. The author connects a hundred life dots and does so with the help of great authors and thinkers, weaving their insights into his own effortlessly, organically, which had the added bonus of making me feel I'd audited a fabulous literature survey course taught by a master, but one without tests! The title deceives (perhaps intentionally), this terrific book is young at heart. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining and inspiring By R. F. Shapard If you were attracted to this book by its title, you'll find that it lives up to its promise but offers much more than reminiscences and speculation. In a culture that finds inspiration in Internet memes, I found it refreshing to be reminded of the consolations of classic literature, art, and music. Not that Senior Moments is stodgy far from it. Spiegelman is an entertaining storyteller and an adventurous traveler and eater! While pursuing a full and demanding professional career, he has lived a rich extracurricular life (for more on that, read his book Seven Pleasures), and his philosophy in Senior Moments has expanded and deepened my thoughts on the years ahead.

A moving collection of essays on aging and happiness Drawing on more than six decades' worth of lessons from his storied career as a writer and professor, Willard Spiegelman reflects with candid humor and sophistication on growing old. Senior Moments is a series of discrete essays that, when taken together, constitute the life of a man who, despite Western cultural notions of aging as something to be denied, overcome, and resisted, has continued to relish the simplest of pleasures: reading, looking at art, talking, and indulging in occasional fits of nostalgia while also welcoming what inevitably lies ahead. Spiegelman's expertly crafted book considers, with wisdom and elegance, how to be alert to the joys that brim from unexpected places even as death draws near. Senior Moments is a foray into the felicity and follies that age brings; a consideration of how and what one reads or rereads in late adulthood; the eagerness for, and disappointment in, long-awaited reunions, at which the past comes alive in the present. A clear-eyed book of memories, written in eight searching and courageously honest essays, Senior Moments is guaranteed to stimulate, stir, and restore.

"Willard Spiegelman's Senior Moments is a work of deep seriousness and profundity delivered with lightness, moral poise, and a warm, witty, conversational humility. It is dulce et utile both a balm to the reader thinking (or trying to think) about aging and mortality; and a practical guide to some of the surprising, hardy-perennial pleasures that can unexpectedly survive and deepen, even as one's hours, days, months, years, dwindle. Spiegelman is cherishable in the same friendly, yet paradoxical, way Montaigne is robustly sad, joyfully unillusioned, and yet alive to life in a manner that both consoles and delights." Terry Castle, author of *The Professor: A Sentimental Education* "With 'Senior Moments', Willard Spiegelman gives us one of the most poignant and amusing accounts of what it's really like to go through that rite of passage that is the twelfth grade. From choosing a college, to finals, to the prom, he . . . wait. What? It's not that? Oh. Um, can I get back to you?" Chip Kidd Aging is our universal condition: the only question is whether we approach our seniority kicking and screaming or proceed with some degree of style and, let us hope, capacity for happiness. Spiegelman's wise, witty, spirited essays show how we might work our way over to the style-and-happiness route, and are as good a guide for living well at any age as any other that I know. Ben Fountain, author of *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk* They say we are living in a golden age of the personal essay, and it's true . . . Walk with Willard through New York, Tokyo, Dallas, his personal library, museum walk with Willard through life. Mark Oppenheimer, author of *Knocking on Heaven's Door* Spiegelman makes a reliable ambassador for the changes that advancing years bring, animated by gratitude and warmly ready for further inquiry: he might be giving, and making more achievable, Pope's famous advice: 'Keep good humor still, whatever we lose.' Stephen Burt, author of *The Art of the Sonnet* Willard Spiegelman is a wise old soul. Raymond Sokolov, author of *Why We Eat What We Eat* A book so vivid and personable that one has the impression of sitting across a dinner table from its author. He talks to us in a tone at once convivial and elegiac as he addresses some of life's biggest questions: What makes us happy? How can we make the best use of our brief lifetimes? To tackle these, Spiegelman brings to bear his vast erudition, humane intelligence, wit, and personal candor. The result is a beautiful and wise book about making daily life a meaningful pleasure. Rhonda Garelick, author of *Mademoiselle: Coco Chanel and the Pulse of History* Senior Moments takes us on a learned, witty meander from Talk to Quiet, passing through Dallas, Japan, New York City, books, and art along the way. He treads so lightly, it takes a while to notice that this is a guidebook to aging and preparation with grace and sweetness for the final silence. Rosanna Warren, author of *Ghost in a Red Hat: Poems* "Willard Spiegelman writes essays like Ferran Adrià approached molecular gastronomy, with conscious, understated artistry." Bill Thompson, *The Charleston Post and Courier* He's an agreeable, wise and witty companion -- edifying, fun and fearless as he proffers lessons in happiness and aging learned during his long, distinguished career. *The Dallas Morning News* Mr.

Spiegelman adopts the discursive, finely crafted voice of a literature professor, revealing a penchant for aphorism and allusion. Wall Street Journal [Willard Spiegelman is] a master of form . . . connecting the personal to the universal. "[Senior Moments is] a sophisticated and fun read . . . a comfort, and a joy, to learn that someone with a sharp wit and even sharper mind has considered the questions, blazed a trail, and created a thoughtful record of the journey. Ocala Star Banner Lucid and propulsive, opening portals to heightened enjoyment of the time we have. Kirkus sSpiegelman writes with a casual, engaging style and frequently punctuates his paragraphs with references to literature that crystallize his ideas. Readers will find this volume rich with relatable insights. Publishers WeeklyReaders of a similar age will savor his delight in language and life as he ponders the past and peers into the future. BooklistI can think of no one better to help me adjust to getting older . . . This is a delightful book of essays. Glen Roven, The Huffington Post[Spiegelman] takes himself lightly and brings fresh energy to an appreciation of many subjects. . . with conversational whimsy and genuine gratitude for the people, places, ideas, and memories they inspire. . . The author draws on an equal blend of critical rigor and love for his themes." Library Journal"Well-written essays by an elder who is very skilled at weaving together the experiences of his life . . . Creative and wise." Spirituality and Practice"Reading these reflections is like sitting in a restaurant and listening while your quietly garrulous friend leans forward over his drink and, on almost any subject you could name, reminisces, jokes, speculates, analyzes and talks, talks, talks . . . casually brilliant." Donald Mace Williams, San Antonio Express-News"[Senior Moments] engages gently and also ponders the pleasures of nostalgia, art and solitude. You'll want to enjoy Spiegelman's Senior Moments slowly." Charmaine Chan, South China Post"Senior Moments is a memoir that surprises and enchants." Colin Harrington, Berkshire Eagle"An eloquent fusion of memoir and essay, Senior Moments is at its heart a toast to life, art and the pursuit and appreciation of Quality. And the pages are so passionate, well-reasoned and affectionate that one could easily see the 71-year-old Spiegelman walking through a fine museum with smiling old Death Himself, chatting together in celebration of the art of conversation and life's possibilities." Rick Koster, The New London Day"Senior Moments is quick with good sense, playfulness, and probing intelligence. His prose is so elegant that if I'd not aged beyond fervors and lusts of all vivifying kinds, I would be envious . . . Senior Moments is a door, making the reader feel alive, urging him to appreciate his life, be that life composed of memories or of streets as yet untraveled." Sam Pickering, Kenyon "Senior Moments is just wonderful... Over the past five years I've become addicted, above all, to the machinery of sentences, and your book is full of so many amazing syntactical machines. They give me hope that it's still possible to write well: that the language, for all it has suffered, is undiminished." Patrick Phillips, author of Blood at the Root"Willard Spiegelman's improbably titled Senior Moments is a delicious read. Viva!" C.M. Mayo""Spiegelman has a keen ear . . . [He has] the ability to conjure tableaux that reside somewhere between vaudeville and a Saul Bellow novel." Ernest Hilbert, The Hopkins "[Senior Moments is] a pleasant, wide-ranging journey taken with a friend who knows how to provoke important thoughts and concerns, in the midst of wry smiles and laughter." Si Dunn, Lone Star Literary LifeAbout the AuthorWillard Spiegelman is the Hughes Professor of English at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. From 1984 until 2016, he was also the editor in chief of Southwest . He has written many books and essays about English and American poetry. For more than a quarter century he has been a regular contributor to the Leisure Arts pages of The Wall Street Journal.