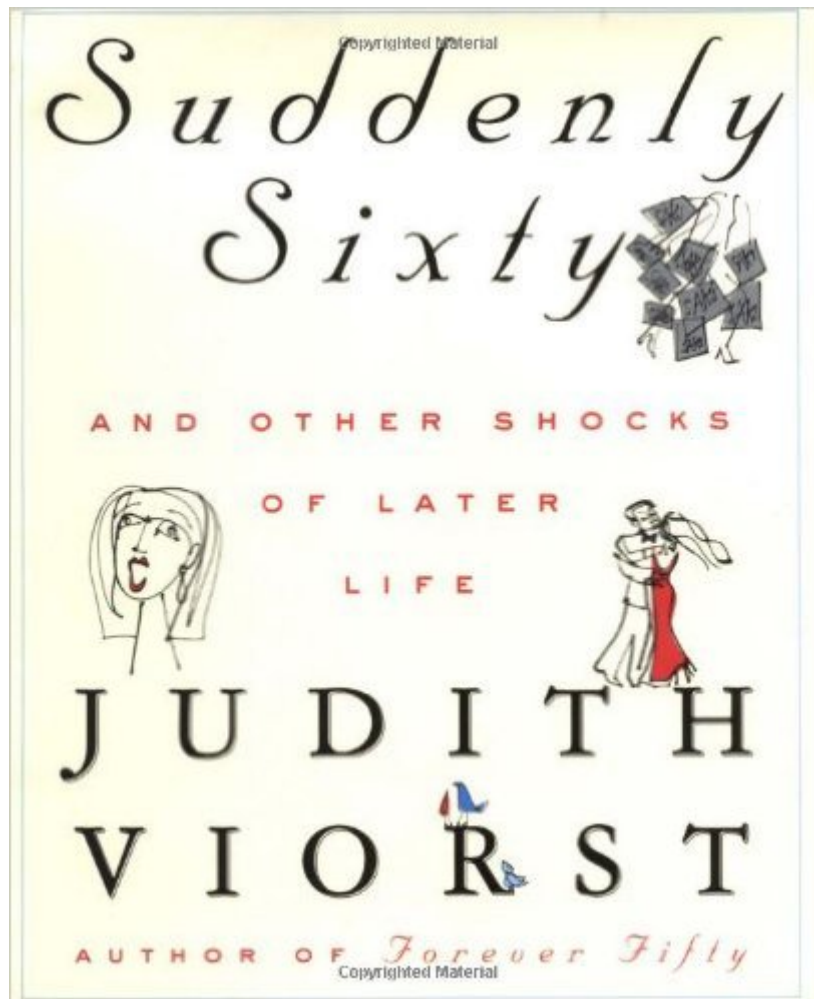


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# Suddenly Sixty And Other Shocks Of Later Life



## Synopsis

Judith Viorst is known and loved by readers of all ages, for children's books such as *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*; nonfiction titles, including the bestseller *Necessary Losses*; and her collections of humorous poetry, which make perfect gifts for birthdays, Mother's Day, graduation, Christmas, Chanukah, or at any time of year. *Suddenly Sixty* is a funny and touching book that speaks directly to the sixty-ish woman, inviting her to laugh about, sigh over, and come to hopeful terms with the complex issues of this decade of life. Among the poems in this charmingly illustrated collection are those exploring the joys and strains of children and grandchildren, and the intimacy of old friends who've known each other so long/We knew each other back when we were virgins. • There are poems that tip their hat to mortality, wrestle with a husband's retirement and He's coming with me when I shop at the supermarket/So I won't have to shop alone. I like alone. • and acknowledge the fact that at this stage of life we'd give up a night of wild rapture with Denzel Washington for a nice report on my next bone density test. • Offering plenty of laughs, a few tears, and cover-to-cover truths, these are poems for everyone who would rather say never say die than enough is enough. • Every woman who has reached this decade will rueful and smiling find herself in the pages of this book.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 80 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster; 1st edition (October 4, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 068486763X

ISBN-13: 978-0684867632

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (59 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #85,615 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in [Books > Humor &](#)

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## Customer Reviews

Ms. Viorst has become more outspoken in these poems than in her earlier "decade" works. I think you'll like the change. "It still will be impossible to persuade my husband when lost to stop the

goddamn car, and ask for directions." Concerning her husband's retirement, "And guess who's the hobby he chose?" In talking about her children and grandchildren, she exults that her grandchild prefers her for cuddling to her son. You'll never quite think about life the same way after you read "1963 -- Niagara, 1999 -- Viagra." On the other hand, she's hanging in there as a woman. "I've painted blue nail polish on my toes . . . ." "I will still buy bikini underwear." "I don't intend to stop showing a little cleavage." Yet, ". . . it's hard to be frisky over sixty." "L's for libido -- what's happened to sex?" There are also the inevitable losses. "How am I going to walk in this world without talking to my friend about eyeliner and the meaning of the universe?" She has some very strong feelings about the bad things that should happen to the man who leaves his wife of 42 years for a younger woman. One of the best sequences comes in a series of poems on the subject of "A Brief History of Marriage" that begins with "a life lived -- at least for a while -- in paradise." In "To Be Continued" we learn that ". . . sometimes we still get a glimpse of paradise." My favorite poem on aging was "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep." The poem is a long list of all the things that can and usually do disturb slumber. If none of these occur, she says, "I might -- I just actually might -- do a little sleeping.

Okay, so I'm not the first person to see 60 come and go! However, I did experience a not-so-terrific lonely feeling. Fortunately, I remembered reading Ms. Viorst's other books of like nature from *When Did I Stop Being Twenty?* to *Unexpectedly Eighty*. Off I went to procure *Suddenly Sixty*. I'm very glad I did. Reading *Suddenly Sixty*, a warm book with just the right amount of humor, reassured and comforted me. It also made me laugh and when I can laugh about something I have accepted whatever it is that I have been resisting. I knew I could count on Judith Viorst! Perhaps you don't know that Judith Viorst is the author of an amazingly large and diverse number of books from the children's classic *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* (and the three other "Alexander" books); to such adult classics as *Necessary Losses*. Look at 's Judith Viorst author page to see all her titles. I would love to meet the author of so many of my favorite books. I think every child should read, or be read, the first Alexander book. Actually, I would think adults, and everyone in between would enjoy *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. Who can resist this first line? "I went to sleep with gum in my mouth and now there's gum in my hair and when I got out of bed this morning I tripped on the skateboard and by mistake I dropped my sweater in the sink and I could tell it was going to be a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day." As I said, I'd like to have the opportunity to meet Ms. Viorst. In the meantime, I have her books--and you do, too, whether from , your local book store or your local library. If you are around sixty, read *Suddenly Sixty*.

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