



Late Bloomers

By Brendan Gill

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Late Bloomers applauds seventy-five individuals whose greatest achievements occurred or were recognized later in their lives. The people profiled have come from different countries and diverse social backgrounds, yet all have one thing in common: They refused to give up their dreams just because they were no longer young, and thus managed to make the second half of their lives rich and fulfilling for themselves and for others.

In sparkling profiles written by veteran *New Yorker* contributor Brendan Gill, the stories of these resilient people unfold. Some, such as Raymond Kroc (the founder of McDonalds) and Harry Truman changed careers relatively late in life. Others, such as botanist George Washington Carver, worked for years in their profession, finding recognition only later. Many of those profiled, including Julia Child and Gertrude Jekyll, didn't even begin producing their life's work until middle age.

At once timely and timeless, *Late Bloomers* is an inspiration for everyone who wants to believe that it's never too late.

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Late Bloomers By Brendan Gill Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Gill (Here at the New Yorker), a staff writer at the New Yorker since 1936, defines late bloomers as "people who at whatever cost and whatever circumstances have succeeded in finding themselves." This loose definition gives him license to include anyone he pleases in these one-page biographical sketches of 75 achievers in various fields. Authors Karen Blixen (1885-1962) and Joseph Conrad (1857-1924) are profiled because they pursued other occupations before they began writing, while Grandma Moses, who started painting in her late 70s, and Harriet Doerr, who published a first novel (The Stones of Ibarra) in late middle age, fit the traditional definition of a late bloomer. Other choices, such as Ruth Gordon, who began acting in her 20s and Mother Teresa, a Roman Catholic nun since the age of 18, are clearly a matter of Gill's personal whim. Although this compilation is a pleasant read, the information given on each person is so sketchy, its use will be primarily as a browsing item. Photos.

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From Library Journal

Gill, a staff writer for The New Yorker and the author of numerous books (e.g., *A New York Life: Of Friends and Others*, LJ 9/15/90), here offers a collection of 75 portraits of "people who at whatever cost and under whatever circumstances have succeeded in finding themselves." All achieved fame during or after middle age. Each biography is a page long and is accompanied by a full-page picture. Two-thirds of the subjects are from the 20th century, and half are in the arts/entertainment/fashion worlds. While some of the selections feel out of place, e.g., Zachary Taylor, King Edward VII, and Mother Teresa, Gill's intention is clearly inspirational, and his effervescent prose lends the right tone to these minimally informative pieces. A good gift purchase but not essential for libraries.

Wendy Knickerbocker, Rhode Island Coll. Lib., Providence

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From the Back Cover

Late Bloomers looks at 75 remarkable individuals whose greatest achievements occurred or were recognized in the second half of their lives. Although these late bloomers come from various countries and social backgrounds, they have one thing in common: They all succeeded in making their later years productive and fulfilling.

Through entertaining profiles by veteran *New Yorker* writer Brendan Gill, the stories of these resilient people unfold. Many, including Julia Child, didn't begin producing their life's work until middle age. Some, such as Harry Truman, changed careers after many years. Still others, such as actor Boris Karloff, worked for years in their chosen professions before finding recognition.

At once timely and timeless, *Late Bloomers* is an inspirational book for everyone who wants to believe that it's never too late.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sandra Byrom:

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Darrel Mason:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love Late Bloomers, it is possible to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Ronald Peyton:

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Virginia Johnson:

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