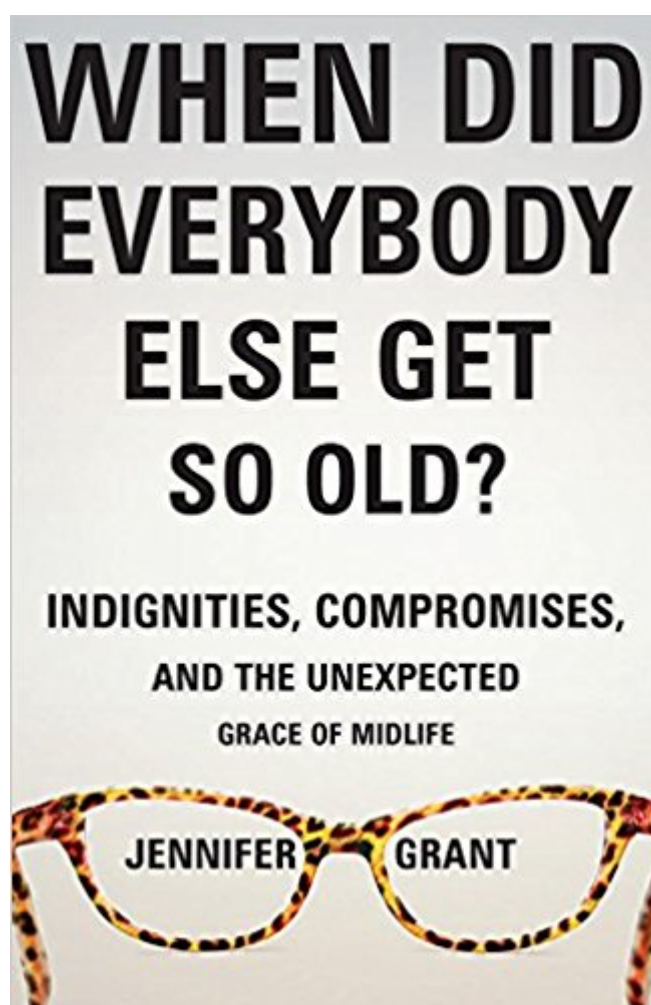


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# When Did Everybody Else Get So Old?: Indignities, Compromises, And The Unexpected Grace Of Midlife



## Synopsis

From writer and veteran columnist Jennifer Grant comes an unflinching and spirited look at the transitions of midlife. *When Did Everybody Else Get So Old?* plumbs the physical, spiritual, and emotional changes unique to the middle years: from the emptying nest to the physical effects of aging. Grant acknowledges the complexities and loss inherent in midlife and tells stories of sustaining disappointment, taking hard blows to the ego, undergoing a crisis of faith, and grieving the deaths not only of illusions but of loved ones. Yet she illuminates the confidence and grace that this season of life can also bring. Magnetic, good-humored, and full of hope in the sustaining power of the Spirit, this is a must-read for anyone facing the flux and flow of middle age.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"It's rare to read someone who is as honest as Jennifer Grant is. In a time that's full to overflowing with easy, posturing confessions, this is a necessary, awakening memoir."--Jon M Sweeney, coauthor of *Mixed-Up Love* and editor of *Phyllis Tickle: Essential Spiritual Writings*

(03/10/2017)"Delightful and poignant . . . a book to cherish and to share with those you love."--Dale Hanson Bourke, author of *Embracing Your Second Calling* (03/10/2017)"Jennifer Grant is fiercely tender, funny, passionate about family, faithful, and hungry for justice. Read this book!"--Becca Stevens, founder of Thistle Farms and a top ten 2016 CNN Hero (03/10/2017)"A simply magnificent meditation on middle age . . . an obvious labor of love and joy that appears like a friend at your side and starts walking with you, doling out stories that will make you roar with laughter, bring tears to your eyes, impart practical wisdom, and make you absolutely sure that you are not alone in

this."--Cathleen Falsani, journalist and author of *The God Factor* (03/10/2017)"This beautiful book belongs on every woman's nightstand (probably alongside her favorite jar of wrinkle cream)."--Katherine Willis Pershey, author of *Very Married* (03/10/2017)"Jennifer Grant's shimmering prose, soulful observations, wit, and insight make her an apt companion as we move through this necessary life stage of change and growth."--Michelle Van Loon, author of *Moments and Days* (03/10/2017)"Jennifer Grant manages to convey the trials of midlife with both realism and hope. This memoir, unexpectedly, helped me look forward to experiencing my forties and fifties."--Dorcas Cheng-Tozun, author of *Start, Love, Repeat* (03/10/2017)"The perfect companion to walk with on this road through the unexpected joy and grief of middle age."--Carla Barnhill, author of *The Myth of the Perfect Mother* (03/10/2017)"Readers will find a true friend in Jennifer Grant's beautifully crafted memoir of her forties. Highly recommended!"--Keri Wyatt Kent, author of *Deeply Loved and Godspace* (03/10/2017)"A brilliant memoir about the harshness and freedom of midlife. Bonus: A writer who can work Richard Rohr, Martha Stewart, and David Sedaris into one book must be read." --Lesa Engelthaler, writer and nonprofit executive recruiter (03/10/2017)"Hilarious and heartbreaking . . . a must-read for anyone who seeks to savor this amazing season of life." --Caryn Rivadeneira, author of *Broke* (03/10/2017)"I didn't know how much I needed this book until I read it. It gave me much-needed language for midlife's bruising and beautiful change. Grant's memoir is tender and funny in all the right places, and I can't wait to recommend it to friends!" --Jen Pollock Michel, author of *Teach Us to Want and Keeping Place* (03/10/2017)

Jennifer Grant is a writer, editor, and speaker. A former health and family columnist for the Chicago Tribune, she is the author of four previous books, including the adoption memoir *Love You More*. She lives in the Chicago area with her husband, four children, and two rescue dogs. Find her online at [jennifergrant.com](http://jennifergrant.com) or on Twitter @jennifercgrant.

I took this book with me on a recent airplane trip, and I simply couldn't put it down. Afterwards my husband asked me why I wasn't affected by the plane's turbulence like I usually am. I told him that I was so engrossed in the book's beautifully-crafted, poignant, and inspiring stories, that I didn't feel the turbulence! Grant writes with great honesty, humor, and depth as she shares both the warts and joys of her midlife journey. Yes, what we can do is to enjoy the fruits of our labor, "knowing them to be gifts from God." Her writing truly is one of those gifts.

Such a thoughtful, beautifully written book. Looking forward to giving this to many of my

(middle-aged) friends next holiday season. Also read Jen Grant's 'Love You More'--also excellent.

I opened up this book expecting to experience a fun light-hearted read about the middle ages of life. What I found within its pages was indeed very hilarious as some stories unfolded, but I also discovered so much more spiritual depth and honesty than I ever imagined. It felt like I had been granted permission for a mini spiritual retreat, providing a time of reflection, thought-provoking questions, and all woven together with the heights and depths of human emotions I had experienced myself. Although my life is wrapped in different packaging on the outside, hearing the voice of another echoing my own was a connection that was both inspiring and deeply comforting. Treat yourself to this beautiful book.

A beautifully woven tale of growth, loss, fear, release, and love. I took it on a walk with me as I neared the last chapters. I read it on foot, so sad was I to end this walk with a friend.

Really liked this book initially; I could identify so well I wanted to share it with all my friends. However, the latter part of the book failed to inspire.

Very good book ... enjoyed it .. and so true

Midlife is a time of questions, including "when did everybody else get so old?" but also "what have I accomplished?" and "why is parenting teens so hard?" and "who is that woman looking back at me in the mirror?" and my absolute favorite from this book: "Was I destined to remain in the pleasant custody of the suburbs, standing in the grocery store aisles weighing the relative merits of different brands of dryer sheets and juice boxes?" Yes, yes! Jennifer Grant brings this sort of finely crafted writing to the funny and also poignant questions that hit us in our 40s. If you are approaching your 40s, in the midst of your 40s, or try hard to pass for being in your 40s (that would be me!), you are going to love this book. It is funny, tender, thought-provoking and totally relatable--you need to get a copy not just for yourself but for the girlfriends who are journeying with you through this challenging but, as Grant reveals, meaningful season of life. Highly recommended!!

A brilliant memoir about the harshness and freedom of midlife. Bonus: A writer who can work Richard Rohr, Martha Stewart and David Sedaris into one book must be read.

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