



Love Stories of Later Life: A Narrative Approach to Understanding Romance

By Amanda Smith Barusch

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Even with baby boomers retiring and greater media and research attention being lavished on older people, most gerontologists have studiously avoided examining romance among the elderly. *Love Stories of Later Life* is an appealing and eye-opening remedy to this neglect, as leading gerontologist Amanda Smith Barusch presents original research into what love and romance mean in seniors' lives. The result is a glimpse into a world many people didn't know existed - that of romantic love in later life.

Unlike superficial guidebooks that purport to help seniors find a new mate, *Love Stories of Later Life* integrates theory and the latest research on love and the aging process. Drawing on a wealth of personal narratives collected during a landmark five-year study, the book presents the lived experiences of older adults from all walks of life. It addresses the impact of common age-related changes, both emotional and physical, on romantic relationships, and argues that love continues to sculpt our personalities and our lives, even in life's later decades. Each chapter includes practical tools for the serious student of love, including exercises designed to increase self-awareness and relationship-building as well as annotated lists of suggested reading that are at once comprehensive and accessible.

Barusch's fresh perspective, engaging voice, and in-depth qualitative research make *Love Stories of Later Life* an important contribution to the study of individual lives and the aging process. This book will guide gerontologists, social workers, and counselors as they in turn help their older clients navigate love's challenges.

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Editorial Review

Review

"In *Love in Later Life*, Amanda Barusch takes the reader on a tour of late life's romantic possibilities - from infatuation to loss, with stops along the way at ecstasy, betrayal, and other complications. Part romance novel, part scholarly work, the book explores love through the ages. In late life, as when we are younger, love changes everything."--*Andrew Scharlach, Associate Dean and Kleiner Professor of Aging, School of Social Welfare, University of California-Berkeley*

"Until recently (when the Baby Boomers came on the scene), scientists have neglected the topic of passionate love and sexual desire in older folks. In this delightful, personal book -- filled with up-to-date social psychological research -- Dr. Barusch provides a much needed remedy for that omission."--*Elaine Hatfield, Professor, Dept. of Psychology, University of Hawaii*

"This book dispels any notion that only young people enjoy romance. In a fun and engaging read, Barusch weaves cases with the most cutting-edge academic information on love in a thrilling tale about how love changes with age. The book is potentially transformative, as Barusch uncovers how in many respects the best is yet to come. Although the content appeals to a broad audience and includes experiential exercises to enhance readers' awareness about their own experiences, scholars and practitioners from all health professions should read this book."--*Virginia Richardson, Professor, The Ohio State University College of Social Work*

"While acknowledging life-course issues of difficulties and losses, and always the problems of trial and error in love, Barusch relates that, in later years, the opportunities are there for strong emotions. Rather than the usual texts on isolated, impoverished, detached, struggling older people, this book brings out the positive aspects of growing older and acknowledges the possibility of being a whole person at every age."--*nsight*

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"A scholarly approach to a 'fuzzy' concept, the book is enlivened with rich and often touching stories of love past age 50. Love is seen through the broad lens of historical, cultural, social, psychological and even spiritual eyes. A 'must read' for educators and practitioners as well as students of life, this book is a major contribution to breaking the stereotypes of what it means to grow old and how life continues to be meaningful in the later years."--*Connie Corley, Professor, School of Social Work and Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, California State University-Los Angeles*

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"[Barusch] writers for academic gerontologists who have an interest in the study of late relationships...[and] for elders who desire to gain insight into romantic and sexual relationships in later life. Academically, [Barusch offers] new and profound insights...the book is delightful, hopeful and inspiring. It is rare for an author to successfully address two such diverse audiences. I encourage both academic and public libraries to adopt this fine work."--*Stephen M. Marson for Age and Ageing*

About the Author

Amanda Smith Barusch, PhD, has been teaching and researching in the field of aging for over 25 years. Most of those were spent on the faculty of the College of Social Work at the University of Utah. She now serves as Professor and Head of Department of Social Work and Community Development at the University of Otago in New Zealand. She has received numerous academic awards, prizes and fellowships, and her work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Administration on Aging, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

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Robert Lyman:

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Jesus Moreno:

Why? Because this Love Stories of Later Life: A Narrative Approach to Understanding Romance is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap that but latter it will surprise you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such amazing way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I had been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Victor McDowell:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Love Stories of Later Life: A Narrative Approach to Understanding Romance, you are able to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout people. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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