

Petra Müller and Rainer Wieland

My Years are my friend

Writers on old age

SPECIFICATIONS

Format: 19.5 x 26 cm

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SYNOPSIS

Poets experience the challenge of growing older just as the rest of us do, yet confront it in a different way. They are not faced with an abrupt end to everyday life dictated by the constraints of their job. What's more, they have lived their whole lives with the pros and cons of determining their own daily routine. They can analyse precisely flaws and physical weaknesses, just as much as the strength which mental alertness can give each one of us. The observations drawn from life by the fifteen poets (and in particular the female poets) in this volume amuse and encourage us to consider afresh this stage of life, which is so often perceived negatively, and to discover new opportunities which go beyond conventional self-help books for the 'older generation'.

Each text is introduced and commented upon by the editors, so that the reader gains an insight into the work as well as the personal circumstances of the writer. The texts are accompanied by photos which document the poets and their surroundings, giving us a clearer understanding of these exceptional personalities.

Authors: Tania Blixen, Simone de Beauvoir, Colette, Claire Goll, John Updike, George Tabori, Samuel Beckett, Vladimir Nabokov, Woody Allen, Doris Lessing, Dorothy Parker, Astrid Lindgren, Thomas Mann, William S. Burroughs, Agatha Christie, Vicki Baum, Henry Miller

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Rainer Wieland is an acclaimed editor and has worked for many years as editor with the Andere Bibliothek. In 1999, *Der Zorn altert, die Ironie ist unsterblich. Über Hans Magnus Enzensberger* (Suhrkamp Verlag) was published; followed in autumn 2001 by *Die Welt der Encyclopédie* (in collaboration with Anette Selg), an anthology from the Encyclopaedia of Diderot (Eichborn Verlag).

Petra Müller studied library science and Italian language and literature in Berlin and Pisa and lives and works as a freelance editor in Berlin.