

HOT

*And Bothered
By It*

50 Poems About Midlife

Phyllis Johnson

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places and incidents are products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or locals is entirely coincidental.

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My friends at Russell Memorial Library, various writing groups, the Chesapeake Romance Writers, Sisters in Crime writing group and the Chesapeake Bay Poets have been there for me along the way. I also give thanks to some other local artists and writers plus online creative friends, because you can't write in a vacuum. Thanks also to the Red Hot Flashers. Ladies, you know how to celebrate life.

Inspiring women who have grown in wisdom and maturity over the years have shown me that a positive attitude and cheerful spirit make everything better in life. What a great philosophy to have. Wear a smile on your face and see how much it brightens your day. It really works. Trust me.

Foreword

I agree with Mary Steenburgen. There is something liberating about turning fifty. I wouldn't have believed it had I not lived it myself. Turning that age marked a milestone for me. At this stage in life, I find myself more confident with a renewed zest for living. Maybe it's finally time to do what I want to do. Maybe it's the realization that this is prime time and I have to make the most of it.

Fifty ushered in new experiences, including more photojournalism for national magazines and local newspapers. Early in my writing career, my first newspaper gig was a weekly humor column. This exercised my funny bone. As my kids got older, they realized Mom was writing about them and I had to give it up.

Along with the writing, I always entertained the idea of modeling. At fifty, I landed a modeling gig for Days Inn Hotels. After midlife, I have also been fortunate enough to get roles acting for the Discovery Channel and Televideo for independent films.

I enjoy acting but most of my spare time is spent writing. I've been published in *Woman's World*, *The Sun* and I wrote the cover story for the premiere issue of *Tidewater Teacher*. I've also written for a number of other national publications. I have

poetry and short stories published online as well. Community Press is also publishing my poetry book with packaged CD, young adult text and lesson plans, based on Anne Frank's diary, "Being Frank with Anne."

"Hot and Bothered By It" was inspired by a discussion over senior discounts on soft drinks. Go figure. This poetry came alive after analyzing midlife with a sometimes sassy, sometimes demure state of mind. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.

Phyllis Johnson
Author

Chapter One
But I Have Pantyhose
Older Than Her



Senior Discount

“But we’ll get free drinks,” he said.

I rolled my eyes,

Didn’t care if it meant super size.

Didn’t care if it saved me a buck.

It’s just that admitting it sucked.

I have panty hose older than her,

the sweet thing who took my order

for burger and fries,

who stands there with those doe shaped eyes,

looking at him who is so open,

then at me, who stands there moping.

“Get your senior discount,” I said,

as I stood in hat so red.

She looked at me and then my spouse.

“Both your drinks are on the house.”

*Fifty is the New Thirty so Seventy
Must Be the New Fifty*

Fifty is the new thirty.

Sounds good to me,

I'm just getting my second wind.

How about you?

Fifty is the new thirty.

That makes sixty become forty

and seventy is fifty girlfriend...

Do you agree too?

So look out life, here we come.

A force to be reckoned with,

each and every one,

and our numbers aren't few.

No fading into the woodwork for us.

Invisible we are not.

Gaining the attention

to which we are due...

How about you?