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★ “A fascinating, fly-in-amber distillation of forty women over fifty, the book pushes these women to the foreground, shaking up expectations along the way...
The age of each sitter becomes an asset and a feature as the camera captures a stark play of light and shadow across bodies and faces at ease in their personal spaces. The results elevate Warner’s portraiture from mimetic to revelatory.”
—*Foreword Reviews, Starred Review*

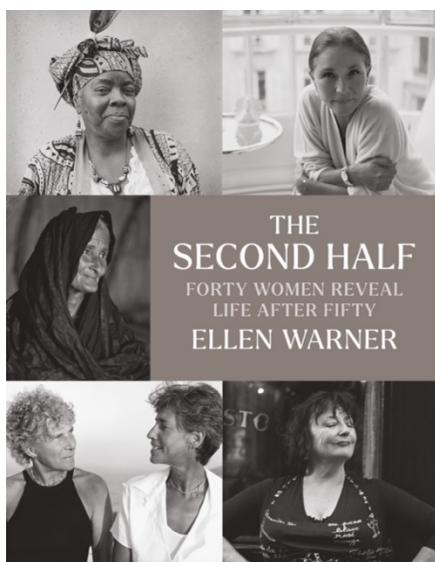
THE SECOND HALF

Forty Women Reveal Life After Fifty

by Ellen Warner

(Brandeis University Press | \$35.00 | Hardcover | 9781684580866 | 257 pages | 7"x 9" | 80 halftones | March 8, 2022)

“Experience is as beautiful as youth. These (words and) pictures are meant to teach us that every stage of life has its own enchantment.”
—*Erica Mann Jong, from the foreword*



Publishing on International Women’s Day (March 8, 2022) comes **THE SECOND HALF: Forty Women Reveal Life after Fifty**. Over a period of 15 years, author, photojournalist, and portrait photographer, Ellen Warner, traveled all over the world to capture the life of women over the age of fifty. In photographic portraits and interviews, Ellen explores how women of many different cultures and heritages view the second half of their lives and what they learned in the first half that has carried them successfully through into the second.

THE SECOND HALF finds beauty in experience and a life well-lived. Through in-depth interviews, Ellen draws out universal themes to discuss aging, love, loss, and life-long learning. Each woman tells a story that is profoundly personal and strikingly personable—answering questions that leave the reader with an open-ended understanding of life after the age of 50.

In choosing her subjects, Ellen looked for women that were interesting looking over conventional beauty, it was here that she found faces that breathed life. Familiar names include Leslie Caron, Elizabeth Jane Howard, Olivia de Havilland, and range from an Indonesian sacred healer to a Parisian resistance leader and Ravensbrück prisoner, to an Algerian nomad and a Saudi Arabian doctor. Ellen sought diversity, both geographic and socioeconomic, within the limits of the world she could cover. The result is a spirited and cathartic tribute to the wisdom and humor that comes with age.

Through her work, Ellen hopes to revitalize what it means to grow old and offer an insight into the many facets of womanhood. The dozens of women’s stories, illustrated by poignant portraits, lack a vanity or pretense. The result is a book with an inspiring charm and reassurance about both the present and what may lie ahead for all readers.

ELLEN WARNER began her career as a photojournalist in 1969. Her photographs have been published in numerous newspapers and magazines and exhibited extensively. Over the years, she has developed a specialty in author portraits and has worked for most publishing houses in New York and London. She has also written travel articles which have been published in the *New York Times*, *Travel + Leisure*, and *The Traveler*.

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