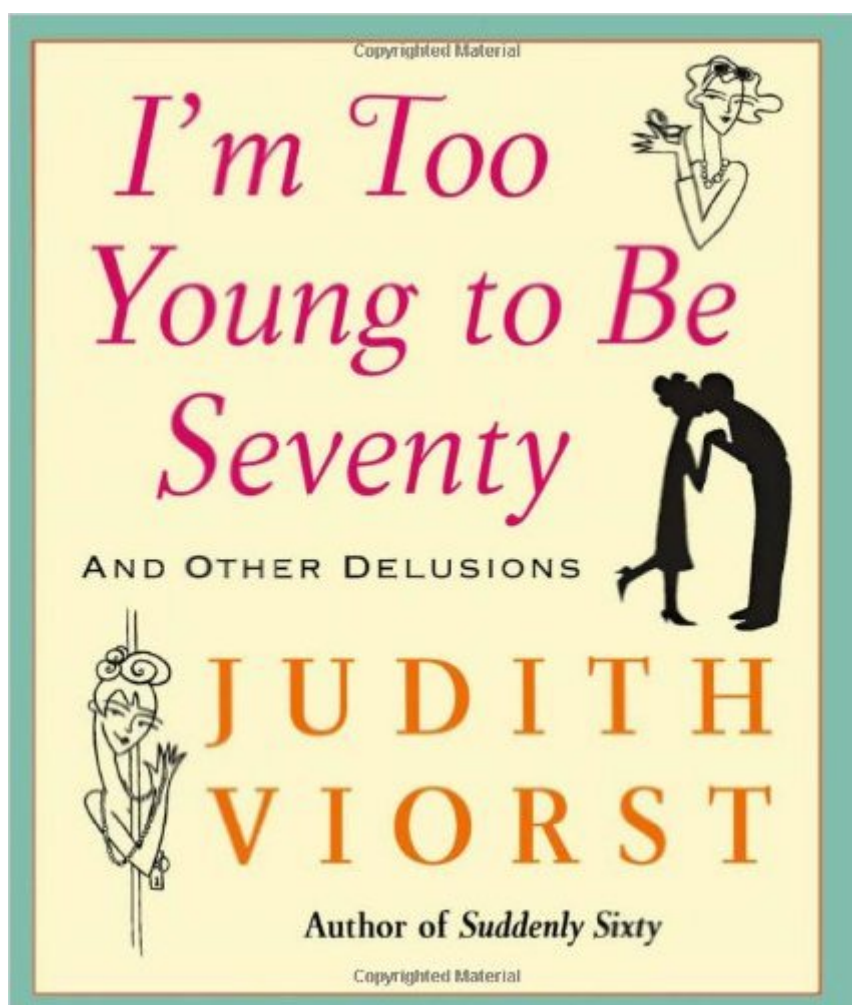


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# I'm Too Young To Be Seventy



## Synopsis

The beloved author of *Forever Fifty* and *Suddenly Sixty* tackles the ins and outs of becoming a septuagenarian with wry good humor. Fans of Viorst's funny, touching, and wise decades poems will love these verses filled with witty advice and reflections on marriage, milestones, and middle-aged children. Viorst explores, among the many other issues of this stage of life, the state of our sex lives and teeth, how we can stay married though thermostatically incompatible, and the joys of grandparenthood and shopping. Readers will nod with rueful recognition when she asks, "Am I required to think of myself as a basically shallow woman because I feel better when my hair looks good?" when she presses a few helpful suggestions on her kids because "they may be middle aged, but they're still my children," and when she graciously "but not too graciously" selects her husband's next mate in a poem deliciously subtitled "If I Should Die Before I Wake, Here's the Wife You Next Should Take." Though Viorst acknowledges she is definitely not a good sport about the fact that she is mortal, her poems are full of the pleasures of life right now, helping us come to terms with the passage of time, encouraging us to keep trying to fix the world, and inviting us to consider "drinking wine, making love, laughing hard, caring hard, and learning a new trick or two as part of our job description at seventy." *I'm Too Young to Be Seventy* is a joy to read and makes a heartwarming gift for anyone who has reached or is soon to reach that "it's not so bad after all" seventh decade.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Can Judith Viorst actually be in her seventies? Where have the years gone? I Googled her and, sure enough, Viorst was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1931. Therefore, she is eminently qualified to write this lively book of poetry called, "I'm Too Young to Be Seventy and Other Delusions." Although I haven't reached seventy yet, I can certainly appreciate Viorst's clever and amusing poems. In "Body Heat," Viorst claims that she and her husband squabble about how hot or cold the house should be. She and Milton are "thermostatically incompatible." I can relate to that. "As Time Goes By" deals with how fast time flies as one grows older. Yes, that's true. In "Teeth," Viorst admits that frequenting the offices of a periodontist and an endodontist is so costly, that dentures would probably be more cost effective. Can't argue with that. In "They May Be Middle Aged, But They're Still My Children," the author decries the fact that her offspring have outgrown their need for motherly advice. What nerve! Viorst's poems are topical and fun. The author has always been able to laugh at herself, and as we read her poetry, we laugh along with her as we nod in recognition. Judith Viorst gets the fact that, although most people are reluctant to grow old, they desperately want to enjoy the perks of reaching their golden years in good health. I enjoyed this slim volume and I hope that I will be privileged to reach seventy someday with a smile on my face and a poem in my heart. "I'm Too Young to Be Seventy" would make a fine gift for the beloved septuagenarian in your life.

I turn each decade just about a year after Judith Viorst and, up until turning 70, thoroughly enjoyed each lovely, funny, poignant, sad and uplifting book in the series. I own every one of the books, starting with the wonderful first book that took me into my third decade. I have given them as gifts to friends, so it really saddens me to say that "I'm Too Young to be Seventy" just lacks the immediacy, the OMG, that is exactly right feel. Perhaps, after six decades of being right on track with each other, Judith and I took different forks in the road, but I don't think so. It just seems that this book tries too hard. Maybe it is a bit too upbeat. Where is the angst for me to cuddle up with? There were a couple of chuckles (not enough), but not a tear to be spilled. One does not turn 70 without a few tears. The book painfully strains, and usually fails, to capture whatever it is that makes turning 70 what it is, wonderful and really terrible, and most of all, unbelievably and scarily mind-boggling. Yes, yes, considering the alternatives and all that, but who really spends much time considering the alternatives. So sad not to enter my Seventies with Judith by my side.

I purchased this book to give to a friend who was retiring at 70. I am glad that I "went through" it before wrapping it. It is a comical book, but does not work for a lady who is not married, has never

been married, and has no grandchildren, otherwise a cute gift. Now, I have it in my "gift giving" pile and will wait to find the right person to give it to. In the meantime, I need to find another "funny" for the retiring lady.

My wife and I have enjoyed her books since *It's Hard to be Hip Over 30*. Time has flown by. Her poems are funny and poignant. She tells it like it is. I hope she and we will be around for the 80's and 90's.

Judith Viorst has been showing me the way forward since her "*It's Hard to be Hip Over Thirty*" appeared in 1968. "*Too Young to Be Seventy*" may not be quite as witty as some of her earlier work, and the subject matter is certainly duller. Neither am I, however, and as seventy draws ineluctably nearer, it's nice to know that there are amusing things about it. Many of the poems in this book are sweet and true, but some have a bit bitter in the sweet. Ms. Viorst has always known that we never really grow up inside, at least not to our calendar age, and it is the dissonance between the inner "me" and the outer old lady that gives this book its bite. So does the consciousness that time passes ever faster as we age, and that the toll of age grows apace. But despite a bit of sadness, I still laughed a lot while reading this, and read some of it aloud to my husband. Note: I gave this book to a widowed friend before reading it, and wished that I hadn't -- the lovely (and funny) descriptions of an old marriage could be hard for the bereaved to deal with.

Judith Viorst has been describing the decades as she matures - with humor, understanding, and appreciation of the things lost and gained. My only complaint - the book's too short!

Sweet and sassy, funny and unapologetic - 4/5 stars only because it would be nice to have more content that was more accessible to both genders. It's personal narrative, so it's understandable, but as another review said, it's really directed at a certain type of 70 year old - women who have been married a long time, who have children and grandchildren. That being said, both my parents enjoyed it - after so many years together, they have learned to see things from both perspectives. My thanks to Ms. Viorst for making them laugh!

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