



Essays After Eighty

Donald Hall

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"Alternately lyrical and laugh-out-loud funny."—*New York Times*

"Deliciously readable . . . Donald Hall, if abandoned by the muse of poetry, has wrought his prose to a keen autumnal edge." — *Wall Street Journal*

His entire life, Donald Hall has dedicated himself to the written word, putting together a storied career as a poet, essayist, and memoirist. Now, in the "unknown, unanticipated galaxy" of very old age, he is writing essays that startle, move, and delight. In *Essays After Eighty*, Hall ruminates on his past: "thirty was terrifying, forty I never noticed because I was drunk, fifty was best with a total change of life, sixty extended the bliss of fifty . . ." He also addresses his present: "When I turned eighty and rubbed testosterone on my chest, my beard roared like a lion and gained four inches." Most memorably, Hall writes about his enduring love affair with his ancestral Eagle Pond Farm and with the writing life that sustains him every day: "Yesterday my first nap was at 9:30 a.m., but when I awoke I wrote again."

"Alluring, inspirational hominess . . . *Essays After Eighty* is a treasure . . . balancing frankness about losses with humor and gratitude." — *Washington Post*

"A fine book of remembering all sorts of things past, *Essays After Eighty* is to be treasured." — *Boston Globe*

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