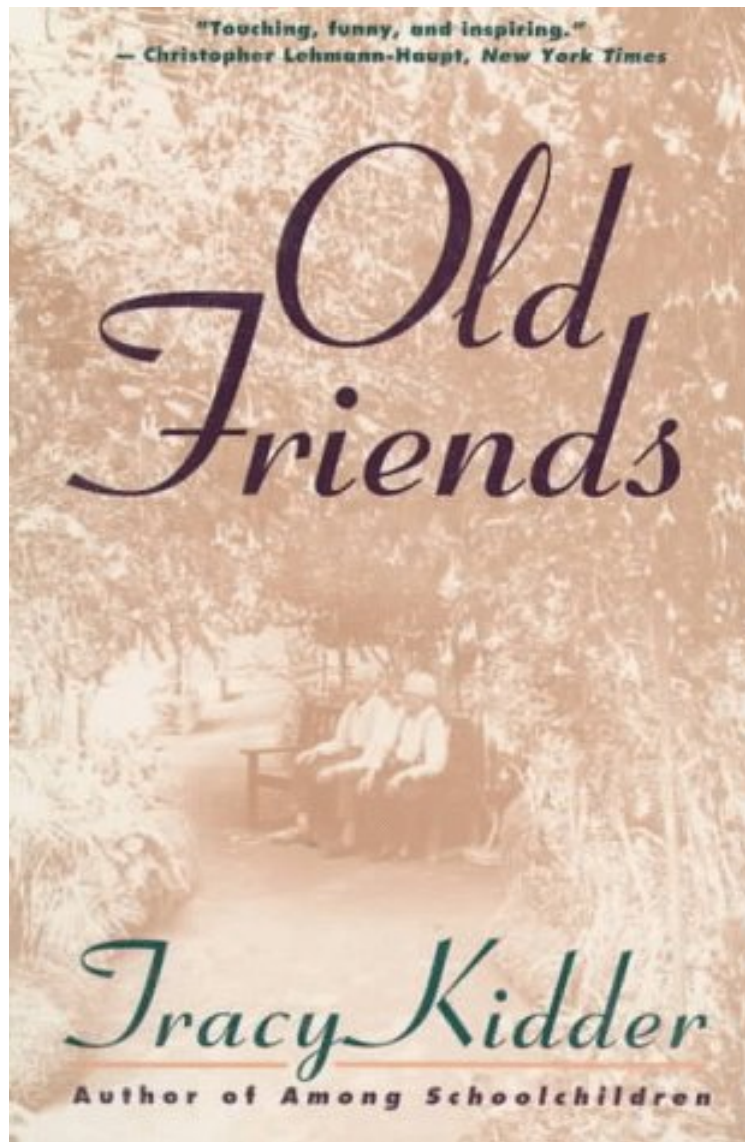


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Old Friends

Tracy Kidder

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Tracy Kidder : Old Friends before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Old Friends:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tracy Kidder is one of my favorite authors. His writing makes you understand and really ...By CustomerTracy Kidder is one of my favorite authors. His writing makes you understand and really feel for the characters. The story resonated with me for many reasons. I think I enjoyed this book so much because it was set in western Massachusetts (where I grew up) and my dad was in a nursing home for a short period of

time until he passed away. I wanted to find out what happened to Lou and Joe after the book ended though... Kidder's books have always made the reader truly understand the characters. One of the reasons why I enjoy his books so much. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. there is no place like home or now leaving kansas By rudolph bethea I was in a nursing home after a stroke. I left it as soon as I could because it was filled with people like the patients of Linda Manor. I didn't find the people at Linda Manor quaint. I found them unpleasant ranging from tyrannical (bob, earl) to know it all's like Lou (who I think was a racist, being unforgiving in his treatment of the kitchen staff; who traditionally in institutions like this are primarily made up of blacks and Hispanics).the book is incredible well written. Mr. kidder paints a picture with words accurate down to the smell of Linda Manor. if your thinking of choosing a nursing home for yourself or a loved one read this book then think three times. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. He writes about his subjects so gently and with love. He does a wonderful job of showing us ...By Karen He writes about his subjects so gently and with love. He does a wonderful job of showing us that inside the ever growing number of old people who have become increasingly limited with age are people who have lived dynamic lives and deserve respect and humane treatment as their lives wind down. This is not an expose - the facility is a good one and the people there form a community for themselves. It is more a reminder that unless accident or disease get us first, old age awaits all of us.

Now in paperback, the national bestseller on growing old. Tracy Kidder has won the Pulitzer Prize and countless other awards for his bestselling studies of ordinary life. Now he confronts his most important and universal theme in this personal study of old age in America.

From Publishers Weekly Kidder, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Soul of a New Machine*, spent a year observing the residents of Linda Manor, a 121-bed nursing home in Northampton, Mass. He offers respectful, moving portraits of elderly people confronting their decaying minds and bodies and imminent deaths as they go about their daily routines in a facility that for most of them will be, as Kidder notes, "their last place on earth." Obese Winifred sobs because she has to be lifted mechanically from her bed; Earl, struggling with a half-dead heart, begs his wife to take him home; Eleanor directs her friends in a minstrel show; and Dan, who at 65 is one of the youngest residents, spends much of his day sucking oxygen from a tube and telephoning his senator's office to complain about his breakfast eggs. Among the addled residents are able-bodied Zita, who obsessively paces the hallways and tries to pick flowers depicted in the carpet's design. Kidder spotlights the friendship that blooms between Joe, an irascible 72-year-old stroke victim, and gentle Lou, 90 and almost blind, who grieves for his deceased wife, tells rambling stories about his past and worries about Joe. BOMC selection; author tour. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal As in his Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Soul of a New Machine* (LJ 8/81), *House* (LJ 1/86), and the best-selling *Among Schoolchildren* (LJ 1/90), Kidder reveals his extraordinary talent as a storyteller by taking the potentially unpalatable subject of life in a nursing home and making it into a highly readable, engrossing account. Through the eyes of roommates Lou and Joe, we experience daily life in the Linda Manor Nursing Home in Northampton, Massachusetts. Kidder displays an uncanny ability to reveal glimpses of the residents' former lives and their current hopes and fears without becoming sentimental or maudlin. This is a life that we all hope to avoid, both for ourselves and our loved ones; yet when we see it as it is portrayed in *Old Friends* it becomes less terrifying. This wonderfully different book is an essential purchase. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 6/15/93.- January Adams, ODSI Research Lib., Raritan, N.J. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s An eloquent account, neither bitter nor saccharine, of daily life in a nursing home. The Pulitzer-winning Kidder (*Among Schoolchildren*, 1989, etc.) has a unique talent for transforming the minutiae of living into a mosaic that brings focus to issues--like aging--that have become diffuse intellectual exercises or emotionally charged agendas. Center stage here are two men--Lou, in his 90s, and Joe, in his 70s--roommates by chance in a nursing home in western Massachusetts. Lou is gentle and considerate, Joe gruff and passionate. Lou leads Joe to a new thoughtfulness, and Joe listens patiently to Lou's frequent retellings of boyhood stories. Kidder captures their characters, their growing friendship, and their wit through a straightforward narration that's extraordinarily revealing about courage in the face of sickness and age. He visited the nursing home every day for a year, talking to and observing residents, relatives and friends who visited, and staff. We meet Eleanor the actress; Winifred the activist, who must be hoisted mechanically from her bed and lowered into her wheelchair; Art the bon vivant; and others in varying stages of mental and physical impairment. Kidder's sympathetic viewpoint doesn't gloss over the pain, loneliness, and humiliation of deteriorating faculties. As he points out, American culture's current "celebration...of 'successful aging,' often depicted in photographs of old folks wearing tennis clothes, leaves out a lot of people...more than a million of them in nursing homes now." Missing here, though, are the viewpoints of the Linda Manor staff, heard from only indirectly as they interact with residents. Rich detail and true-to-the-ear dialogue let the brave and determined elderly speak for themselves--and for the continually surprising potential of the human spirit. -- Copyright 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.