

It's funny, but as we get older we seem to spend more time looking back. Why is that? Is it because we have more time to ponder life? Or, because we wish to turn back the clock to a younger and better time? I'm not really sure. But frankly, I can't take all this reminiscing anymore! I need some sleep!

This book is written from the perspective of today's seniors living in the fourth quarter of life. But don't feel left out if you're a much younger reader. Just think, you'll learn how your parents grew up. And your grandparents, in case they didn't already tell you. Maybe even your great-grandparents, if you're lucky enough to have them around. All you have to do is ask them to tell you their stories. Having said that, I'm reminded that times were very different in the 1950's. I constantly asked my parents and grandparents about their earlier lives. For reasons I came to understand much later in life, they never answered my questions. Maybe they just forgot the answers? If only that were true. For I know now that my father's memories were hidden in the darkness of World War Two, my mother's in the harshness of growing up in New York City with her immigrant Turkish family. No matter how many times I asked, the answer was always the same.

"Maybe some day we'll talk about it."

Some day came too late. But everything is different today. And thank goodness for that. So ask away! Trust me, once your elders start talking, they'll never stop reminding you who you are, based on who they were. Cass and I have been telling our grandkids stories like these since they were very young. They didn't even have to ask! And they keep demanding more. Join me, then, one and all, as we retreat into the innermost depths of our minds before the memories are taken from us. Luckily, our innermost depths are still pretty deep! The more we write about them, the more we remember. As the recollections invade your dreams and interrupt your daily thoughts, write them down before they disappear. You never know, maybe you'll feel the urge to write your own book about your experiences. Overnight fame and riches await you! Well, not really. But you'll have some fun, and that's certainly more important than money...*isn't it?*