

THE VIBRANCY OF MEMORIES SHINES, especially in the remarkably perceptive eyes of a nonagenarian like Elliot Schubert in *The Time of Our Lives: Memories and Fantasies of a Blissful Nonagenarian*. We are reaching without our thoughts of the past, and the hands of time move ever onward, whether we like it or not. The stories are all fun, overflowing with love and humor, touching both heart and mind with their insights for all of us, no matter what generation we hail from. Whether you are a millennial, a Generation-Xer, or a transfer from the Age of Aquarius, please read *The Time of Our Lives* for an uplifting glimpse into a life that embraces all of us, celebrating the human condition with a resonant charm that is joyful enough to push back the hands of any clock or mind.



Elliot Schubert was born in a big town, the Chicago South Side, September 5, 1924. After working a 70-hour/week job for ten years, he left to start a laboratory business, game warden and various consultancies. From his retirement he has written hundreds of journal and magazine articles.



The Time of Our Lives **Elliot Schubert**

The Time of Our Lives

*Memories and Fantasies
of a Blissful Nonagenarian*



Elliot Schubert

This is a first edition of Elliot Schubert's short story collection, *The Time of Our Lives: Memories and Fantasies of a Blissful Nonagenarian*. All rights reserved by Elliot Schubert. Excerpts of text may be posted online or in print only for a noncommercial use, provided quotations do not exceed a total of over three hundred (300) words.

Cover composition and images for short stories by Steve Gierhart, The Ardent Writer Press, using Photoshop techniques.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Eliot Schubert

p. cm. (Ardent Writer Press - 2018) ISBN 978-1-938667-89-3 (paperback); ISBN 978-1-938667-90-9 (hardback); ISBN 978-1-938667-91-6 (eBook mobi Kindle version)

Library of Congress Control Number 2017960492

Library of Congress Subject Headings

- Short stories.
- Short stories, American.
- Short stories, American--California

BISAC Subject Headings

- FIC029000 FICTION / Short Stories (single author)

Eliot Schubert © 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MY SATURDAY MATINEE	1
KISSING COUSINS	9
THE RIALTO	15
DAD AND THE CUBS	23
WITH HIS HANDS	31
MY SWEET REPOSE	37
MISS KEELER'S PIANO	43
MY WAY	49
GREENHORNS IN MANHATTAN	55
PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE	63
A TRAILER NAMED DESIRE	75
THE SCHOOL OF LIFE	83
THE SAGE IN THE DUGOUT	91
L Aid TO REST	97
SECOND HAND ROSE	107
RAINBOW BEACH	113
GOLDEN REUNION	119
A BIKINI IN PARADISE	127
THE BIRD AND I	133
NICE'N EASY	139
THE LAKES OF OLD	145

PICKLES AND BAGELS	151
THE JORDANS	157
LIFE AS A JEW	163
THE MAN WHO NEVER LOST HIS HEART	171
THE MIRACLE OF ST. PETER'S	179
WRESTLING WITH THE BOMB	189
THE INHERITANCE	195
MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD	203
BARNABY'S GRANDSON	211
ABOUT THE AUTHOR	219

Foreword

AFTER MY DAD took early retirement in 1983 to fulfill my mom's lifelong dream of living in California, he turned his creative energies and professional writing skills to chronicling a life that spanned the experiences of late nineteenth century refugees from Eastern Europe, the Depression, the Second World War, the Golden Age of the Fifties and Sixties, and the looming clouds of the Seventies and Eighties. With my dad's prodigious memory and eye for detail, the stories gradually evolved from pure recollection to finely crafted allegories of the human condition. His singular intuitive ability to connect various events lent a unique and intricate texture to the stories.

The present collection reflects the blend of truth and fantasy that is pivotal to my dad's persona. Some of the stories have only a passing relationship to reality. He and my mom really did leave their beloved cockatiel behind as described in "The Bird and I" and "Nice N' Easy," but they dealt with its subsequent despondency in less drastic ways. "The Jordans," a morality tale of sex and religion, stems

from my dad's reveries after intimate lunchtime revelations by a colleague. "The Miracle of St. Peter's," a parable on a similar theme, came to my dad as he was visiting the basilica in Rome. "The Inheritance" is an alternate take on his aunt, who lived to the age of one hundred and was a rock of stability in a talented but mercurial family. "Barnaby's Grandson" is a whimsical look at my dad's longing for second-generation progeny.

The events of our lives transform the past, and the role of storytelling, whatever its measure of objective truth, is to heighten our awareness of eternity in the fleeting perceptions of daily experience. I hope that this collection will brighten and deepen your days in that very special way.

Ken Schubert
Ekerö, Sweden

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



ELLIOT SCHUBERT WAS BORN to a working-class Chicago family in 1923. His grandparents were Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe in the late nineteenth century. His father owned a dry-cleaning store and was active in the labor movement, while his mother was a devoted housewife. Both of his parents were lovers of reading and learning. Elliot worked his way through high school and undergraduate school. He was a high achiever in the classroom and played varsity baseball as well. During

the war, he enlisted in Midshipman's school and was sent overseas on the *USS Casablanca*, an aircraft carrier, in 1945 prior to the Japanese surrender. He spent six months onboard the ship as a communications officer with the rank of ensign. Following his discharge in 1946, he and his wife Eileen moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where he obtained a PhD in Chemistry with assistance from the GI Bill and Eileen's employment as a stenographer. Elliot and Eileen eventually moved back to Chicago, where they raised four children. He worked for a leading pharmaceutical company as a laboratory chemist, patent specialist and research coordinator, while she taught the hard of hearing in the public schools. In 1984, Eileen and Elliott retired to San Diego, where he dedicated his time to writing fiction and memoirs, and she to woodworking, bridge and golf. Elliot moved to Coronado, California in 2012 to reside in an assisted living facility. Eileen moved to be with him in late 2016 and passed away in May of 2017. Elliot is currently involved in writing, community activities, listening to music, watching movies and YouTube, and keeping up with the news.