

THE LIBRARY OF WISDOM
Library Companion Series
The Best Chapter May Be Next

A few quiet moments to discover what may still be waiting for you.

A Library Companion

By Vgdawson

From the Life After 50 Collection of the Library of Wisdom

Welcome

Life Doesn't End. It Evolves.

Life has a remarkable way of surprising us.

Just when we think we've finally figured everything out, it gently reminds us that there is still more to discover.

More places to explore.

More friendships to build.

More dreams waiting for permission.

More laughter we haven't laughed yet.

No matter your age, every season asks the same question:

"Now that you've come this far...what do you want to do with the life still ahead of you?"

Years ago, many people believed life slowed down after fifty. Today we know something different.

Some people begin a second career.

Some launch a business from their kitchen table.

Some travel the world.

Some return to school.

Some finally discover the hobby that becomes their passion.

THE LIBRARY OF WISDOM
A BOOK FOR EVERY SEASON OF LIFE
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Some simply learn how to enjoy an ordinary Tuesday.
The calendar may change.
The opportunities may change.
The technology certainly changes.
But one truth never does.
As long as we're alive...
There is still room to grow.
Welcome to your next chapter.

The Suitcase That Sat by the Door

For years, a man kept an old suitcase in the back of his closet.
Every now and then he'd pull it out, dust it off, and say to his wife,
"One day we're going to use this."
One day...
After the promotion.
After the mortgage.
After the children.
After retirement.
After life settled down.
Years passed.
The suitcase never moved.
One afternoon his granddaughter asked,
"Granddad...where have you traveled?"
He smiled.
Then looked toward the closet.
For the first time, he realized he had spent years preparing for

tomorrow while quietly postponing today.

The following month, he and his wife packed that old suitcase and took a weekend trip just two hours from home.

It wasn't Paris.

It wasn't Alaska.

But it became one of their favorite memories.

Sometimes living your best life doesn't begin with a passport.

Sometimes it begins with finally saying yes.

The List That Finally Changed

She had always been organized.

Every January she bought a new planner.

She filled it with appointments, birthdays, reminders, and projects.

At the very back of every planner was one page titled:

"Someday."

It was where she wrote the things she hoped to do one day.

Learn to paint.

Visit the mountains in the fall.

Take a photography class.

Volunteer.

Write a book.

Watch the sunrise from somewhere she'd never been before.

Year after year, the list stayed almost exactly the same.

Not because she didn't care.

Because life kept asking for her attention first.

One afternoon, while cleaning out a drawer, she found planners from years before.

She smiled as she flipped through them until she reached the back pages.

There it was again.

The same list.

She sat quietly for a long time.

Then she picked up a pen.

Instead of writing another dream...

She scheduled the first one.

Not next year.

Not "when things settle down."

That month.

Years later, someone asked her what changed.

She smiled and said,

"I finally realized someday isn't a day on the calendar."

A Smile Along the Way

Life has a wonderful sense of humor.

Sometimes we spend years looking for happiness, only to discover it was hiding behind a hobby we kept postponing.

A few smiles to take with you:

- The older I get, the less interested I am in collecting things—and the more interested I am in collecting memories.
- I finally reached the age where I can leave the house without my phone...but not without my reading glasses.

- It turns out "growing up" doesn't mean having all the answers. It mostly means getting better at laughing when the plans change.

Sit With This for a Moment

There is no perfect age to begin again.

There is only today.

Whether you're standing at the beginning of a new career, entering retirement, becoming an empty nester, recovering from a disappointment, or simply wondering what's next, remember this:

The next chapter isn't written by time.

It's written by choice.

Take a few quiet moments to think about these questions.

Three Questions to Consider

1. What is one dream you've quietly placed on the "someday" list?

2. If fear wasn't making the decision, what would you do differently during the next year?

3. When people remember this season of your life, what do you hope they'll say about the way you lived it?

Perhaps the greatest adventure isn't discovering a new place. Perhaps

it's discovering a new version of yourself.

A Quiet Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of another season of life.

Remind me that my value is not measured by my age, my title, or yesterday's accomplishments, but by the life You continue to place before me today.

Give me the courage to embrace new opportunities, the wisdom to recognize what truly matters, and the confidence to believe that meaningful days are still ahead.

Help me choose joy over fear, curiosity over comfort, and gratitude over regret.

May I never become so busy remembering the past that I fail to notice the possibilities waiting in front of me.

Amen.

Continue Your Journey

If today's conversation encouraged you, you may enjoy these books from the **Life After 50** collection in the **Library of Wisdom**:

- **The Years I Can't Get Back**
- **The Truth About Aging**
- **The Journey Back to Yourself**
- **The Measurement of Life**

No matter where you are in life, remember this: the next chapter doesn't begin when circumstances change. It begins the moment you

decide to turn the page.