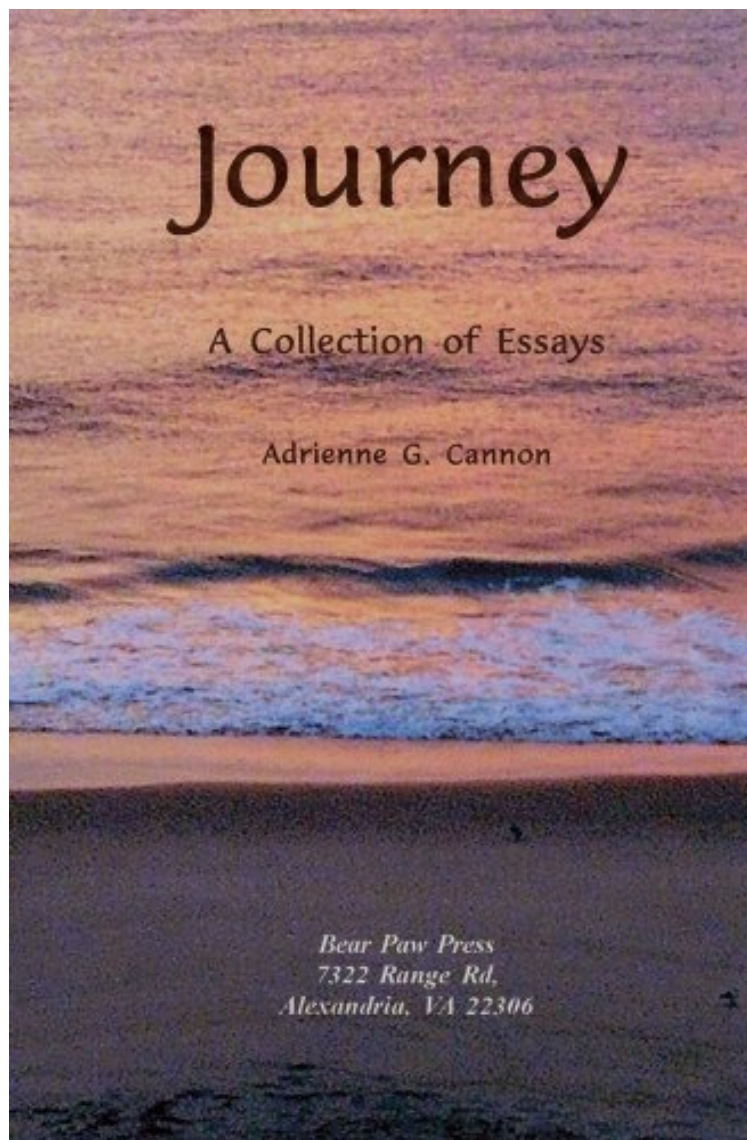


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## Journey: A Collection of Essays

*Adrienne G. Cannon*

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**Adrienne G. Cannon : Journey: A Collection of Essays** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Journey: A Collection of Essays:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Reminiscent of Judith Viorst's charming poetryBy Rochelle Hollander SchwabI bought my copy of Journey locally, and hadn't realized it was available on-line. When I came across it while browsing .com, I decided to share my enjoyment of the book with other readers.Journey is a compilation of short, pithy essays (and a few poems), celebrating and bemoaning family, friends, work, retirement and the inevitable but dreaded process of aging. Though she writes about her own life, these are universal themes I found

myself identifying with. In the essay "Photo Albums," Cannon figuratively turns the pages of album after album lining her wood-paneled rec room. It's appropriate that the room resembles "a throwback to the '60s...that's when the albums start." They start with a couple, "just Bob and Adrienne." But then came children, two biological, one adopted, changing careers and a series of large and lovable dogs. There stand the grandparents, in late middle age, still straight and vigorous. The years, the albums go by. Birthday parties, high school, then college graduations, the passing on of the older generation. The children are scattered. "Is that what they call an empty nest. Or are we again the couple who started the story told in these albums?" The long marriage depicted by Cannon is heartwarming, as are her essays about her parents' own journeys to America as immigrants (from Italy and India). I can relate so well to the effort to imagine oneself into one's parents' lives, now that they are gone, and the questions we wish we had asked them can no longer be answered. There are vignettes from Cannon's childhood, peans to women's friendship, accounts of parent-child conflict, the joyous arrival of her only grandchild and travelogues of trips near and far with her husband of forty-odd years. But many readers will enjoy most her essays on aging. It is those, in which Cannon takes a wryly perceptive look at getting older, that remind me of the poetry books by Viorst that have appeared every ten years. "I know I can stay ahead of that aging curve....I will look first in my shoes for my keys, I will call my cell phone with the wireless phone, and I will put my lists and maps right under my purse. Okay, I am leaving to go to the grocery store. Now where is my purse?" If you have ever smiled with rueful recognition at Judith Viorst's *Suddenly Sixty*, or *I'm Too Young to Be Seventy*, you'll identify with, laugh with and maybe shed a few tears at Cannon's fine essay collection.

This small volume of retrospective essays shares the author's recollections and perceptions of her active life filled with family and friends. She recalls memories of past years, muses on her life as a retired person and relates her attempts to greet her "senior citizen" status with grace and humor. An enthusiastic traveler, she describes her travel adventures in many parts of the world. And there are a few poignant moments of eulogy on the passing of loved ones. The essays are brief but to the point and reflect a panorama of thoughts common to us all.

About the Author Adrienne Gokhale Cannon lives in the Washington DC area with her husband Joel Robert Cannon. She has three grown children and one grandson. Her son lives in Cambridge, England with his family; her daughters and their families live nearby in the Virginia suburbs. Adrienne taught foreign languages at the high school level for 30 years and since retirement has been writing essays, playing the clarinet with community concert bands and volunteering as a tour guide at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC.