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# SINGING ALL THE VERSES

Essays from a Mid-American

PEG GUILFOYLE

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**Any moment in a life can be resonant, magical, and joyful.  
A book of essays, a spiritual memoir.**

**How an old opera score carries one through quarantine.**

*My Italian is limited, if enthusiastic. I can exclaim 'courage', 'death', and 'vengeance', which does not make me a good conversationalist.*

**How a stack of old letters opens the door to a country long-vanished.**

*We were four boys in Texas and we had the usual array of horses, ponies, cattle dogs, cats, guinea pigs, prairie dogs, chickens, and most anything that was pettable...*

**How your children grow, and you grow with them.**

*'Mom, that will make a great Sex Dress for you!'; he called. It created quite a stir.*

**How the past inevitably connects with the present.**

*...a parent searched the Wall for the name of a young man from her hometown. In college, she'd worn a POW/MIA bracelet for him. Her mother and the lost soldier's mother had just had lunch together.*

**The beauties of an aging softball team.**

*The slogans were always printed in Klingon, a language mostly in triangles, and printed upside down so the players could glance down. One year the shirts said 'Weapons of Past Destruction'.*

**Writer Willa Cather said in 1915: What was any art but a mould to imprison for a moment the shining elusive element which is life itself -- life hurrying past us and running away, too strong to stop, too sweet to lose?**

**This book captures that shining elusive element, and will inspire you to do the same. It is not a how-to, but a set of stories from a thinking, observant American woman. Like you.**

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