

A PLACE CALLED CANTERBURY

Tales of the New Old Age in America
Dudley Clendinen

“An affectionate, touchingly empathetic book...[Clendinen] finds graceful, subtle ways to slip between the past and present, and he populates the book with brightly drawn characters who give the place its reigning mood.”
—*The New York Times*

“One of the most enjoyable and important books to cross our desks this year. Beautifully written...moving and humorous. Invaluable for anyone grappling with the challenges and opportunities in later life.”
—*The Wall Street Journal*

“A graceful and insightful account, **A PLACE CALLED CANTERBURY** should be required reading for anyone with aging parents or anyone who wonders what old age will be like.”
—*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

“It is Clendinen’s brilliant writing that brings alive that generation. The depiction of life within a managed-care facility for the elderly is sometimes amusing, sometimes unbearably sad, but always engaging and informative.”
—*The Seattle Times*

In 1994, *New York Times* writer Dudley Clendinen’s mother followed the example of her generational compatriots: she sold her home and moved into an all-amenities-included geriatric apartment building: Canterbury Tower in Tampa Bay. Wealthy, poor, Christian, Jewish, widowed, married—all of Canterbury’s residents had come together, at the average age of 86, in search of a last place to live and die.

Clendinen’s curiosity about this final phase of human life in the 21st century led him to spend 400 days and nights living at Canterbury, during which he became intimately involved in the lives of its residents and staff. With **A PLACE CALLED CANTERBURY: Tales of the New Old Age in America** (Penguin; On-sale: June 30, 2009), Clendinen offers a beautifully written, hilarious and deeply moving look at old age in the new millennium.

The last challenge to the generation of the Great Depression and World War II is longevity—none of them expected to live so long, and their baby boomer children weren't prepared to take so much responsibility for parents who seem to live forever, collecting ailments and shedding assets as they go. But places like Canterbury Tower, more adult camps than retirement homes, allow residents to live out their remaining time on their own terms.

Peopled by brave, daffy, memorable characters determined to grow old with dignity, **A PLACE CALLED CANTERBURY** is at once a delightful soap opera and a poignant chronicle of the last years of the Greatest Generation. It is an essential read for anyone with aging parents and anyone wondering what his or her own old age will look like.

About the Author

DUDLEY CLENDINEN was a national reporter and editorial writer for *The New York Times*, assistant managing editor of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and a columnist for the *St. Petersburg Times*. He is the editor of a book of essays, *The Prevailing South*, and the author of the text for a book of photographs, *Homeless in America*. His own essays are collected in various anthologies. He lives in Baltimore.

A PLACE CALLED CANTERBURY: Tales of the New Old Age in America

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