

Boomer Babes with Brilliant Dreams

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Writer, Playwright and Blogger



Anne Mulligan has lived a varied life: hair dresser, business manager, legislative affairs director and playwright—her lifetime experience provides a plethora of fodder for fiction. When she isn't writing plays, she's working on novels. She's co-owner of the popular literary blog, Novel Journey, and has published over fifty plays and seven articles. She's won numerous awards in contests for unpublished novels.

After eleven years as creative arts director for The Family Church, she now serves on the board of the Sugar Hill community theater and as zone officer on the Operating Board for ACFW.

Her web site and blogs are:

<http://www.anemulligan.com>

<http://www.noveljourney.blogspot.com>

<http://anemulligan.blogspot.com>

1. As a baby boomer woman, what do you find most comforting about growing older?

Not competing with anyone. I found my stride, know who I am and accept myself as God made me.

2. At what point in your life did owning your own business become your career and did it find you or did you find it?

I was fifty-five years old. I'd finally grown up and was ready to follow my dreams. I'd been writing and publishing plays for about six years. I left a job I'd been at for nearly seven years and my husband told me not to look for another but to write a book.

Shortly after he said that, I was looking back through my prayer journal. Two years prior to this, I'd made an entry about wanting to write full time, but God said I wasn't ready yet. I got goose bumps; I didn't remember writing that down. But the time had come.

So I guess I'd say I found it, because the moment my husband said those words, an idea for a book popped into my head. I knew that was what I wanted to do, and I've been writing full time ever since.

3. As a little girl, what were the dreams of your heart and have you realized those dreams in some form or fashion as a woman?

My mother had two passions in her life: the theatre and reading. She passed both to me, and I had one goal in life from the moment I saw Mary Martin onstage as Peter Pan. I was going to be an actress.

Being ADHD decades before they knew about it, I didn't sit and write stories. Instead, I spent days, playing out long intricate plotlines with my dolls. As I grew older, I loved to make people laugh. Carol Burnett and Lucille Ball became the two women I admired and wanted to be like. Little did I know, God had other plans for my creativity.

When I began to write novels, I realized how my childhood and love of theatre had prepared me. And I'm still involved in theatre. I serve my church as creative arts director and my town by helping develop a community theatre.

4. How important is it for us to listen to our heart and why?

It's a must. An absolute. We run into trouble when we don't listen to our hearts. That's God's dwelling place. Long before I had a real awareness of God's indwelling, Daddy would tap my chest and tell me to trust my "inner knower."

As I grew, I learned that God fills me with a passion for what he wants me to do. I'm not the brightest pen in the pack, so long ago, I told God when I couldn't figure out which way he wanted me to go, I would listen to my heart and then just ... go. If he didn't want me to choose that direction, I trusted him to close the door. He never closed one, if I listened to my heart.

5. What single piece of advice would you give to a fellow baby boomer sister who decides she has not been listening to the dreams of her heart and wants to change course in midlife?

Go for it! When you're ninety-nine, you don't want to look back with regrets. I'll be able to tell my great-great-great grandchildren I don't regret a minute of it.

My husband and I both looked hard at our finances and decided he'd take an early retirement. He was a divisional Vice President of a Fortune 100 company and stressed to the max. I wanted him alive more than the large life insurance policy the company had on him (of course, I did tease him about that for a bit). We decided if I could work for seven years until he could draw his retirement, that's what we'd do. And we did. Okay, I worked for six and a half years, but who's counting?

Terry was fifty-two when he retired, and I was fifty-five. It was the best decision we ever made. He followed his dream of becoming an artist and, if I'm allowed to brag, is tremendously talented and selling very well. And I followed mine, of writing full time. I'm still pre-published, but with my wonderful agent, I believe that will change soon.

We may not live in a mansion, but we're not poor either. Most importantly, we're happy, healthy and living the good life.

Script books written by Ane Mulligan

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RISE AND SHINERS

