


PRESS RELEASE

Late Bloomer: A Memoir
Publisher: [She Writes Press](#)
Distributor: [Publishers Group West](#)
by Ingram Content Group
On Sale: 8 August 2023

For More Information:
Melissa Giberson, Author
Mgib68@aol.com / 973-980-2813
 [Melissa Giberson](#)

A new book on coming out & becoming your true self at midlife



“...an honest account of the profound “awakening” that stems from an appetite for life and yet also comes at a cost.”
–**Richard C. Morais**, author of NYT bestseller *The Hundred-Foot Journey*

“A multilayered and complex remembrance”–**Kirkus Reviews**

“A heartfelt memoir about leaving a marriage to find healing and wholeness in coming out.” –**Foreword Reviews**

“Through candid anecdotes, introspective reflections, and poignant storytelling, the author navigates the complexities of self-acceptance, shedding light on the universal struggle to break free from societal expectations and find genuine fulfillment.” – **Readers’ Favorite Review** of *Late Bloomer*

Overview:

In a raw, honest memoir Melissa Giberson lays bare her story of a middle-aged suburban wife who uprooted everything to embrace her identity as a gay woman. ***Late Bloomer: Finding My Authentic Self at Midlife* (She Writes Press)** is a stunning display of motherhood, grief, reinvention, and dedication to stepping into one’s true power.

Melissa Giberson longs for something she can’t quite put her finger on until, one night at the Y, she finds herself mesmerized by the sight of a naked woman and levels with herself for the

***Late Bloomer: A Memoir* by Melissa Giberson**

She Writes Press

Publisher Group West by Ingram Content Group

Paperback | \$17.95 | ISBN-13: 9781-647425197 | e-book ISBN 1647425190

PRESS RELEASE

first time: *Am I gay?* This revelation sends Melissa on a head-spinning journey of self-discovery, one that challenges everything she thinks she knows about herself, forces her to decide exactly how much she's willing to risk for authenticity, and shakes the foundations of the family she's fiercely determined to shield from the kinds of wounds she sustained during her own childhood. Torn between her desire to be true to herself and her desire to protect her children, she is consumed by fear and conflicting emotions.

As Melissa wades through the challenging dissolution of her marriage and struggles with how to come out to her kids, she is met with support from the Jewish LGBTQ+ community. "Late Bloomer" is a triumphant exploration of a mother navigating grief and fear to accept herself with the support and love of her 'found family' in her LGBTQ community.

Follow Melissa Giberson on social media:

Facebook: [@MelissaGiberson](#) Web: melissagiberson.com

Instagram: [@Melissagiberson031](#) LinkedIn: [Melissa Giberson](#)

In an interview, Melissa Giberson can discuss:

Her intersectional identities of being Jewish, a mother, and a gay woman- key themes in her journey to self-acceptance and discovery

The integral part that the LGBTQ+ community played in supporting her coming out process

How themes of grief and resilience play an important role in her story and what she hopes readers will take away from reading "*Late Bloomer*"

How "*Late Bloomer*" is a memoir that pays it forward to those who are questioning their sexuality

Praise for "Late Bloomer"

"*Late Bloomer* is an absolutely glorious memoir about a woman coming out, coming into her true self. A woman sharing the most intimate details. The ending of a marriage, the discovering of her own heartbeat, her own desires, the bumpy, scary, frightening, magnificent journey of self-discovery. Giberson writes that coming out is a gut-wrenching process and that she carefully chose each person with whom to share her truth. With this memoir, she's done just that—sharing her truth, sharing the pain and sorrow and joy. And the fear. Sharing intimate details that become chapters filled with so much raw beauty. At the end of this glorious book, Giberson declares, 'Above all, I've found me.' And we, as readers, are awfully glad she shared herself with us. A remarkable journey, indeed."

– **Amy Ferris**, author of *Mighty Gorgeous* and *Marrying George Clooney*

Late Bloomer: A Memoir by Melissa Giberson

She Writes Press

Publisher Group West by Ingram Content Group

Paperback | \$17.95 | ISBN-13: 9781-647425197 | e-book ISBN 1647425190

PRESS RELEASE

“Melissa Giberson’s memoir is a gripping account of a suburban mom’s journey from a world of shuttling kids to pools and temple to the self-discovery she’s trembling with lust after the beautiful women on Provincetown’s beaches. There is a kind of madness that befalls a person brave enough to make that journey - a human roiling through self-loathing, euphoria, depression, joy, guilt, fury, fear, erotic discovery - until they finally make it safely to where they need to be. This is an honest account of the profound “awakening” that stems from an appetite for life and yet also comes at a cost. The writing is just right. It’s straight - from the heart.”

- **Richard C. Morais**, New York Times bestselling author of *The Hundred-Foot Journey*

“In *Late Bloomer*, Melissa Giberson establishes her voice as a brave truth-teller. By sharing her most life-altering experiences with unfiltered authenticity, she delivers an emotional tale of identity, sexuality, motherhood, and forgiveness.”

- **Julie Cantrell**, New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of *Perennials*

“Melissa Giberson has written an incredibly important book about truth-telling. In this story, she’s searching for her own truth, moment by messy moment. Bravo to her bravery. Shedding societal expectations is not easy, and the path to authenticity is rarely smooth. Reading Melissa’s journey will give so many people hope that there’s sun at the end of the storm.”

- **Julie Barton**, NYT Bestselling author of *Dog Medicine: How My Dog Saved Me From Myself*

“Melissa Giberson’s *Late Bloomer* is transcendent in its relatability: Anyone who has wrestled with how to be who they are rather than who they think their world demands them to be will feel themselves in this compelling, necessary story. Feeling stuck is a nightmare and freedom is divine, but, as Giberson shows in this masterful blueprint for truth telling, it’s in choosing to step out from under the weight of ‘shoulds’ that we realize the richness of authenticity.”

- **Becky Vollmer**, author of *You Are Not Stuck: How Soul-Guided Choices Transform Fear into Freedom*

“When we see parts of ourselves reflected in the stories of others, we grow, heal, and find permission to share our own truths. *Late Bloomer: Finding My Authentic Self at Midlife* is a soul-bearing tale of a woman's quest to live more fully in alignment and congruence. Melissa writes with vivid color and texture, describing her journey through coming out, divorce, co-parenting, and building a new life. I am grateful for this offering, as it creates more visibility and support for women exploring their sexuality later in life.”

- **Jen Berlingo, LPC, ATR**; midlife coach, psychotherapist, & bestselling author of *Midlife Emergence: Free Your Inner Fire*

“Melissa Giberson’s *Late Bloomer* is a beautifully written memoir. The author, with vivid recall, takes us from her journey as a young wife and mother, to the realization of her same gender sexuality, and then to her search for her authentic self as she restructures her life. While at times heart-wrenching, this book is also an honest and compelling read.

- **Carren Stock**, author of *Married Women Who Love Women and More*

Late Bloomer: A Memoir by Melissa Giberson

She Writes Press

Publisher Group West by Ingram Content Group

Paperback | \$17.95 | ISBN-13: 9781-647425197 | e-book ISBN 1647425190

PRESS RELEASE

An unsparing and timely look at sexual identity and awakening in midlife. Giberson's brave, honest, and heartrending account of the realization that she must be willing to dissolve her marriage and family in order to create and live an authentic life will have you turning pages late into the night.

- **Michelle Theall**, author of *Teaching The Cat to Sit*

About the Author:



Melissa Giberson is the sum of many parts: a proud mom of two young adult children, an occupational therapist, a writer, a nature lover, a picture-taker, and an eternal optimist. She's a self-proclaimed introvert and an old soul drawn to exploring new places, especially those with beauty and historical significance.

Writing is her soul work, and she is awestruck by the response to her articles and memoir, *Late Bloomer: Finding My Authentic Self at Midlife* (She Writes Press). The gratitude expressed by people reaching out to Melissa after reading her essays and book reinforces her belief that we are better when we share our stories.

When she is not writing, she's biking, exploring nature, capturing moments with photos, watching old movies, reading, making her favorite comfort food homemade chicken soup, and spending time with her kids, life partner, and their two rescue cats. She splits her time between New Jersey and Provincetown, Massachusetts.

Melissa is a frequent guest on podcasts and radio shows discussing her later-in-life sexual awakening and subsequent journey through grief, loss, love, and self-acceptance. She has published articles in numerous online and in-print publications, including *The Boston Globe*, *Salon*, *Kveller*, *Dorothy Parker's Ashes*, and *Writer's Digest*. Her essay, "Art is the Antidote" appears in the anthology: *Art In The Time of Unbearable Crisis* (June 2022).



[@melissagiberson031](https://www.instagram.com/melissagiberson031)



melissagiberson.com



[Melissa Giberson](https://www.facebook.com/MelissaGiberson)

Late Bloomer: A Memoir by Melissa Giberson

She Writes Press

Publisher Group West by Ingram Content Group

Paperback | \$17.95 | ISBN-13: 9781-647425197 | e-book ISBN 1647425190