



"Behind Retirement Doors: *A Story of Love and Intrigue*"

By Thomas A. Rohrer
(With help from wife, Jean A. Hollands)



Why did you write a book about retirement living? I wanted to convince our friends to move in here. I decided to explain the benefits of retirement living but didn't want a dry or even drizzly how-to book. People are curious about what life here is like so I made it easy to understand. When we saw the movie, *Marigold Hotel*, we realized over 50 folks are curious about that life. I wanted to remind people that they come here to live, not to die.

Why in the world did you put a murder mystery in the middle of a book about retirement living? Because I write adventure mysteries and I wanted to jazz this up a little. I tell folks if they don't like love stories or they don't like mysteries to buy a cookbook! My fans like my mysteries and I couldn't help myself...

You are an engineer with a company of your own behind you. Why writing novels? When I retired years ago, I decided to write about my experiences in the world of exciting lives. I had to use a lot of imagination on the romance side but the adventure had been part of my ship retooling business. Then, after our two widowhoods, Jean and I connected, married and she insisted that I prove to her that I could write. Jean, with counseling degree, owned a corporate coaching business for 25 years. Her five published books were

on corporate psychology and she had not written a novel, so it was fun for her to fill in around the edges for me.

What is your marriage like? I am an introvert, reserved and rational. Jean is an extrovert, always preaching to the world and attracts people to her with her energetic enthusiasm. We practice the "every other day" of having it Our Way about all decisions that day. That works. We don't use it all the time. Only when one of us feels adamant about something. Then we look at the calendar. Of course, I am the "odd" day.

What has been your feedback about the book? People say they can read it in a few hours. The print is big and bold for the older reader. They say they want to move in afterward and others say that the story of Adam and Eve in the Next Door Retirement Center was fun and sweet. I have never written a sweet story before. I guess that was Jean's influence. With her books, she was invited on two major book tours with Bantam and McGraw Hill so she was interviewed by *Oprah*, *Today*, *Good Morning America* and had 200 articles written about her from the *Japanese Wall Street Journal* to the *New York Times*.

What does The Forum say about your book? The management liked it. They were relieved that I immediately remind the reader that the story is not about our Forum! I also have a disclaimer from a former Board of Director here who promises that murders don't really happen in retirement homes like this. We had over 20 versions from feedback from the fellow residents and had a book naming and book signing party. Our Forum store sells the book. What a way to bust into a retirement center—we had only been here one year when we put it all together. We may have caused a few worries but so far we have not been asked to leave the premises. And we love it here.

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