



old  
women  
talking

Wilderness  
Sarchild

## PRAISE FOR *OLD WOMEN TALKING*

“In *Old Women Talking*, Wilderness Sarchild confronts head-on the specter of aging that terrifies so many of us. She wrestles honestly with wrinkles, fear of dementia, the loss of friends and loved ones, and demands of herself that she say yes to aging and yes to the fact of her own eventual death. This is a necessary collection and strong medicine for all of us.”

MARGE PIERCY

“This book offers exactly the kinds of old women’s voices our world needs to hear: strong, sexy, and loving. Wilderness Sarchild is a beacon of passion and wisdom. These compelling, honest poems will change lives.”

ANNIE FINCH

“In *Old Woman Talking*, Wilderness Sarchild binds the wounds of our broken world. Through story, and in bold, intimate detail, she honors the full arc of a woman’s life. Nothing escapes her discerning heart: not wrinkles, not abuse, not racism, not death, not joy. A volume for all women, and the men who love them.”

SUSAN CERULEAN, author of *Coming to Pass: Florida’s Coastal Islands in a Gulf of Change*

“There’s something knowing and ancient about this poetry. Something I knew in the womb. Something I’ll know on my last day. What we are in the dark, without excuses or apologies, authentically human.”

LAUREN WOLK, author of *Wolf Hollow*

## CONTACT

Christine Drawl

Passager Books

editors@passagerbooks.com

www.passagerbooks.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Passager Books Publishes *Old Women Talking***

Passager Books announces the publication of *Old Women Talking*, a first book of poetry by Wilderness Sarchild.

Sarchild began writing the book two months before she turned 60 when, full of resistance, she went on a three-week silent retreat to try to come to grips with her new stage in life. “In our culture, old age often indicates invisibility,” she says, “but the old women I know are far from invisible. We have honed wisdom over the years, developed resilience, learned to accept what is, and are not worried about what others think of us. Old age is also difficult. We don’t have long to live, we often suffer physically and emotionally, we get lonely as our loved ones pass on.”

Renowned poet Marge Piercy says of the book, “Sarchild confronts head-on the specter of aging that terrifies so many of us. She wrestles honestly with wrinkles, fear of dementia, the loss of friends and loved ones and demands of herself that she say yes to aging and yes to the fact of her own eventual death. This is a necessary collection and strong medicine for all of us.”

In its 28 years, Passager has shared the work of more than 1,000 writers

in its 63 issues and 24 books, gaining a reputation for longevity in a field in which few magazines and journals last more than a handful of years. With *Old Women Talking*, Passager continues its tradition of bringing the compelling writing and insight of older writers to the public. Passager editor Kendra Kopelke says that what stood out in the book was “the incantatory power with which Sarchild speaks on behalf of so many women who stumble blindly into their older bodies. Her writing reaches beyond the words themselves.”

Now 70, Sarchild says, “I wrote the poems in *Old Women Talking* out of a need to express my anger, frustration, sadness, joy and love about what’s happening in the world on any given day and to begin to understand the connections between all these events; to come to terms with family trauma; to find grace in the aging process; and to honor death as a rite of passage.”

*Old Women Talking* is available at [www.passagerbooks.com](http://www.passagerbooks.com).

Passager Books is a not-for-profit press dedicated to publishing the work of older writers, encouraging the imagination throughout life, and creating beautiful and welcoming publications. Its literary journal, *Passager*, founded in 1990, has featured work by nearly 1,000 poets, fiction writers and memoirists, many in their 80s and 90s.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



photograph by Chuck Madansky

Wilderness Sarchild is a poet and playwright. She is the co-author of *Wrinkles, the Musical*, a play about women and aging that premiered in 2017 and will continue to be performed on stages around the country. Wilderness is an expressive arts psychotherapist, grandmother of six, and lay worship associate at a Unitarian Meetinghouse. She is a social justice activist and consultant in conflict resolution, consensus decision making, and mediation.

Wilderness lives in a cottage in the woods on Cape Cod, MA, with her husband, poet Chuck Madansky. They are surrounded by wild neighbors that include turkeys, coyote, fox, deer, squirrels, and giant snapping turtles.

## FROM THE AUTHOR

Dear Old Women, Future Old Women,  
and All Who Love Old Women,

In our culture, old age often indicates invisibility, but the old women I know are far from invisible. We have honed wisdom over the years, developed resilience, learned to accept what is, and are not worried about what others think of us.

Old age is also difficult. We don't have long to live, we often suffer physically and emotionally, we get lonely as our loved ones pass on.

I hope these poems will encourage you to embrace and honor your aging process, whatever that might look like. May your rage burn bright as the mid-day sun. May your grief swim deep as the salt-filled sea. May your joy fly on the wings of time.

In Gracious Aging,

*Wilderness Sarchild*

## ORDERING INFORMATION

*Old Women Talking*

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