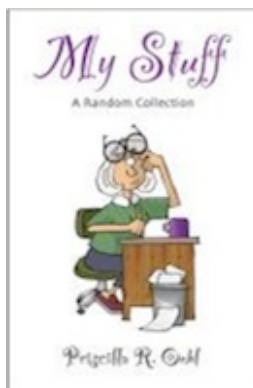


My Stuff

A Random Collection



Priscilla R. Oehl



In this collection of personal essays and columns written for newspapers, author Priscilla Oehl writes about ordinary life experiences that have had meaning and appeal for her many readers. Some humorous, some poignant, others self-deprecating, they have enough universality to enable the reader to identify with the her thoughts and opinions. Priscilla Oehl's slice-of-life observations and critiques range from family life, including children, grandchildren and husbands, to growing older in the ever-changing world of technology and cosmetics.

MY STUFF

A Random Collection

Order the complete book from

[Booklocker.com](http://www.booklocker.com)

<http://www.booklocker.com/p/books/7324.html?s=pdf>

**or from your favorite neighborhood
or online bookstore.**

Your free excerpt appears below. Enjoy!

MY STUFF

A Random Collection

Priscilla R. Oehl

Copyright © 2014 Priscilla R. Oehl

ISBN 978-1-62646-839-9

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the author.

Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Bradenton, Florida.

Printed in the United States of America.

Most of the columns in this work were originally printed in the SEAWORD, a monthly publication of the Ocean Village community in Ft. Pierce, Florida. Others are essays from the author's personal journals reflecting her experiences and observations.

BookLocker.com, Inc.
2014

First Edition

"OH WHAT FOOLS THESE MORTALS BE "

2010

I should have known better. Known, that is, not to succumb to seductive advertising targeted at women "of an age," especially during the hustle and bustle of the pre-holiday season.

However, with the credit card ever at the ready, it seemed like a harmless thing to do. Money back guarantee and all that stuff made the offer incredibly tempting. So I fell for it.

What young-at-heart woman wouldn't want to erase the years of living that begin to consume most of her face? Those "fine lines of aging," actually premature aging, are what a dermatologist once told me created the "mature look" which she assured me was most attractive and sometimes even enviable. Really? I thought at the time that I'll just look the other way when I pass a mirror and certainly not put any credence in the magnifying side of the two-way hand-held mirror on my dresser.

But alas, as the premature aspect began to give way to the truly mature reality of the skin tone I now possessed, I decided that it was now or never. And so, when the beautiful flyer arrived in the mail with its personalized message "inviting me to join," I felt as if I had been chosen, hand picked, certainly one of an elite group to be selected to try out an amazing new product.

Being ever so cautious as well as suspicious of online purchasing, and in spite of admonitions from my spouse, I dialed the 1-800 phone number for details. The lovely voice at the other end spoke as if we were already best of friends. She extracted details of my daily activities and

MY STUFF

beauty regimen. Was I outdoorsy and in the sun a lot? Did I use soap and water? (She was horrified when I said yes.) How much time did I have to spend each morning and evening caring for my most precious asset, my face, of course?

She convinced me that the shipping charges for the FREE trial were ridiculously high, but if I subscribed to the program of treatment and product(s), there were now more than just one, that I would incur no shipping whatsoever. How could I refuse such a deal? Besides, she told me, the FREE sample was so small that I would reap very little benefit. I really needed a month or two months of “trial.”

The products (two) arrived within days along with FREE samples of some ancillary ones promising to enhance treatment. A charming letter was included from the Cosmetic and Pharmaceutical Chemist of the company, which I shall not name, whose slogan is “Perfect Skin at Any Age.” I learned that I would be entitled to complimentary delivery service EACH TIME I received the next shipment that would arrive every two months at a special DISCOUNT price. The gentleman who signed the letter assured me that he knew I would “fall in love” with ALL the products once I had tried them..

The ‘piece de resistance’ in the letter was in the first paragraph that I have memorized verbatim.

“I want you to go into your bathroom and take one last look in the mirror.” (Sounds fatalistic).

“Are you looking? Okay. Good. Now I want you to say, no yell, out loud, GOODBYE!”

“What are you saying goodbye to, you might ask? “ (Honest, these are his very words).

PRISCILLA R. OEHL

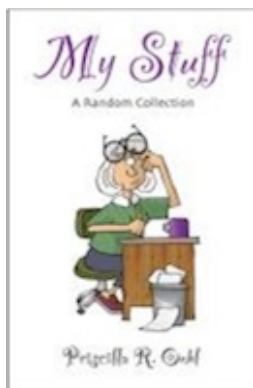
“You’re saying goodbye to your fine lines and wrinkles for good, without surgery or painful injections.”

After my husband heard my out-loud yell, “Goodbye,” from inside the bathroom, he was obviously curious and perhaps a bit concerned. I assured him it wasn’t forever, that I wasn’t leaving him, just bidding farewell to my wrinkles. I applied the new product(s) as directed and soon fell into a dreamy sleep.

When the next morning he heard me shouting “Hello again,” he knew I must have lost my mind. I confessed to him my lapse of judgment and my not- too- insignificant purchase. I also told him that the shout he heard was to the wrinkles that indeed had not left.

This scenario has been repeated for some time now, and the products are dwindling to the point of no return. As I repair to the bathroom for the lengthy evening farewell ritual and yell, we both laugh. The morning routine is a lot shorter because it’s much easier, albeit more painful, to say hello, which I now keep down to a whisper. There’s nothing to shout about.

As P.T. Barnum said, “There’s a sucker born every minute.”



In this collection of personal essays and columns written for newspapers, author Priscilla Oehl writes about ordinary life experiences that have had meaning and appeal for her many readers. Some humorous, some poignant, others self-deprecating, they have enough universality to enable the reader to identify with the her thoughts and opinions. Priscilla Oehl's slice-of-life observations and critiques range from family life, including children, grandchildren and husbands, to growing older in the ever-changing world of technology and cosmetics.

MY STUFF

A Random Collection

Order the complete book from

[Booklocker.com](http://www.booklocker.com)

<http://www.booklocker.com/p/books/7324.html?s=pdf>

**or from your favorite neighborhood
or online bookstore.**