

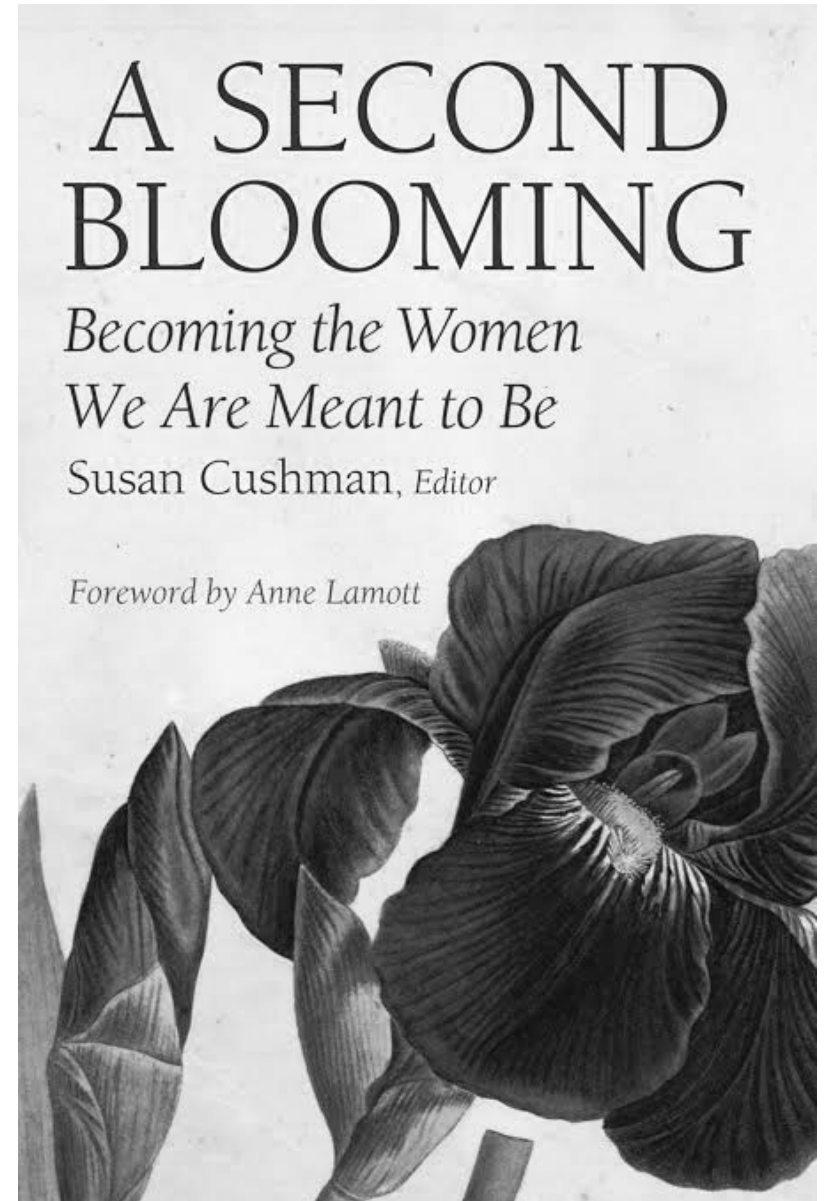
“I have enjoyed greatly the second blooming that comes when you finish the life of the emotions and of personal relations and suddenly find—at the age of fifty, say—that a whole new life has opened before you, filled with things you can think about, study or read about. . . . It is as if a fresh sap of ideas and thoughts was rising in you.”—Agatha Christie

“For me, becoming isn’t about arriving somewhere or achieving a certain aim. I see it as forward motion, a means of evolving, a way to reach continuously toward a better self. . . . Becoming requires equal parts patience and rigor. Becoming is never giving up on the idea that there’s more growing to be done. . . . It’s not about where you get yourself in the end. There’s power in allowing yourself to be known and heard, in owning your unique story, in using your authentic voice. And there’s grace in being willing to know and hear others. This, for me, is how we become.”—Michelle Obama, *Becoming*

“The truth is that this new stage of life liberates in a way no other stage of growth can possibly do. All the striving is over now. We don’t have to prove ourselves anymore. . . . The only thing required of us now is the blooming of the self. Like autumn flowers, rich in color, deep in tone, sturdy in the wind, our lives not only have new color, they bring with them the kind of interior depth a fast-moving world so dearly needs.”  
—Joan Chittister, *The Gift of Years*

“There is a gravitas in the second half of life, but it is now held up by a much deeper lightness, or ‘okayness.’ Our mature years are characterized by a kind of bright sadness and a sober happiness. . . . At this stage, I no longer have to prove that I or my group is the best, that my ethnicity is superior, that my religion is the only one that God loves, or that my role and place in society deserve superior treatment.”—Richard Rohr, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*

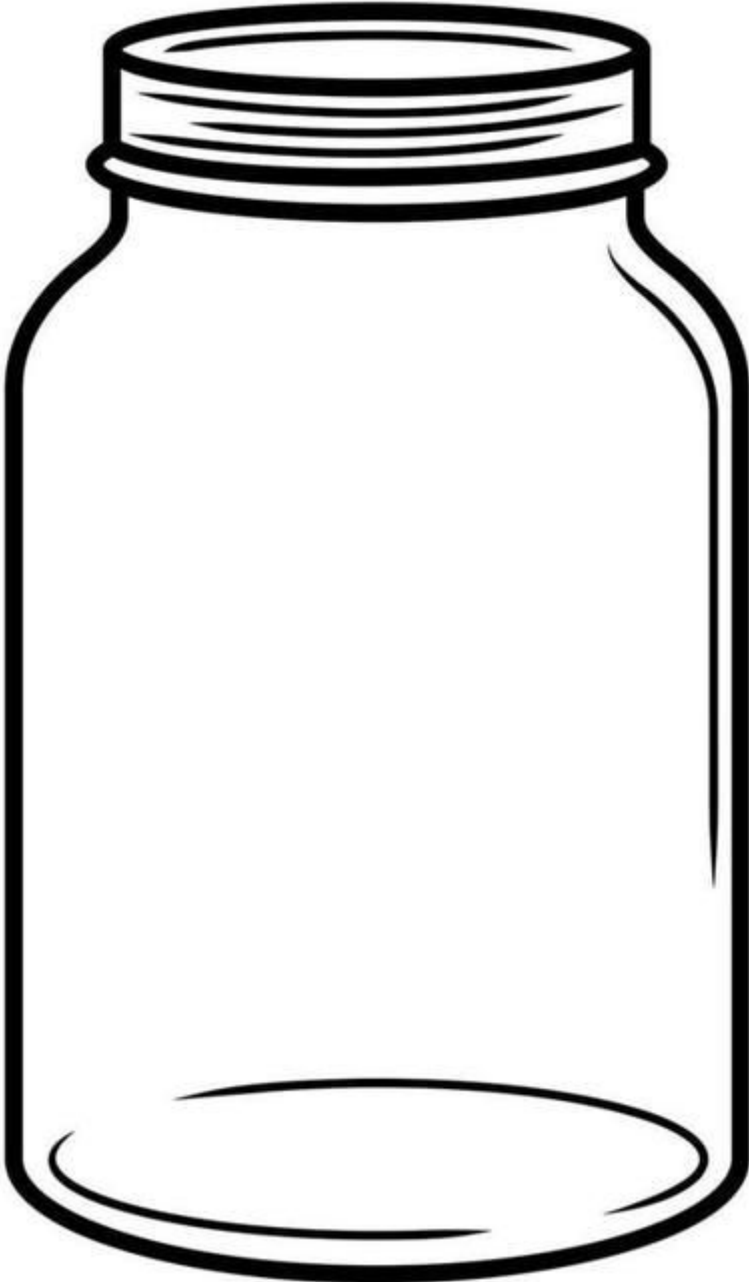
“It takes courage to grow up and turn out to be who you really are.”—E. E. Cummings



In whatever decade it happens, we all eventually hope to emerge from the chrysalis we built for our younger selves and transform into the beautiful women we are meant to be.—Susan Cushman, Editor



My Old Container



My New Container

