

*The Single Ladies of Jacaranda Retirement Village*, Joanna Nell

Dad often told me that growing old was not for the weak-hearted. I think Peggy Smart, the 79-year-old main character of *The Single Ladies of Jacaranda Retirement Village* would have agreed, even while she would have wondered if she *was* too weak of heart. Peggy, still grieving the loss of her husband Ted, appreciates her independence at Jacaranda Village, but at the same time fears her children see the little changes in her ability to cope with daily details as a sign she needs more supervision.

Then in moves Angie Valentine! Angie was Peggie's grade school friend who went on to become a world traveler with a scattered path of discarded marriages. And, Angie is determined Peggie has good years ahead of her, she just needs to start enjoying them.

The politics of living in a retirement community provide some laugh out loud humor, as do the moments of negotiation between friends, family members, and doctors. There's a heart-wrenching twist to Peg and Angie's relationship, a love interest, and a reality check, so be prepared for more than just a feel good story if you pick up this book. Overall, *The Single Ladies of Jacaranda Retirement Village* is an easy read, one that would be great for a summer car trip or an afternoon on the porch!