

BOOK

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relationship.

"The book is about relationships and what fundamentally keeps them together and thriving. ... marriage is a part of happily ever after. One of many relationships."

In the book's foreword, Yoder writes many people today "focus only on the 'happy' part of 'happily ever after' instead of grasping that total happiness is never really possible."

But what is possible, Yoder writes, is "a satisfying union that develops its own unique definition of happy."

Yoder further states, "The stories in this book are not 'paint by the numbers' and-you-will-nail-marriage kind of stories. They were written to provide unvarnished examples to inspire and support a healthy marriage, not make one. ... Don't think of this book as a formula. Look at the stories as a reference bank for you to draw on in a time of need."

Each of the 50 stories is titled in such a way that just a glance at the table of contents reads like a collection of 50 pieces of advice.

Some of the story titles include:

- Choose togetherness over things
- Be willing to grow
- Be each other's best friend
- Support each other's dreams
- Write love letters
- Spend time together
- Never forget why you



"50/50: The Key to Happily Ever After," a book of 50 short stories detailing the lives of 50 couples who've been married for 50 years or more. The book was brought to fruition by Dysart native James (Jim) Rice who now lives in San Diego where he works as a life coach.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

fell in love

In the six months since the book was published, Rice said he's been more than happy with the finished product.

"Personally, watching an idea not only become a reality but seeing how it positively impacted Jolletta and the others who were involved was an un-

expected pleasure. In the beginning, I thought the book was a neat, novel idea that had never been done before. I believed it had serious value. Upon viewing and reading the finished product I believe more than ever that we took a great idea and turned it into something even more valuable than I imagined. I

am very proud of it."

Those looking to purchase the book for themselves or a loved one have several options to choose from including on Rice's website: <https://fitover-50jamesrice.com/thebook>.

The book is also available for purchase through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

101

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when the group finished singing.

Several of her friends then asked what the secret to her longevity was to which she quipped, "I wouldn't know. It's a big surprise to me as well!"

Kathleen's determination to remain active in her later years — both physically and mentally — has more than likely contributed to her long life.

"She's pretty much as active as she was last year," Pastor Keefer said. "She doesn't drive but she still lives independently in her own apartment. When the weather is nicer, we walk to the end of the block and back."

Her son also said she continues to enjoy reading — checking out books from the library to use with her desktop magnifier — and drinking a cup of espresso every morning

plus a "nice cup of scotch and water in the afternoon."

'Highlight of the year'

During her 100th year, Kathleen — a farm girl from Nebraska — was able to fulfill a childhood dream by attending a Creighton University men's basketball game.

"We lived about 10 miles from the campus," Kathleen explained, "but we could never afford to attend a game."

Growing up, Kathleen's dad would load the family up and drive to town to watch the Bluejays play football.

"We would sit outside the football field to watch."

And while football is Kathleen's favorite sport — baseball was her dad's — she said she loves watching sports in general including basketball because it allows her to be just like everyone else with or without her hearing aids.

"I don't necessarily need

to hear it [to enjoy it]."

Last Nov. 11, Kathleen, Pastor Keefer, and Doti were able to not only watch the Bluejays beat the North Dakota State Bison, but they were also able to attend the morning's shoot-around as special guests of head coach Greg McDermott — a native of Cascade, Iowa, and friend of the Keefers' neighbor.

"Oh, boy, she was fired up," Pastor Keefer said of his mom upon meeting the coach. "If there was to be 101, it was that. She's been a big fan of Coach McDermott for a long time — bigger than Creighton."

During the game's first media timeout, the announcer asked the fans to turn their attention to the jumbotron.

"The whole place just went nuts," Pastor Keefer said when Kathleen — watching the game from center court — was beamed onto the screen. "One of the highlights of

her year."

Following her exercise class last Wednesday, Kathleen enjoyed a slice of cake while recalling the excitement of the Creighton game as her son showed photos on his phone from the special day.

Kathleen's smile looked just as wide — and beautiful — in the photos taken on Nov. 11 as it did when her cake was presented.

"She's an inspiration to us all," a Fit and Feisty classmate proclaimed. "An amazing lady."

Happy 101st birthday, Kathleen, from all of us at Tama-Grundy Publishing!

Fit and Feisty meets three times a week Monday, Wednesday, and Friday beginning at 1 p.m. in the Traer Public Library's Talen Community Room. The 25-minute low-impact exercise class is free and open to the public. Birthday cake (usually) not included.

Classifieds

15
Employment

1500 - Employment Misc.

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418 2nd Street Gladbrook, IA - This commercial building contains 2 offices, a barber shop, and restrooms on the main floor. The 2nd floor contains 3 apartments. There is coin-op laundry. Some updates have been made to the building and apartments. There is parking in the back and a deck area. **\$84,950**

122 W 4th Street Vinton, IA - This is your chance to own an exceptional commercial property in the heart of Vinton, strategically positioned on the corner of a vibrant shopping/dining district. This prime 4,560 square feet commercial space offers versatility making it an ideal choice for retail, professional services, offices, or an apartment. The interior of this building provides a flexible layout. **\$149,000**

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New Listing!!
504 Jefferson St. Dysart

This is a nice traditional 2 story, Four Square home with beautiful original woodwork. Hardwood floors. Updated with a new furnace 2017, newer roof 2011, windows 8-10 years ago and vinyl siding. Also a new front door, remodeled main floor bath, newer kitchen & entryway flooring. Duct-work cleaned with-in last 5 years. New garage door and 220 volt power in garage. Partially fenced in back yard. **\$159,500!!**

1211 Leer St Dysart

Exceptionally nice 3 bed, 2 1/2 bath split level partially brick home. Located on a beautiful country view. Fresh interior, master bath & walk-in closet, 2 very nice decks & a family room. Close to schools. Absolutely move-in condition!!
Only \$239,500!!

113 Main St Keystone

1-1/2 story, 2 bed, 1.5 bath home. Several recent updates & upgrades. Hardwood floors, formal dining room, new metal roof by closing. Ready for new paint of your color choice. Full basement with potential to finish. Newer furnace & AC. **Only \$135,000!!**

New Acreage Listing!
2757 220th St. Clutier

5.5 Acres Beautiful 2 story, 5 bedroom, 2 bath home. 2,272 sq. ft. Original woodwork! Oversized 2 stall attached garage. Many updates including a newer metal roof, gutters, soffit & vinyl siding. Newer furnace, water heater & breaker box. Also, solar panels! New septic Fall 2023. Heated shop! Beautiful windbreak and many trees of all varieties. Plus 17.3 A m/l per FSA farmland available or can be bought separately. ~~Price \$395,000!!~~ Price Reduced to **\$329,500!!**

New Listing!
903 Wilson St Dysart

Very nice, country style 4-5 bedroom, 2+ bath home. Recently remodeled & updated in 2023 including new kitchen & counter-top, all new flooring, light fixtures, switches & plug-ins, sinks & toilets, all freshly painted, plus much more. All new appliances: stove, frig, microwave, dishwasher, disposal, washer & dryer. Absolutely move-in condition!! **Only \$189,500**

New Acreage Listing!!
2975 275th St, Clutier

Beautiful Country Setting! 10.68 Acres Acres! 1.5 Story, 4 bedroom home. Very nice original woodwork, hardwood floors & pocket door. New metal roof 2020, vinyl siding, new foundation spray foam 2023. Front porch with ramp. Large deck, some newer windows. Garden/storage shed. 7.1 acres of farmland.
ONLY \$350,000!! Reduced to \$325,000!!

New Storefront Listing!!
306 Main St. Dysart

1,680 sq ft commercial building. New membrane roof with-in last 2 years. New furnace & AC. Open floor plan. Great opportunity to start your own business or expand a current business!! **Only \$44,000!!**

Benton Co Farmland
82.86 M/I Acres, 65.81 Acres in CRP with the balance in Timber. CSR-2 67 on cropland. Includes Cedar River access & River frontage. 3.2% gross return on list price. Located on the North edge of Vinton. Lots of wildlife!
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