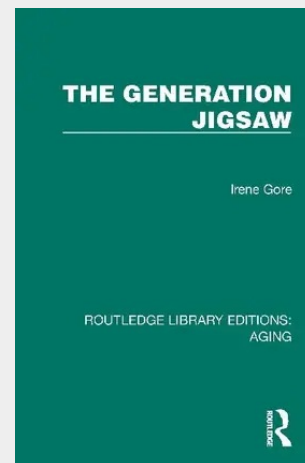


## The Generation Jigsaw

In *The Generation Jigsaw*, originally published in 1976, Irene Gore explores some of the problems which face older people in the family and the community. Her attitude, differing from many attitudes and practices at the time, was that people in old age are capable of expanding their interests and activities, given encouragement and opportunity. Dr Gore is specifically not concerned with ill people, invalids or the severely disadvantaged. 'It is my conviction', she writes, 'that the problems of the reasonably fit, reasonably independent majority of older people deserve to be considered ... The injunction to honour one's father and mother is part of our ethic, and we traditionally interpret this as "taking care" of them. But "taking care" of older people carries the risk of making them too passive and dependent, of blurring their individuality.' Whereas in former times a person had a position to look forward to in later years – the regard of the family and the community and the status that experience gave – now the tendency is to channel and guide our elders into a mode of life which someone else thinks is best for them. Dr Gore points the way forward to a livelier, more fulfilled community of people of all ages. She has a scientifically trained mind capable of seeing to the core of the problem, and a genuine concern for the true welfare of older people – and of their younger relatives who will become old in their turn. She approaches her subject with lucidity and an unsentimental humanity, based on years of research on the biological aspects of ageing and hard thinking about the personal and social problems encountered by the elderly. She dispels myths and suggests commonsense solutions and guidelines for improving the quality of life for us all.

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**46,10 €**

46,10 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

*Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage*

**Artikelnummer:** 9781032696256

**Medium:** Buch

**ISBN:** 978-1-032-69625-6

**Verlag:** Routledge

**Erscheinungstermin:** 03.11.2025

**Sprache(n):** Englisch

**Auflage:** 1. Auflage 2025

**Serie:** Routledge Library Editions:  
Aging

**Produktform:** Kartoniert

**Gewicht:** 157 g

**Seiten:** 138

**Format (B x H):** 129 x 198 mm

