



Blume
enjoying her
day job in
Key West,
an island she
“fell in love
with”

Judy Blume has a new gig

Forty-seven years after *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*, the young-adult novelist switches from writing books to selling them

IT WAS THREE DECADES AGO WHEN Judy Blume and her husband George Cooper discovered Key West, escaping a New York City winter to finish her book *Summer Sisters*. They've called the island home ever since, following in the footsteps of Ernest Hemingway and Tennessee Williams. Last year, the couple opened an outpost of Miami's Books & Books shop. Here, the pioneering author talks about the joys of her new job.

What is it like going from book author to bookseller?

After 50 years of writing, every morning I wake up and I look up to the sky, whoever is listening up there, and I say, “Thank you. I don't have to write today!” I get to go to my bookstore. I get to play with books all day and meet readers. You know, I'm a people person and I've always been locked up writing.

Have you surprised fans who've wandered into the store?

We've had a lot of tears, wonderful tears from people. I remind them of their childhood.

Do kids find your books?

Sometimes they know my books, sometimes they don't. But it's whatever they like. We have a wonderful picture-book nook. I love to see kids choose their own books.

What did you think of Chelsea Handler's riff on your title *Are You There Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea*?

Well, at first I was upset. She stole my title. Then I came to absolutely love it. I went on her show several years after that, and we had a wonderful time. She's not the only one who's used that title. It's out there in pop culture. To me, that's a compliment. —SHAYNE BENOWITZ
booksandbookskw.com



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"I DON'T HAVE TO WRITE TODAY!"

JUDY BLUME ON HER SURPRISING NEW CAREER

BACK IN

BLOOM

**No dogs were harmed in the making of this cover*

Elf ears and sword fights made him famous. Now, Orlando Bloom wants to branch out