

JUDY BLUME (STEINHARDT '61)

AUTHOR

For half a century, Judy Blume has gone where many a parent is forbidden—deep into the anxious, yearning souls of millions of youth, with coming-of-age page-turners like *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* and *Blubber*. Blume's young adult novels were among the first to touch untouchable themes, propelling her to the forefront of a literary revolution. Her adult fiction found its disciples, too, topping the *New York Times* Best Sellers list multiple times. When conservative critics and groups decried and even banned Blume's books in schools and libraries, the National Coalition Against Censorship stood in her corner and Blume herself became a staunch champion of free speech. She has addicted and comforted legions with her frank storytelling, selling more than 85 million copies worldwide. No slouch in the accolades department, she has received over 90 literary awards and was named a Library of Congress Living Legend.

