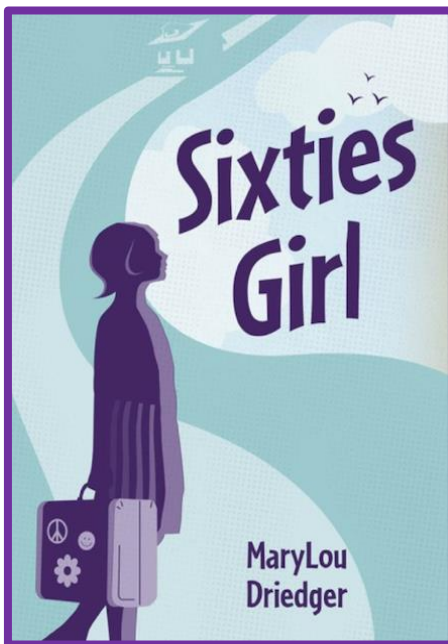
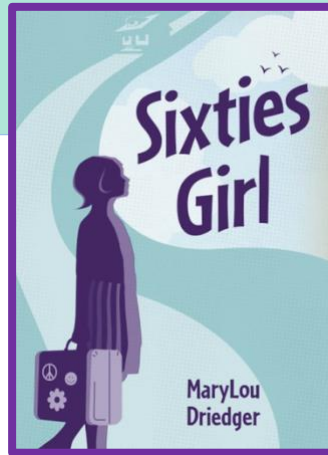


Sixties Girl

by MaryLou Driedger

Newsletter- January 2023



On Book Store Shelves in April!

My second novel has an official release date. It is set to arrive at bookstores on April 11. Plans for a hybrid launch at McNally Robinson Booksellers later in April are currently in the works. Stay tuned!

Although not exactly a sequel to my first novel the two narrators in *Sixties Girl* are related to Peter the protagonist in *Lost on the Prairie*. Laura is his granddaughter and Will his great-great grandson. Peter is referenced frequently in the new novel.

I Was a Sixties Girl!

I was born in 1953 so my school years were primarily in the 1960s. Although my novel is pure fiction lots of things that happen to its protagonist Laura were inspired by world events during my own child and teen years like the Cuban Missile Crisis, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the Vietnam war, Expo 67, Woodstock, and a visit by Queen Elizabeth to Canada.





Thank You Deb!

When Wandering Fox/Heritage House bought my second novel I needed to do a major rewrite to make it suitable for the middle-grade audience they had in mind. I am so grateful they hired Deb Froese a friend and a skilled professional editor to help me with the task.

Her astute criticism and constant encouragement were indispensable as I created new characters and linked Laura's sixties stories to her modern-day grandson.



Lost on the Prairie Is Still Keeping Me Busy

As many of you may know my first novel *Lost on the Prairie* was nominated in May for a Manitoba Young Readers Choice Award. This has resulted in invitations to visit classrooms and meet teachers and students who have read my book!

What a pleasure that has been! Click on the links to find out more about two of those experiences one at [John W. Gunn School](#) and another at [John Pritchard School](#).

My MYRCA nomination has also resulted in an invitation to be part of Manitoba's Thin Air Writers' Festival. More about that in the next newsletter!

Cars in Sixties Girl

Many cars manufactured in the 1960s are no longer being made. In my novel I used car models that I remembered my family owning in the 60s like the Envoy, the Studebaker, a Chrysler, the Dodge Dart, and the Mercury Marquis. Of course, seat belts, air conditioning and GPS travel assistance weren't available in the 60s which made car trips very different than they are now.



My brothers with the car our family drove to Expo 67



Graduation Gown

In *Sixties Girl* readers go along with Laura, one of the two main characters, as she attends her high school graduation ceremony and party. Although Laura's graduation night turned out very differently than mine, I did use the dress I wore for my high school grad as the inspiration for the one I describe Laura wearing.

The Sixties Suitcase

The girl on the front cover of my novel is carrying a suitcase and it plays a very important role in the story. Laura the sixties girl in the book is a grandmother. Her grandson Will comes to spend time with her one day a week after school. Will finds an old suitcase in his grandmother's study and when he opens it discovers lots of interesting objects like a parcheesi game, a birchbark journal, a set of car keys, a deer antler, and a dress pattern. As he shows each one to his grandmother she tells him a story from her childhood and teen years in the sixties that is associated with that object.



Thanks for your interest in my writing.

MaryLou

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