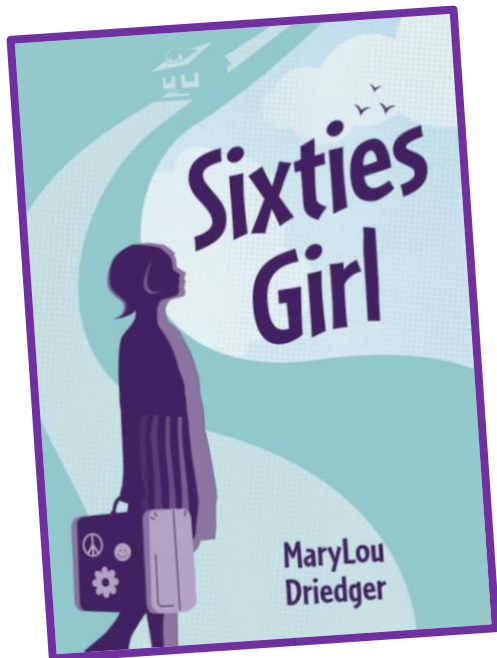


Sixties Girl

Lost on the Prairie

by MaryLou Driedger

Newsletter- February 2023



Ready to Pre-Order!

Copies of *Sixties Girl* can [be pre-ordered](#) now from McNally Robinson Booksellers. McNally's is an amazing support to prairie writers and we are so very lucky to have them.

The release date for the book is April 11 and the launch for the book will be on April 28th at 7 pm. at McNally Robinson Booksellers.

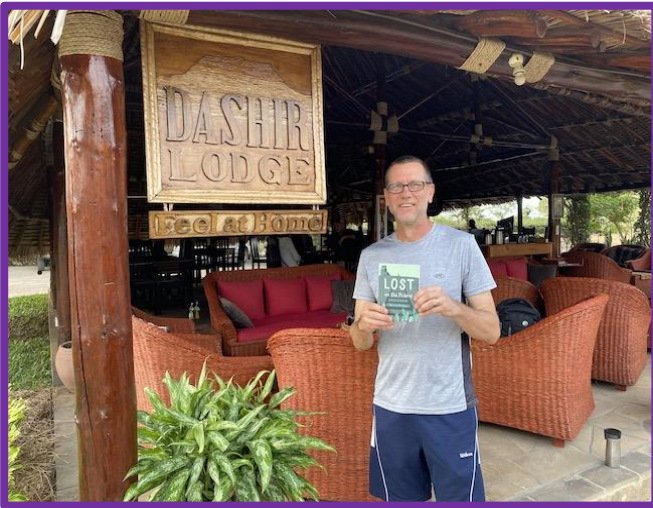
We are still finalizing some of the plans for the launch but you can keep up to date on the McNally's website [events page](#).



Highlighted in Quill and Quire!

I was delighted to see *Sixties Girl* highlighted in the spring preview of books in the literary magazine Quill and Quire.

"Set in 1960s and present-day Winnipeg, SIXTIES GIRL is a poignant coming-of-age story that follows a decade in the life of a young girl growing up in a time of sweeping social change."



Lost on the Prairie in Tanzania!

Dave and I have been traveling in Africa since the middle of January and our first stop was in Tanzania where we stayed at the [Dashir Safari Lodge](#) run by Darryl and Shirley Peters from Manitoba. We had a fantastic time including an amazing safari which Dashir planned for us. I left a copy of *Lost on the Prairie* for the library at Dashir and Darryl was kind enough to pose with it for me. If you want to read more about our adventures you can check out the [Africa category](#) on my blog *What Next*.



Lost on the Prairie Part of Thin Air

I am so excited to have *Lost on the Prairie* included in the Thin Air Winnipeg International Writer's Festival.

You can go to [my page](#) to see the video I made and to find the answers I gave to some interesting questions the Thin Air staff asked me.

Thank You Harriet!

Some of you may remember Harriet Zaidman who was the fabulous host for the launch of my first book *Lost on the Prairie*. Since then, Harriet's novel *Second Chances* has won the coveted Geoffry Bilson Award for historical fiction for young people. Harriet was kind enough to write an endorsement for the cover of my second novel *Sixties Girl*. Thanks so much Harriet!





Helen Armstrong

In *Sixties Girl, Will*, who is one of the story's narrators, attends a middle school in Winnipeg named after Helen Armstrong.

There is no school in Winnipeg that bears her name but I decided to create a fictional one for my book after I learned about the important role Helen Armstrong played in the Winnipeg General Strike.

She encouraged women to boycott stores where the workers were on strike and challenged female workers to join the men in striking. Later she organized kitchens to feed the female strikers. She was arrested for her efforts.

A Love of Reading

Laura one of the narrators in *Sixties Girl* loves to read. On a family vacation in one chapter of the novel Laura's mother tells her to 'get her nose out of her book.'

In that way Laura is just like me. I LOVED to read when I was growing up in the sixties. And although my mother taught me to read and encouraged me to read, she too often reminded me of the importance of periodically 'getting my nose out of my book.'

I have a photo of me reading on the couch in the 60s that clearly illustrates my love of reading.



Thanks for your interest in my writing!

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MaryLou

