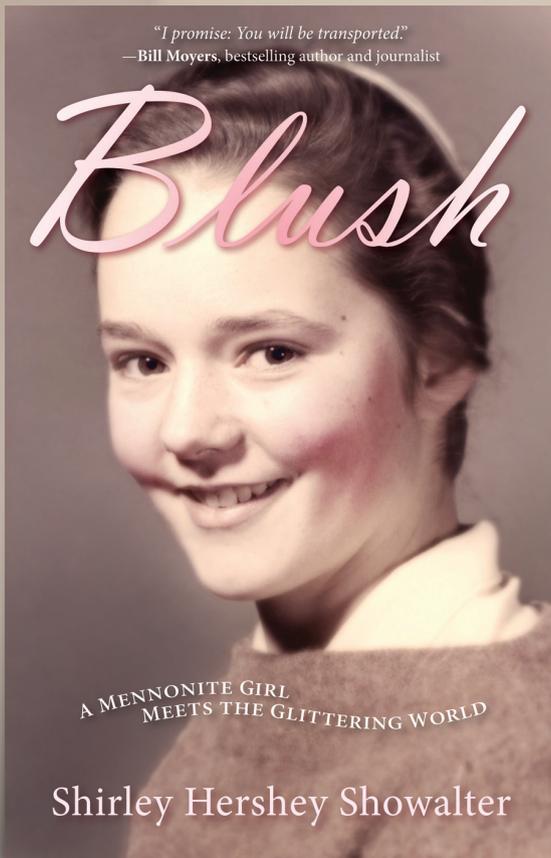


Blush

A MENNONITE GIRL
MEETS THE GLITTERING WORLD

Coming September 2013

by Shirley Hershey Showalter



Shirley Hershey Showalter

From the book:

“Look at this big fella!” my father said. We all turned to see him take off his Eby’s Feeds cap, exposing his white forehead in contrast to the dark red of his cheeks. Dangling from his other hand was the plumpest neon-green tobacco worm I had ever seen. It was about three inches long and half an inch wide. As it writhed in Daddy’s hand, I felt the little hairs on the back of my neck stand up. We all made faces.

I could tell that Daddy was expecting more reaction, so I briefly considered letting out my best scream but instead decided to try another tack. I pretended to take a scientific interest in the little black tentacles under the accordionlike sections of the bright green body. Daddy looked at me observing the worm, so cool and calm. Then he did something rare. He spoke spontaneously, recklessly.

“I’ll give you five dollars if you bite this worm in two,” he said.

* * *

Like standing in a bright meadow and watching the world move around you as you move through it. I promise: You will be transported.

—Bill Moyers, bestselling author and journalist

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