

# Blush

Showalter

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Little Shirley Hershey grew up in a plain Mennonite home, yet was named for a movie star. With her nose pressed to the window of the glittering world, she felt intensely the gap that existed in the 1950s and '60s between Mennonites and the larger world. This is the story of how a rosy-cheeked, barefoot Mennonite farm girl prepared to enter the glittering world and learned how to do so on her own terms.

This engaging childhood memoir tells the story of a Mennonite girl who might have left the church but found another way.

“Not since Kathleen Norris’s *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography* have I read a more beautifully written or movingly told story, one whose minute particulars become a portal into universal significance. I promise: you will be transported.”

—Bill Moyers, journalist and commentator

“Recalled with fairness and wit, this tale of growing up after World War II shows how Mennonite life in Dutch Country—and all of America—changed”

—Julia Spicher Kasdorf, author of *The Body and the Book: Writing from a Mennonite Life*

“Shirley Showalter tells a compelling story of spiritual and cultural formation. Hers is a delicate dance between the tug of the outside world and the restraints of her birthright community.”

—Donald B. Kraybill, coauthor of *Amish Grace*

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—Bill Moyers, bestselling author and journalist

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A MENNONITE GIRL  
MEETS A GLITTERING WORLD

Shirley Hershey Showalter