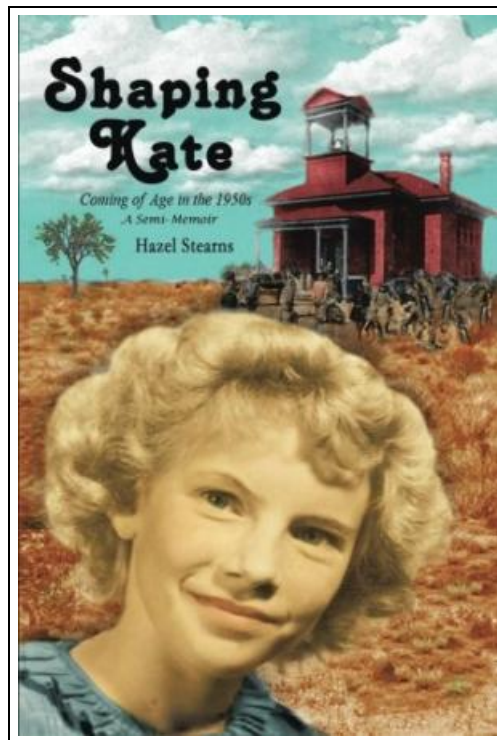


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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand new Book. Motivated by insatiable curiosity and undaunted by rules, young Kate MacCallum entertains herself in a 1950's world void of television, computers, smart phones or apps. Captivated by her heroes, she envies Huck Finn's freedom and Amelia Earhart's independence. Always looming over Kate's ideas and forbidden plans is the promise of stinging pain from her mother's red plastic belt if her plots fail and she is caught. Mentally, Kate puts her schemes on one tray of the Scales of Justice: on the other she coils the red belt covered with small holes. If Kate's plans outweigh the belt, she proceeds; if they are not worth the guaranteed spanking, she abandons them. When Kate wakes to bloodcurdling screams from the bed next to hers, she discovers a family skeleton; when she wakes to her own terrifying nightmares, she breaks a promise and reveals a horrific secret. Kate reads books and body language. She questions religion, hypocrisy and authority and learns about murder, incest, and decapitation. Hell-and-damnation preachers have left Kate uncertain about the church and God, and first kisses have left her puzzled about unfamiliar stirrings of sexual feelings. Ever curious, Kate pressures her mother to explain all unfamiliar terms such as shock treatments, falsies, and vagina. Mysteries and the long-awaited freedom of the adult world beckon to Kate as surely as the Mississippi River called to Huck Finn and the wide blue skies lured Amelia Earhart. With equal parts of reluctance and eagerness, Kate leaves behind childhood games and sets foot on the inescapable path to womanhood. An excerpt from "Shaping Kate" Suddenly a trap door in the rock wall flew open. A huge, winged, fire-breathing dragon shot up and hovered over her. His eyes blazed,...

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