

The Berkeley Girl Rendezvous in London A Novella and Other Stories of the '60s

By Elise Frances Miller

Janet McGill protested against the Vietnam War in Berkeley and Paris, but now in London, she has found a new cause. Boyfriend Aaron, there to spend a romantic week with Janet and to dodge the draft, has other ideas. Their long-anticipated week together turns into months, Janet makes quirky new friends, and nothing turns out like either of them imagined. Miller's authentic memories of the 1960s run throughout this novella, a sequel to *The Berkeley Girl, in Paris, 1968*, and she adds three new stories set in that turbulent era. *Jazz Reflections* is a touching, off-beat and authentic story about a talented musician's haunting memories of a college girlfriend. We see a realistic portrayal of the Haight-Ashbury scene in San Francisco, the drug scene vs. college and career aspirations and long-standing regrets. In *The View from Pond Hill Farm*, a young farm boy caught up in the allure of the 60s-style commune, which has moved next door, learns some life lessons. In *The Wedding of My Dreams*, a mother's hopes for her daughter's wedding are edged out by the values of a new California 1960s generation. Together, these four scenarios capture the people, the excitement, the cultural upheaval of that decade as well as the tensions that still resonate with us today.

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About the Author

With her art history degrees from UC Berkeley and UCLA, Miller began writing as an art critic and reviewer for several well-known publications including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Art News*, *The Reader* and *San Diego Magazine*, for which she wrote a monthly column. Her short stories have been published by *The Sand Hill Review*, *Fault Zone: Stepping Up to the Edge*; *Fault Zone: Diverge*; and *The Times*, *They Were A-Changing: Women Remember the '60s and '70s*. Always interested in the decade of the 1960s, Miller has written two books about the times, *The Berkeley Girl: In Paris, 1968* and her follow-up novella, *The Berkeley Girl: Rendezvous in London*.