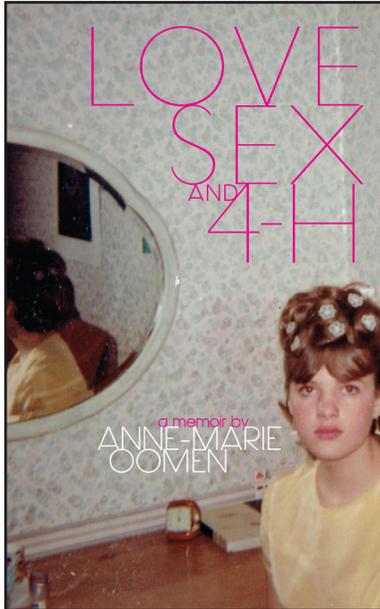




NEWS FROM
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

For immediate release

New Memoir from
Michigan Author Anne-Marie Oomen



BOOK INFORMATION:

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Made in Michigan Writers Series

DETROIT, April 1, 2015—As the 1960s dawned in small-town Michigan, Anne-Marie Oomen was a naive farm girl whose mother was determined to keep her out of trouble—by keeping her in 4-H. In *Love, Sex, and 4-H*, Oomen sets the wholesomeness of her domestic lessons in 4-H club from 1959 to 1969 against the political and sexual revolution of the time. Between sewing her first dish towel and finishing the yellow dress she wears to senior prom, Oomen brings readers along as she falls in and out of love, wins her first prize, learns to kiss, survives her first heartbreak, and makes almost all of her clothes.

Love, Sex, and 4-H begins as Oomen struggles to sew a straight seam and works hard to embody the 4-H pledge of loyalty, service, and better living. But even as she wins her first modeling competition and masters more difficult stitches and patterns, Oomen finds that she is not immune to the chaos of the outside world. After the Kennedy assassination, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and her own short stay in a convent, Oomen encounters the biggest change of all—public school. In this new world of school dances, short skirts, and raging hormones, Oomen's orderly life will be complicated by her first kiss, first boyfriend, first store-bought dress, and finally, first love. All the while, she must negotiate her mother's expectations, her identity as a good 4-H girl, and her awareness of growing social and political unrest.

Oomen brings an insightful and humorous eye to her evolving sexuality, religious beliefs, and sense of self. Fans of memoir will appreciate the honest portrayal of growing up between rebellion and tradition in *Love, Sex, and 4-H*.

About the author: Anne-Marie Oomen is the author of *Pulling Down the Barn* (Wayne State University Press, 2004) and *House of Fields* (Wayne State University Press, 2006), both Michigan Notable Books; *An American Map* (Wayne State University Press, 2010); and *Uncoded Woman*. She serves as instructor at the Solstice MFA in Creative Writing at Pine Manor College (MA), Interlochen's College of Creative Arts (MI), and teaches at conferences throughout the country. She lives near Traverse City, Michigan.

TRAVERSE CITY LAUNCH: Saturday, April 18th, 5-7:30p.m. at The Botanic Gardens at Historic Barns Park (1490 Red Drive, Traverse City, MI 49685). Anne-Marie Oomen will read passages from her new memoir in the beautifully renovated barn and funds raised from the launch will help sponsor the publication of the next Leelanau County 4-H Journalism Club's Newsletter. The book will be available for purchase and signing.

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For more information on this book or the author, please contact Kristina Stonehill, Assistant Editor, Wayne State University Press, (313) 577-6127 tel; (313) 577-6131 fax; kristina.stonehill@wayne.edu.

To learn more about the Press, or to listen to an audio sample from this book, please visit wsupress.wayne.edu.

Wayne State University Press
The Leonard N. Simons Building
4809 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48201-1309

Phone: (800) 978-7323
Fax: (313) 577-6131

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