

Demeter Press – specialists on books about motherhood publish the North American edition of the award winning novel *Borrowed Body* by Dr Valerie Mason-John

Motherhood today in the west is so different to what it looked like a hundred years ago. Yes even in the West it was a village that raised our children. And often the grand mothers raised their grandchildren, while the mothers went out to work.

Today we are lucky if we get to see our grand parents more than once a year. The family has broken down so much, that there is nobody in the family who will take children in when a mother is in crisis. So we raise our children in foster care, children homes and adoptive homes. Mother hood is very different for those of us who grow up in this context.

Born in the 60s I can say I was raised by a village. I grew up in an orphanage, and every adult was your guardian. I am fortunate for my upbringing and know that if I had of been raised by my biological mother, I would not have had the emotional and physical health I experience today. Intuitively I think she knew she couldn't be a mother to any of her kids and gave all four of us up.

I have had several mothers, two of them dead, Aunty Claire and Aunty Morag, and my dad, Uncle Boris who I fictionalize in the novel have all passed over. I have a foster mother still very much alive and my biological mother, so perhaps I am lucky.

Borrowed Body – an award wining novel, once named the British Color Purple has just been published in North America by Demeter Press. It is a slice of quintessential England in the 1960s and 70s, where a black child is born into the new year of 1965, which wasn't prepared to accept an African baby abandoned on a harsh English winter day. So begins Pauline's spirited journey, in the spirit world and in an out of foster homes and back and forth to orphanages. Her spirit friends parent her throughout her moving rites of passage.

I have been asked is their a sequel? My TEDx talk is the sequel – you can watch that first, that may inspire you to read my novel, or you can read the novel that may inspire you to watch the talk. Which ever one you begin with, know this story is one of many children, who do not make it in life.

TEDx Talk

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TKR-IKtaCg&feature=share&list=PLsRNoUx8w3rPfRcvXIuqx_21y0Iuw2vkF&index=11

Borrowed Body

http://www.amazon.com/Borrowed-Body-Valerie-Mason-John/dp/1927335361/ref=sr_1_fkmr1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1385510352&sr=1-1-fkmr1&keywords=Borrowed+Body%2C+Valerie+Mason-John