

Love, Faith Raymond Connors
Midgie



2018 DIGITAL EDITION
WITH HYPERLINKED RESOURCES

Based on a true story

Love, Midgie

dot dash dot dot
dash dash dash
dot dot dot dash
dot

dash dash
dot dot
dash dot dot
dash dash dot
dot dot
dot

FAITH RAYMOND CONNORS

Published by BelleAire Press. LLC, Gainesville, Florida

Copyright © 2007-2018 by Faith R. Connors. Jacket illustration copyright 2007 by BelleAire Press.

This e-book is licensed for your personal enjoyment only, and is not to re-sold or given away to other people. If you would like to share this book with another person, please purchase an additional copy for each person. If you're reading this book and did not purchase it, or it was not purchased for your use only, then please purchase your own copy. Thank you for respecting the hard work of this author and other contributors.

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. By payment of the required fees, you have been granted the nonexclusive, nontransferable right to access and read the text of this e- book on-screen. No part of this text or images may be reproduced, transmitted, decompile, reverse-engineered, or stored in or introduced into any information storage and retrieval system, in any form or by any means, whether electronic or mechanical, now known or hereafter invented – except in the case of brief quotations in articles or reviews – without the express written permission of BelleAire Press.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Connors, Faith Raymond

Love, Midgie/Faith Raymond Connors

Summary: Eight-year old Midgie Morris lives in central Florida with her family on a small farm. Her father also works for the railroad as a telegrapher. But one day in 1918 everything changes for Midgie's family when her mother falls ill during the Spanish flu epidemic. The family moves to the historic Springfield neighborhood of Jacksonville, Florida where her mother can receive better medical care in a large hospital—and hopefully recover. Midgie's adventures in Springfield and during travels to relatives across the southeastern United States on the train—by herself—provide exciting opportunities to learn a great deal about her world. Despite some scary moments, Midgie learns many useful lessons that she soon puts to good use in reuniting her family and helping her friends. *Love, Midgie* is based on a true story and is illustrated with historic photographs and post cards, including photographs from Midgie's family photograph album. Readers are able to see views of the actual locations, neighborhoods and houses Midgie saw in 1918.

ISBN 0-9640138-1-9 ISBN13 978-0-9640138-1-0

ISBN ePUB 0-9640139-4-3 ISBN13 ePUB 978-0-9640138-4-1

The text of this book is set in 12 point Garamond.

Editor Tracy D. Connors. Illustrations Faith R. Connors.

Printed in the United States of America

2007-2018

For...

*Andrew Jeffrey
Catherine Cottrell
Marie Danielle
Joshua Warren
and
William Tracy*

*based on events taken from the life of their
great grandmother
Miriam Morris Connors
whose childhood nickname was “Midgie.”*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Without the invaluable assistance of the following individuals or organizations, *Love, Midge* could not have been written.

Miriam Morris Connors

1916-2011

Sybil Browne Bray (deceased)
J. William Brinkley
Diana G. Brotherton-Ware Townsend
Dr. Gabe L. Campbell (deceased)
Tracy D. Connors
Miriam Faith Connors-McCarns
Pauline Furey
Karen Connors Henson
Jacksonville Historical Society
Jacksonville Public Library System
Jacksonville University
Dr. Frances B. Kinne
Levy County Historical and Genealogical Society
Library of Congress
Ruth K. Miller
National Archives and Records Administration
Sandra Ottenberg
Marilyn Penney
Rita Reagan
Fay Lafferty Smothers (deceased)
Springfield Heritage Education Center
Springfield Preservation & Revitalization Association

CONTENTS & ILLUSTRATIONS

CHAPTER ONE P. 1

COFFEE CAN SERENADE

Fort King Street, Ocala, Florida, post card
Coffee cans, drawings
Assafetida bag, drawing
Eason Smith store, Summerfield, Florida, photograph
Emma Lee Smith Morris and Henry Tracy Morris, family photographs
Midgie's doll house, drawing
Cigar box, drawing
Morse code, chart
Telegraph key, drawing
Emma's mandolin and crazy quilt, drawings

CHAPTER TWO P. 26

WISHING AND WHISTLING FOR HOME

Jacksonville Beach, Florida, boardwalk post card
Croaker sack, drawing
Miriam and Henry Morris, croquet game, family photograph
Henry and Emma Smith Morris house, drawing
Summerfield Church and School, drawings

CHAPTER THREE P. 40

AN INTERRUPTED JOURNEY

Steam engine at Union Terminal Station, post card
Midgie and Henry, face masks, drawing

CHAPTER FOUR P. 54

FARM WORK

Tomato farmer, post card
Chicken coop, drawing

Tomato horn worm, drawing
Bull ant, drawing

CHAPTER FIVE P. 66
LONELIEST CHILD

Downtown Ocala, Florida, post card
Gopher tortoise, drawing
Eason Smith house and store, drawings
Florida Piney Woods/Stogie's Pond, drawing

CHAPTER SIX P. 76
HOMESICK

Union Terminal Station, post card
Laura Street, Springfield, Jacksonville, Florida, post card

CHAPTER SEVEN P. 86
A STRANGE NEW HOME IN SPRINGFIELD

Main Street, streetcar, Jacksonville, Florida, post card
Big Jim, steam whistle, drawing
Liberty Street home, drawing
Max's Deli, drawing
Waterworks Park, Jacksonville, Florida, post card

CHAPTER EIGHT P. 102
WATER BALLET AND CANNONBALLS

Springfield Pool, Jacksonville, Florida, photograph
Midgie Morris, photograph

CHAPTER NINE P. 112
NEWS FROM COUSIN GRACE

Jacksonville Beach by moonlight, post card
Hemming Park, Jacksonville, Florida, post card
Springfield Park, Jacksonville, Florida, post card

CHAPTER TEN P. 122
FINDING ROSE'S HOUSE

Dixieland Park, Jacksonville, Florida, post card
Church Street, Jacksonville, Florida, post card
Laura Street, Springfield, Jacksonville, Florida, post card

CHAPTER ELEVEN P. 132
WHOSE PUPPY IS IT?

Rose Arbor, Confederate Park, Jacksonville, Florida, post
card

CHAPTER TWELVE P. 140
PUPPY PROBLEMS

St. Johns River, Jacksonville, Florida, aerial view, post card
St. Johns River, Jacksonville, Florida, evening scene, post
card

CHAPTER THIRTEEN P. 154
HENRY'S BIG LIE

Steamer on the Ocklawaha, Florida, photograph
Hemming Park, Jacksonville, Florida, evening scene

CHAPTER FOURTEEN P. 164
FROG STRANGLER

Waterworks Park, "Big Joe," Jacksonville, Florida, post card

CHAPTER FIFTEEN P. 172
A RIDE ON A STREETCAR

Railroad Terminal, Ocala, Florida, post card
Central Fire Station/Library, Jacksonville, Florida, post card
City Hall, Jacksonville, Florida, post card

CHAPTER SIXTEEN P. 182
MRS. PORTER'S TEMPLE OF
KNOWLEDGE

Springfield Branch Library, Jacksonville, Florida, photograph

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN P. 192
GONE EXPLORING

Hemming Park, Band Stand, Jacksonville, Florida, post card

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN P. 200
CASA DE BALLET AT THE FAIR

St. Johns River Ferry, post card

CHAPTER NINETEEN P. 208
A SURPRISE TRIP

Railroad Passenger Train, post card

Union Terminal Station, Jacksonville, Florida, post card

CHAPTER TWENTY P. 222
BAD EXPERIENCES IN ALABAMA

Dog's Paw, post card

Henry Caston Morris, photograph

CHAPTER TWENTY ONE P. 232
BOUND FOR CHATTANOOGA ON THE
CHOO CHOO

Fort King Street, Ocala, Florida, post card

CHAPTER TWENTY TWO P. 242
BLOOMERS AND BUTTERFLIES

Pudgy, photograph

Isadora Caston Morris, Timmonsville backyard, photograph

CHAPTER TWENTY THREE P. 252

POSTMAN TO THE RESCUE

Streetcar, Main Street, Jacksonville, Florida, post card

Silver mesh bag, drawing

Railroad Station, Hartsville, South Carolina, drawing

CHAPTER TWENTY FOUR P. 262

COUSIN LIL AND JASMINE BOWER

Laura Street, Downtown Jacksonville, Florida, post card

Daisy Morris Howle, photograph

Sarah Howle, photograph

Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee, post card

CHAPTER TWENTY FIVE P. 276

HOME TO SPRINGFIELD

Confederate Park, Springfield, Jacksonville, Florida, post card

Bay Street, Jacksonville, Florida, post card

CHAPTER TWENTY SIX P. 284

MIDGIE AND HENRY

Mossy oaks, Springfield, Jacksonville, Florida, post card

Springfield Park, Jacksonville, Florida, post card

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Faith Raymond Connors was born in Stamford, Connecticut and went to public schools there. She graduated from the University of Connecticut and worked as an elementary grades teacher in Middletown, RI and Jacksonville, FL. After completing a Master of Arts in Teaching (Reading), at Jacksonville University, she served as a Title One reading teacher in Duval County, Florida before teaching at the high school level in Charlottesville, Virginia and Prince Frederick, MD for several years. The majority of her teaching career was spent in Maryland as a high school teacher and as Extension Educator with the University of Maryland. After retiring as Associate Professor, she focused on completing several new works of historical fiction. She co-authored *Flavors of the Fjords* with Tracy Connors, Bjørn Fladvad and Tove Fladvad of Oslo, Norway.

The real Midgie, or the character of Midgie, is based on Miriam Morris Connors, the author's mother-in-law. Most of the events in *Love, Midgie* actually happened to her during her childhood. The real Midgie shared many of these childhood experiences with the author over the course of the nearly five years it took for the book to be written.

Midgie's brother, Henry Caston Morris, was every bit as lively as he is portrayed in *Love, Midgie*.

Her friend, Rose, as well as her cousins, Sarah, Grace, Angus and the others were all a part of her childhood adventures.

Aunt Daisy and Uncle Tom were very special to Midgie and helped her through some very difficult times. Henry was always with her in spirit, as were here Mama (Emma Lee Smith Morris, Summerfield, FL, and Daddy (Henry Tracy Morris, Timmons ville, SC).

About *Love, Midgie*, she was delighted the real Midgie liked the book and felt it was true to her southern childhood experiences. Also, that this true-to-life story will be enjoyed by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to whom this book is dedicated..

She lives in Florida with her husband, Tracy, where they write books, grow oranges and lemons in their garden and drink plenty of (un)sweet tea. They have two grown daughters.