



Waterford, CT Author Publishes Debut Novel

In This Novel a Long Buried Family Secret Breaks apart a Woman's Seemingly Perfect World

The Growing-Tree, a new book by Gwen Mariani, has been released by Dorrance Publishing Co., Inc.

Lizzi Young lives in a small New England town with her husband, two teenage sons, and four dogs. At forty-four years old she finds herself living the life she dreamed of, but something has been stirring beneath the foundation of safety and security on which she has built her life and family. A passing spring storm reveals a hole in her beautiful backyard, and Lizzi begins to question the solid foundation she has depended on all these years. Roots from a large oak tree, cut down several years earlier, have finally disintegrated, collapsing within and exposing the past devastation to the light of day. This discovery comes on the heels of her extended family becoming bitter and estranged after the death of her grandmother, Gigi, three years earlier. As they attempt to drag her into the latest family saga that creates a clear divide in the ones she loves, it quickly becomes the most difficult decision she has ever had to make.

Unable to make sense of the emotional turmoil she feels for them and the strong stance not to get involved this time, she finds herself deep in the center of a long-ago buried issue. This groundbreaking breakthrough reveals her past in a whole new light, and she finds a new perspective on her beliefs and the family that raised her. This hole is a catalyst for Lizzi to dig up her past and come to terms with the crumbling foundation of her family structure. Through childhood memories that flood her mind Lizzi struggles to face her own insecurities and is determined to heal this damaged part of her landscape and life.

Along with a little encouragement from her deceased grandmother, Gigi, insights from her quirky and elderly Aunt Eleanor, and an unlikely connection to a lonely neighbor, Lizzi finds the strength to rebuild her foundation and grow as an individual.

About the Author

Gwen Mariani resides in Waterford, Connecticut, with her husband, two sons, and three dogs. She is an inventor, an artist, and an intuitive who is inspired by nature and animals. Gwen has been writing short stories, poetry, and affirmations for more than thirty years. *The Growing-Tree* is her first novel.

The Growing-Tree is a 274-page paperback with a retail price of \$19.00. The ISBN is 978-1-4809-5132-7. It was published by Dorrance Publishing Co., Inc of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. For more information, or to request a review copy, please go to our virtual pressroom at www.dorrancepressroom.com or our online bookstore www.bookstore.dorrancepublishing.com.