

Growth: A Mother, Her Son, and the Brain Tumor They Survived

Author's debut memoir about the overwhelming demands of motherhood and harrowing consequences of not speaking up will be released on May 2 to coincide with brain tumor awareness month.

***Can a woman who never learned to stand up for herself
find the courage to speak up for her son?***

Karen is a happily married, slightly frazzled mother of two when her eight-year-old son, Matthew, develops a strange eye-rolling tic. Matthew's tics quickly multiply. He becomes clumsy and lethargic, a gifted program dropout. Karen tries to get her husband and their pediatrician to acknowledge what's happening, but they dismiss her concerns. As a people-pleaser, Karen lacks the skills to assert herself and stifles the growing dread in her heart.

For three years, Matthew steadily deteriorates while Karen questions if she has the fortitude required of motherhood. Finally, desperation breaks through her fear of conflict, and she demands answers, only to be horrified by the truth. Matthew has a brain tumor.

A delicate surgery and promise of complete recovery convince Karen her battle is over. But she is wrong. The ensuing years launch her on a journey of perseverance and personal growth she never imagined, teaching Karen just how weak she is--and then exactly how strong.

"A saga of personal transformation and resilience that will resonate with any parent charged with acting in their child's best interests."

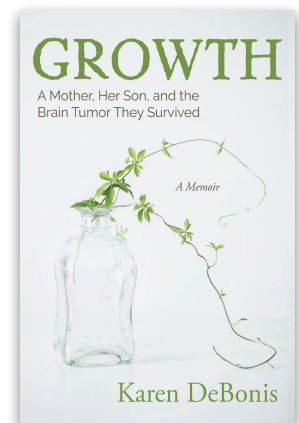
~ D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Review

"A fine writer has delivered a beautiful book."

~Marion Roach Smith, author of *The Memoir Project, A Thoroughly Non-Standardized Text for Writing & Life*.

"Heartbreakingly painful and inspiring."

~Judy Goldman, author of *Child: A Memoir*, a 2022 Katie Couric Media Must-Read New Book



Born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, Karen DeBonis has lived in Troy, NY—her husband Michael’s hometown—for 40 years. They raised two sons, now adults, and savor their hard-won empty nest in an old house in constant need of DIY assistance. Karen’s work has appeared in [The New York Times](#), [Huff Post](#), [Today.com](#), [Newsweek.com](#) and others. Find out more at www.karendebonis.com and follow her on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).



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