



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An important message for women today.

Apprentice House Press announces the publication of *Growth: A Mother, Her Son, and the Brain Tumor They Survived* (9781627204354), a debut memoir by Karen DeBonis. It's the story of a women's naïve expectations of motherhood and her inability to assert herself, even when her son's survival depended on it. *Growth* poses the question "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.

"Women's concerns are often dismissed by healthcare providers," DeBonis says. "When a mother who fears conflict needs to advocate for her child, the problem is magnified. My book illustrates why it's critical for women to find and use their voices."

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, Karen DeBonis has lived with her husband in Troy, NY for 40 years. Their two sons are now adults, and Karen savors her hard-won empty nest. 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](#).

Growth is available on [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Bookshop.org](#), and wherever books are sold.