

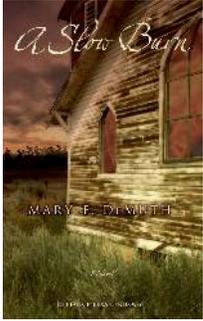
NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Distinct Literary Voice Continues Story of Gritty Redemption *Mary DeMuth releases much-anticipated second novel in the Defiance Texas Trilogy*

Grand Rapids, Mich., Aug. 12, 2009 – Award-winning author Mary E. DeMuth’s new literary novel, *A Slow Burn* (October 2009), surrounds the reader in hope amidst an authentic and gritty storyline.



DeMuth’s readers are anxiously awaiting the second installment in the Defiance Texas Trilogy and the answers to the questions thirteen-year-old Daisy’s disappearance and death triggered.

DeMuth tells a gripping story about a mother’s regret, grief and the redeeming power of God’s love and forgiveness. Her distinctive new voice in Christian fiction taps into readers’ own experiences and allows them to feel the hurt and pain in Defiance, Texas but ultimately leaves them with a sense of hope and the power of courageous love.

“[DeMuth’s] books are beautifully and sensitively written, and her characters are realistic and well-developed. She has a true gift for showing how God’s light can penetrate even the darkest of situations, and start to turn lives around.”

- Chuck Colson

Disturbed by a friend’s story about living with an abusive father who held a prominent position in a church but was never suspected of the abuse because of his position, Mary set out to write the *Defiance Texas Trilogy*. According to DeMuth “*The Defiance Texas Trilogy* is my exploration of these types of family secrets. I didn’t write to impugn or to harass. I wrote to shed light on a sad reality for some families. So that readers would no longer feel alone. So that redemption could shine on such a dark family canvas.”

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DeMuth’s desire is to see readers set free from their family secrets. In light of that, she’s provided a place for readers to anonymously share their family secrets. Since the blog launched in February 2009, over 150 survivors have emailed their family secrets for DeMuth to anonymously post. For more information visit the blog at: <http://blog.myfamilysecrets.org>.

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About Mary DeMuth

Author and speaker Mary DeMuth helps people turn their trials to triumph. Her books include *Daisy Chain*, *Ordinary Mom*, *Extraordinary God*, *Building the Christian Family You Never Had*, *Watching the Tree Limbs*, *Wishing on Dandelions* and *Authentic Parenting in a Postmodern Culture*. She is working on her upcoming memoir, *Thin Places*. Mary lives with her husband Patrick and their three children in Texas. Visit her website at <http://www.marydemuth.com>.

About *A Slow Burn*

A Slow Burn
By Mary E. DeMuth
Zondervan
9780310278375

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About Zondervan

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About Mary DeMuth Author of *A Slow Burn* & *The Defiance Texas Trilogy*

A child of a broken and unsafe home, Mary learned early on how to pray to an unseen God for protection. Like the characters in her stories, she encountered mentors and friends who helped guide her through many trials and scrapes. And through all that, she told stories. To herself. To imaginary friends. To her diary. Stories of sadness, redemption and hope. Today she pens literary Southern suspense. Her desire is that readers would experience surprising redemption amid the gritty realities of life. Through page-turning stories, Mary helps readers see her characters' trials turn into unexpected triumph.



Mary is currently working on a memoir titled, *Thin Places* (Zondervan, Feb. 2010) that details her own family secrets – an abusive childhood. She shares her incredibly personal journey to find hope and redemption in order to help other victims begin to heal.

Mary is an expert in the field of Pioneer Parenting. She helps Christian parents plow fresh spiritual ground, especially those seeking to break destructive family patterns. Her message guides parents who don't want to duplicate the home where they were raised or didn't have positive parenting role models growing up.

Mary's parenting books include *Authentic Parenting in a Postmodern Culture*, *Building the Christian Family You Never Had* and *Ordinary Mom, Extraordinary God*. Her real-to-life novels inspire people to turn trials into triumphs: *Daisy Chain*, *Watching the Tree Limbs* (2007 Christy Award finalist, ACFW Book of the Year second Place) and *Wishing on Dandelions* (2007 Retailer's Choice Award finalist). Mary is currently working on the remaining book in the Defiance, Texas trilogy and an upcoming memoir entitled *Thin Places*.

Mary is a frequent speaker at women's retreats and parenting seminars, addressing audiences in Germany, Austria, Monaco, Italy, France and the United States. National media regularly seek Mary's candid ability to connect with their listeners. Her radio appearances include FamilyLife Today, Moody Midday Connection and U.S.A. Radio network. She also has articles published in *Marriage Partnership*, *In Touch*, *HomeLife*, *Writer's Digest* and *The Writer*.

Mary and her husband Patrick live in Texas with their three children. They recently returned from breaking new spiritual ground in Southern France where they planted a church.

For more information on Mary DeMuth or to schedule an interview with Mary, contact Robin Geelhoed at 616.698.3345 or robin.geelhoed@zondervan.com

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Q&A with Mary DeMuth Author of *A Slow Burn*

Q: Why did you decide to write the *Defiance, Texas* series?

A: This series birthed from several conversations with a friend who experienced an abusive home, and yet, since the father held a prestigious position in church, no one knew or suspected anything. This made me mad. And when I'm mad, I write.

I wondered how someone's picture of God could form naturally if his/her father figure showed this kind of dichotomy: living as an upstanding citizen in public, yet a raging violent man at home. And in the midst of that, how those who witnessed it ever find redemption in the light?

The Defiance, TX trilogy is my exploration of these types of family secrets. I didn't write to impugn or to harass. I wrote to shed light on a sad reality for some families. So that readers would no longer feel alone. So that redemption could shine on such a dark family canvas.

Q: How has writing about a gritty reality changed you?

A: It's made me hopeful, actually. Because as I've exposed some of these painful family secrets, I've seen people set free. I've seen folks understand the truth that they aren't alone in their struggle. To me, that makes the whole process of exploring gritty truth worth it.

Q: What do you want your readers to take away from *A Slow Burn*?

A: That no matter how far you've strayed or how much you nurse the deepest regret, there is hope after all.

Q: What are you working on now?

A: I'm readying myself for the release of *Thin Places*, my own "family secrets" unleashed on the page. (Zondervan, Feb. 2010)

Q: What has been the hardest part of writing *A Slow Burn*? The most rewarding?

A: The hardest part was taking my character, Emory Chance, down a very difficult path. And yet, the most rewarding was watching her redemption unfold in such a beautiful, painstaking way.

**To schedule an interview with Mary DeMuth, contact Robin Geelhoed
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