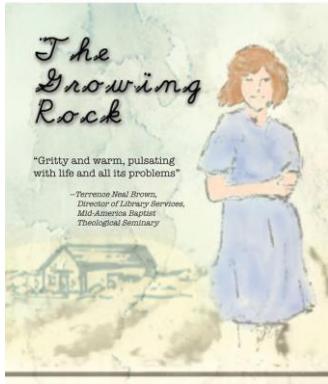




Simone Weingarten
Harvard Square Editions
2152 Beachwood Terrace
Hollywood, California 90068
sw@harvardsquareeditions.org



*Susanna
Lancaster*

PRESS RELEASE

The Growing Rock, by Susanna Lancaster

Harvard Square Editions

Release Date: December 12, 2017

ISBN: 978-1-941861-47-9

Trade paperback and eBook formats

195 pages, \$22.95

YA – Ages 12-15

Available through Ingram, Baker, & Taylor
Brodart, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and bookstores
everywhere

New Young Adult Novel Connects Today's Generation to Life Eighty Years Ago

HOLLYWOOD, CA, July 8, 2017—A new young adult novel, *The Growing Rock* (Harvard Square Editions), by debut author Susanna Lancaster, depicts the Great Depression era in a fresh light with striking historical details and transports readers of today to the world of 1937. Intended for early Young Adult readers, the book explores complex family dynamics and significant cross-generational themes, such as physical development and body image, poverty, depression, and grief.

Told from a close third-person point of view, *The Growing Rock* traces the story of fourteen-year-old Caroline Neal during the summer of 1937 in the small town of Ripley, TN. When both Papa and her favorite brother George leave the family cotton farm to find work elsewhere, the life she knows quickly begins to change. Her older sister Blanche constantly runs off and leaves her with added responsibilities. Feeling different around her best friend Peter and trying to please those around her, Caroline faces the delicate struggles of growing up and must not give in to the hopelessness that is consuming Mama. She finds comfort in an unlikely friendship with the town's recluse and by telling her sickly little sister hopeful stories about the Growing Rock that grows magically larger every summer.



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2152 Beachwood Terrace
Hollywood, California 90068
sw@harvardsquareeditions.org

Susanna Lancaster writes for young people of all ages, with work ranging from chapter books to Young Adult books. She completed her M.F.A. in Creative Writing for Young People from Lesley University. Her writing has appeared in *Balloons Lit Journal* and *Hieroglyph Literary Journal*. She also writes for the magazines *Memphis Health + Fitness* and *The Perpetual You*. *The Growing Rock* is Susanna's first published book.



"Through rich visual prose and historical detail, *The Growing Rock* deftly captures life for a young girl coming of age in the cotton fields of the South during the Great Depression. You'll feel a part of those unsettling times, fall in love with Caroline, and be embraced by the warmth of her struggling family."

—Pat Lowery Collins, acclaimed author of *The Fattening Hut* and *Hidden Voices*

"*The Growing Rock* moves from fairy tale to tough times as Caroline and her family face the Great Depression and fears for Caroline's beloved brother who disappears after leaving home to find work. This gentle coming-of-age story makes you remember moments you've never lived and reminds you we can still find sweetness in the hardest of times."

—Susan E. Goodman, award-winning author of *The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial*

"Gritty and warm, pulsating with life and all its problems, *The Growing Rock* connects previous generations to the millennial generation through trials, love, and rugged endurance."

—Terrence Neal Brown, director of library services at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary

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