

Pears on a Willow Tree

By Leslie Pietrzyk

Download Read Online

Pears on a Willow Tree By Leslie Pietrzyk

Pears on a Willow Tree is a multigenerational roadmap of love and hate, distance and closeness, and the lure of roots that both bind and sustain us all.

The Marchewka women are inseparable. They relish the joys of family gatherings; from preparing traditional holiday meals to organizing a wedding in which each of them is given a specific task -- whether it's sewing the bridal gown or preserving pickles as a gift to the newlyweds. Bound together by recipes, reminiscences and tangled relationships, these women are the foundation of a dignified, compassionate family--one that has learned to survive the hardships of emigration and assimilation in twentieth-century America.

But as the century evolves, so does each succeeding generation. As the older women keep a tight hold on the family traditions passed from mother to daughter, the younger women are dealing with more modern problems, wounds not easily healed by the advice of a local priest or a kind word from mother.

Amy is separated by four generations from her great-grandmother Rose, who emigrated from Poland. Rose's daughter Helen adjusted to the family's new home in a way her mother never could, while at the same time accepting the importance of Old Country ways. But Helen's daughter Ginger finds herself suffocating within the close-knit family, the first Marchewka woman to leave Detroit for the adventure of life beyond the reach of her mother and grandmother.

It's in the American West that Giner raises her daughter Amy, uprooted from the safety of kitchens perfuned by the aroma of freshly baked poppy seed cake and pierogi made by hand by generations of women. But Amy is about to realize that there may be room in her heart for both the Old World and the New.

Download Pears on a Willow Tree ...pdf

Read Online Pears on a Willow Tree ...pdf

Pears on a Willow Tree

By Leslie Pietrzyk

Pears on a Willow Tree By Leslie Pietrzyk

Pears on a Willow Tree is a multigenerational roadmap of love and hate, distance and closeness, and the lure of roots that both bind and sustain us all.

The Marchewka women are inseparable. They relish the joys of family gatherings; from preparing traditional holiday meals to organizing a wedding in which each of them is given a specific task -- whether it's sewing the bridal gown or preserving pickles as a gift to the newlyweds. Bound together by recipes, reminiscences and tangled relationships, these women are the foundation of a dignified, compassionate family--one that has learned to survive the hardships of emigration and assimilation in twentieth-century America.

But as the century evolves, so does each succeeding generation. As the older women keep a tight hold on the family traditions passed from mother to daughter, the younger women are dealing with more modern problems, wounds not easily healed by the advice of a local priest or a kind word from mother.

Amy is separated by four generations from her great-grandmother Rose, who emigrated from Poland. Rose's daughter Helen adjusted to the family's new home in a way her mother never could, while at the same time accepting the importance of Old Country ways. But Helen's daughter Ginger finds herself suffocating within the close-knit family, the first Marchewka woman to leave Detroit for the adventure of life beyond the reach of her mother and grandmother.

It's in the American West that Giner raises her daughter Amy, uprooted from the safety of kitchens perfuned by the aroma of freshly baked poppy seed cake and pierogi made by hand by generations of women. But Amy is about to realize that there may be room in her heart for both the Old World and the New.

Pears on a Willow Tree By Leslie Pietrzyk Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1080782 in Books
- Published on: 1999-07-01
- Released on: 1999-07-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .65" w x 5.25" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

Download Pears on a Willow Tree ...pdf

Read Online Pears on a Willow Tree ...pdf

Download and Read Free Online Pears on a Willow Tree By Leslie Pietrzyk

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
Leslie Pietrzyk's *Pears on a Willow Tree* starts with a recipe for *pierogi* and ends with one for poppy-seed cake. In between, four generations of Polish-American women talk, cook, argue, sew each other's wedding dresses, tell stories, and understand and misunderstand each other in the way that only mothers and daughters can. Starting with iron-willed Rose, who emigrates from Poland, and ending with Amy, who flees the role of her alcoholic mother's keeper, the Marchewka women enact an ancient dance of embracing and rejecting the tradition they come from. "It is the girls who keep the family alive," Rose writes to her Polish mother; but it is also true that, as she later tells her great-granddaughter, "It's impossible for a good daughter to leave; it's impossible for a good daughter to stay." Many of the chapters in *Pears on a Willow Tree* were first published as stories, and they sometimes hang together a trifle too neatly, with none of a novel's usual depth or range. But Pietrzyk has a nifty, uncluttered prose style and above all a keen ear for the way women really do talk. *Pears on a Willow Tree* is a promising debut from a writer with a gift for the enduring art of domestic portraiture.

From Publishers Weekly
A family saga comprising 16 self-contained chapters, each a monologue (or dialogue) featuring one of four women in a prolific Polish-American clan, this compelling debut is an example of the novel-in-stories at its best. In prose as plain and four-square as her protagonists, Pietrzyk traces the family's evolution from 1919 through the late 1980s, from its transplantation to the U.S.?specifically, Detroit?through three generations, showing how the older women (who privately refer to themselves as Marchewskas, after matriarch Rose's maiden name) preserve ethnic traditions and family customs and why their daughters shake them off. Of the 10 women of the Marchewska family, the book focuses upon Rose, her daughter Helen, granddaughter Ginger (the rebel who abandons Detroit and settles in Phoenix) and great-granddaughter Amy. The voices of these four women are quite different?Rose's primal and earthy; Helen's pathetic; Ginger's cool, irreverent, iconoclastic and questioning; Amy's tempered and mature beyond her years. Reading this novel is like leafing through a family photo album (one of Pietrzyk's favored motifs) except that, once you pick up this book, it's hard to put it down.
Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Booklist
"If we know we can't have the thing we want most, why does our desire for it never lessen?" asks Amy, the fourth generation of Polish women in this memorable first novel. Although there are snatches of Polish lore and cuisine, this taut story is really about mothers and daughters. From Rose, who in 1919 writes to her mother in Poland that she has a new, American name, to Helen, who made her peace with old ways and new in Detroit, to Ginger, who left the family she found suffocating only to find another kind of slow asphyxiation in alcohol, to her daughter Amy, who taught English in Thailand but holds the ties of memory her mother tried so hard to cut, the tale dips and weaves like the ebb and flow of voices overheard from the kitchen. Pietrzyk is neither sentimental nor detached; instead, her women, tied by blood, sound like relatives we recognize. Similar in its grace and theme to Anna Monardo's lovely *Courtyard of Dreams* (1993).
GraceAnne A. DeCandido

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christopher Milbrandt:

What do you concentrate on book? It is just for students since they are still students or it for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that query above. Every person has several personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be compelled someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great as well as important the book Pears on a Willow Tree. All type of book are you able to see on many options. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

Jenny Perez:

Do you one of people who can't read pleasurable if the sentence chained inside straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This Pears on a Willow Tree book is readable by means of you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving possibly decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer regarding Pears on a Willow Tree content conveys the idea easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different in the form of it. So , do you continue to thinking Pears on a Willow Tree is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

Sherrie Smith:

The book with title Pears on a Willow Tree posesses a lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This kind of book exist new know-how the information that exist in this publication represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to understand how the improvement of the world. This book will bring you in new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

Robert Williams:

You can get this Pears on a Willow Tree by visit the bookstore or Mall. Just viewing or reviewing it may to be your solve challenge if you get difficulties for the knowledge. Kinds of this e-book are various. Not only through written or printed but can you enjoy this book simply by e-book. In the modern era such as now, you just looking by your mobile phone and searching what their problem. Right now, choose your own personal ways to get more information about your reserve. It is most important to arrange yourself to make your knowledge are still upgrade. Let's try to choose correct ways for you.

Download and Read Online Pears on a Willow Tree By Leslie Pietrzyk #IWU57KJO8QN

Read Pears on a Willow Tree By Leslie Pietrzyk for online ebook

Pears on a Willow Tree By Leslie Pietrzyk Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Pears on a Willow Tree By Leslie Pietrzyk books to read online.

Online Pears on a Willow Tree By Leslie Pietrzyk ebook PDF download

Pears on a Willow Tree By Leslie Pietrzyk Doc

Pears on a Willow Tree By Leslie Pietrzyk Mobipocket

Pears on a Willow Tree By Leslie Pietrzyk EPub