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# Author Bio

At age eight, Deborah S. Greenhut announced her ambition to become an author. Her mother replied, "Become a teacher instead to make a living."

Crestfallen, ten-year-old Deborah perfected her skill with a spangled baton to twirl solo as her school's mascot. A one-time concert-pianist-in-training, Deborah longed to trade up for a conductor's baton, but that career path seemed closed to women in the 1960s.

After earning her B.A. in English from Middlebury College then a PhD from Rutgers University, she pursued her original dream by becoming a writer, a teacher, and, later, a dean.

Her poems and cultural reviews have appeared in print and online at [www.oobr.com](http://www.oobr.com), [medium.com](https://medium.com), and Red Booth Review. Her way-off Broadway production of "*Difficult Subjects*," was selected for the Best Plays of the Strawberry Festival, Volume 2. A multi-genre work, *How I Live. With Terror*, developed as an artist-in-residence at 92 Street Y/Makor, appeared in [www.Zeek.net](http://www.Zeek.net).

In 2017, she received the Princemere Poetry Prize. *The Hoarder's Wife* is her first novel. Deborah now lives in a clean house in New Jersey where she can focus on making art in a room of her own.



**Deborah S. Greenhut**



**First Place Firebird Book Awards in the Divorce and Contemporary Fiction categories**

**Princemere Prize for Poetry (2017)**

**Strawberry Play Festival Winner, "Difficult Subjects," "Jimmies" (various years); *Difficult Subjects* was published in Volume 2 of Best Plays of the Strawberry Short Festival**

**Title: The Hoarder's Wife**

**Publisher: Woodhall Press (April 5, 2022)**

**Language: English**

**Paperback: 280 pages**

**ISBN-10: 1949116638**

**ISBN-13: 978-1949116632**

**Item Weight: 13.3 ounces**

**Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches**

**Formats: Paperback, Kindle**

**Amazon: [LINK](#)**

# Book Bio

## The Hoarder's Wife

It wasn't quite Marie Kondo meets Grey Gardens in *The Women's Room*, but it was close. Professor Ludwig Berg hoarded; Grace Berg gave away as much as she could. During their thirty-five years of marriage, Luddy was all about the concrete, while abstract Grace sidelined her career in music because marriage and the family required it.

At sixty, Grace divorced him to claim her space in the arts, but, by taking his own life, it seemed that Luddy had written the last movement of their relationship. Or did he?

A symphony can have a coda. Following Luddy's tragic suicide, Grace reunites with her sons in the house where her husband hoarded, reclaiming the literal journal of her adult life to make sense of how she came to be *The Hoarder's Wife* so she can complete her abandoned concerto.

Without this painful reckoning, she knows the music will never come. Every caregiver must reckon with the question of how much to give, if only Grace can learn to keep time.

# Testimonials

## Editorial Reviews

"A powerful debut novel. In compassionate but piercing prose, Greenhut reveals the incipient nature of hoarding and its capacity to envelop and poison a marriage. The story of Luddy and Grace is a moving tribute to the challenges of living within the confines of an uncontrollable situation—and knowing when to get out. This is a compelling and illuminating read."

*Claudia Kalb, **Andy Warhol was a Hoarder: Inside the Minds of History's Great Personalities**, and **Spark: How Genius Ignites, from Prodigies to Late Bloomers**.*

"Greenhut's writing pops off the page, and readers who enjoy literary fiction will want to pick up this debut."

*Cari Dubiel, Author of **How to Remember***

"Debut novelist Greenhut offers a moving and memorable chronicle of the unraveling of a woman's long and troubled marriage to an emotionally distant hoarder. The narrator is stung again and again—literally so, in a sad-but-witty chapter on bees—by her husband's indifference to her plight. I savored every page of this deeply engaging book, as it flashes back and forward, in a set of journal entries recorded by the wife about her life with a man whose motto might well be 'My kingdom for a hoard.' The structural and textual references to music, ranging from Motown to *Peter and the Wolf* to all manner of classical music, heightened this reader's pleasure in this poignant, erudite, and utterly absorbing novel."

*Shelley Frisch, author and translator*

## Amazon Reviews

***5.0 out of 5 stars [moving, well-written and real](#)***

This remarkably solid and extremely well written novel about a hoarder's wife who is a harpist who aspires to write and conduct music was absorbing and demonstrates a wonderful understanding of the dynamic of a marriage where one partner has a severe pathology. Vivid, poetic descriptions animate the action. The book successfully immersed me in the emotional trials and turmoil of the main character. The book is structured in a way that each chapter is a musical movement. Her descriptions and metaphors of music were illuminating and original and heightened my understanding of music—something I am not often exposed to in my life and reading. As to structure: the time shifts back and forth worked for me. Highly recommend.

***5.0 out of 5 stars [Fantastic Book](#)***

This was a wonderful book. I was drawn in from the first couple of pages, and could not put it down. The writer is truly gifted to tell this story. This brought me inside the world of a wife and family who lived with someone defined as a "hoarder" almost brought into their mind. Deborah is a gifted writer and this book was excellent. I highly recommend!

# Topics to Discuss

**Communication**

**Hoarding**

**Relationships in troubled families**

**Women's issues**



# Target Audience

**Mental health and counseling  
professionals**

**Literary fiction readers**

**People living with partners in crisis**

**Women's issues**

# Book Excerpt

**“As we leave the doctor’s office, I feel apprehensively intoxicated by what we’ve learned, and what lies ahead, though I’m not quite sure about how to forget about the last two decades of knowing Luddy. I have managed to live with the quirks of ADHD without understanding it for so long. Now, armed with this new information, I know I’ll need to make some radical changes too.**

**We face each other at this huge moment of truth, which feels like a glacial Alaskan crevasse where feelings and history go to die. The roar of ice calving away from itself is the sound that haunts my waking hours. It’s gonna take a miracle.”**

**--page 187**

**Link to video of my reading of excerpts on Amazon:**

**[VISIT PAGE](#)**



# Previous Media

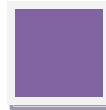
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|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Podcasts</b>                                           |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| April 4, 2022<br>Reach: 10.5k                             | Finding Favorites with Leah Jones                                | <a href="https://findingfavorites.podbean.com">https://findingfavorites.podbean.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                         |
| April 5, 2022                                             | This Podcast will Change Your Life with Ben Tanzer               | <a href="https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/this-podcast-will-change-your-life-episode-two-hundred/id564098800?i=1000556319267">https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/this-podcast-will-change-your-life-episode-two-hundred/id564098800?i=1000556319267</a> |
| April 25, 2022/Live April 26, 2022<br>Reach 2+ Million WW | A Place Called Through with Patricia Wade-Goings (WYTV7.org)     | <a href="https://www.wytv7.org/a-place-called-through">https://www.wytv7.org/a-place-called-through</a>                                                                                                                                                         |
| April 25, 2022                                            | Betterism with Glen Binger                                       | <a href="https://anchor.fm/betterism">https://anchor.fm/betterism</a>                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| April 29, 2022                                            | It Takes two with Amy Iler & JJ                                  | <a href="https://omny.fm/shows/it-takes-2-with-amy-ij/deborah-greenhut-author-of-the-hoarders-wife">https://omny.fm/shows/it-takes-2-with-amy-ij/deborah-greenhut-author-of-the-hoarders-wife</a>                                                               |
| <b>Radio Interviews</b>                                   |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| April 27, 2022 (T.B.S.)                                   | It Takes Two with Amy Iler & JJ (Mighty 790 KFGO.COM, Fargo, ND) | <a href="https://kfgo.com/podcasts-it-takes-2-with-amy-ij/">https://kfgo.com/podcasts-it-takes-2-with-amy-ij/</a>                                                                                                                                               |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 28, 2022 (T.B.S.)<br>Top 50 of 100 top podcasts for women | Women Road Warriors with Shelley Johnson & Kathy Tuccaro at TNCRadio.live (Talk show for women in the trucking industry) | <a href="https://pod.co/women-road-warriors">https://pod.co/women-road-warriors</a><br><br>May 3, 2022—Facebook Live (prerecorded event):                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| May 3, 2022 (T.B.S.)<br>1000s of radio stations                 | Speak Up Talk Radio/Speak Up and Stay Alive interview with Pat Rullo                                                     | <a href="https://www.speakuptalkradio.com/author-deborah-s-greenhut/">https://www.speakuptalkradio.com/author-deborah-s-greenhut/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Print Interviews</b>                                         |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| March 28, 2022<br>500K-1M views                                 | LitReactor Interview with Ben Tanzer                                                                                     | <a href="https://litreactor.com/interviews/yeah-i-think-its-starting-to-work-a-conversation-with-debut-author-deborah-greenhut">https://litreactor.com/interviews/yeah-i-think-its-starting-to-work-a-conversation-with-debut-author-deborah-greenhut</a>                                                                                        |
| April 5, 2022                                                   | If My Book on Monkey Bicycle                                                                                             | <a href="http://monkeybicycle.net/if-my-book-the-hoarders-wife-deborah-greenhut/">http://monkeybicycle.net/if-my-book-the-hoarders-wife-deborah-greenhut/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| April 22, 2022<br>100K+ views                                   | HypertextMag “In One Question” plus excerpt                                                                              | In One Question: <a href="https://www.hypertextmag.com/one-question-deborah-s-greenhut/">https://www.hypertextmag.com/one-question-deborah-s-greenhut/</a><br><br>Excerpt: <a href="https://www.hypertextmag.com/excerpt-deborah-s-greenhuts-the-hoarders-wife/">https://www.hypertextmag.com/excerpt-deborah-s-greenhuts-the-hoarders-wife/</a> |

# Interview Questions



Why did you write this book?



Why did you stay in a hoarder's household?



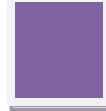
What is your book about?



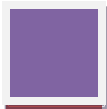
Who will benefit by reading this book?



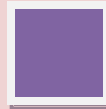
Define and describe hoarding.



Do you have what you want vs do you want what you have?



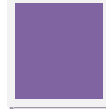
What are the signs that hoarding is a problem?



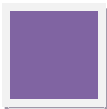
How can this book make a difference?



When does collecting things become hoarding?



What have you learned about yourself as you wrote this book?



What is it like to live with a hoarder?



Any final words?

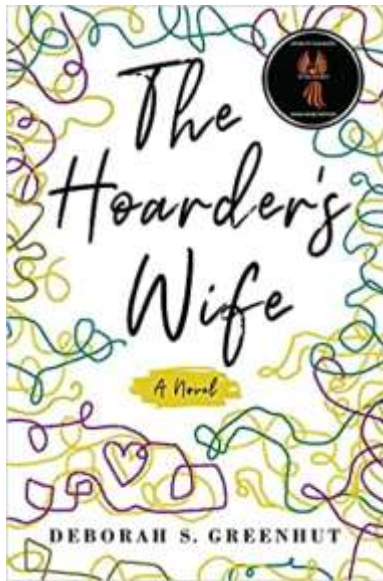




# Photos

**I appreciate requests for photographs for press use.  
Email and let us know where you post your article so we can link to it.**

**Thank you.**



# Connect with Deborah S. Greenhut

Websites:

<http://www.deborahgreenhut.com>

[Creativeroomforlearning.com](http://Creativeroomforlearning.com)

Gmail: [creativeroomforlearning@gmail.com](mailto:creativeroomforlearning@gmail.com)

Writing Sample Portfolio:

<https://deborahgreenhut.journoportfolio.com>

Phone: 332-510-8816

