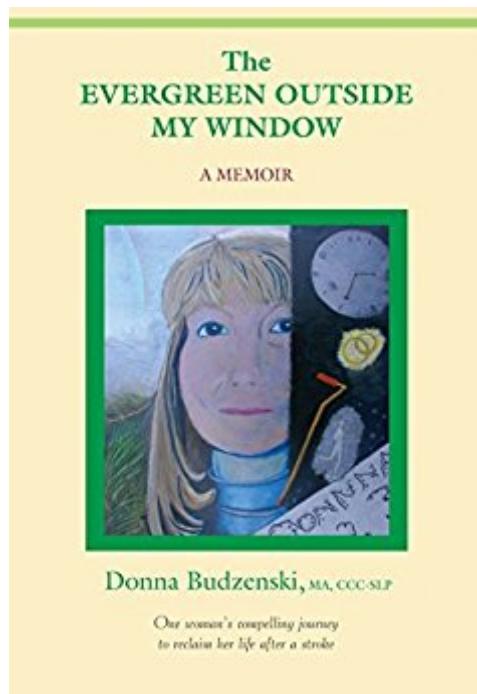


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# The Evergreen Outside My Window



## **Synopsis**

The Evergreen Outside My Window is the true story about speech-language pathologist Donna Budzenski, trained to work with clients of all ages with communication disorders, who, in 2007, has a sudden stroke. The result of this event leaves her paralyzed on the right side of her body. Her ability to recall words, communicate, read, and write is severely diminished. Step by step, Ms. Budzenski takes the reader through arduous journey: from the night of the stroke, on to the emergency room, the rehab center, Mayo Clinic and finally home. She describes each hurdle she encountered and those who supported her through her self-doubt and fears of a bleak future. This is a story of triumph.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I enjoyed reading this book it was written by my cousin and it was a true account of her life when she had her stroke.

During the celebration of my recent retirement I received an unexpected gift from a friend at UMC Dunes, Donna Budzenski. I have known Donna for the past two years as her pastor. Donna is a wife, mother, speech language pathologist, and has been a valued member of the Disciple Bible Study Class that I led at the church. She has a gentle spirit and a grace-filled presence that has been a great blessing to our group. What I didn't know about Donna I have been privileged to learn during the last weeks as I discovered and appreciated her gift to me, an autographed copy of the book she authored, "The Evergreen Outside My Window." This book let me know that Donna has spent her career helping clients of all ages with communication disorders. In 2007, a sudden stroke, left her paralyzed on the right side of her body and with profoundly diminished capacity to remember words, communicate, read and write. The fact that I was not aware of any of this until reading it in the book is a testament not only to how far Donna has come back but also to the fact that Donna has not let this event define who she continues to be as a person. She does not present herself as a stroke victim. The book describes in straight forward, step by step reporting, Donna's incredible journey from the place where life itself was hanging by a thread through a long and difficult road to recovery. It is a story of courage and triumph and leaves the reader with appreciation for the author, for care-givers, and supportive community. When Donna describes getting her driving privilege restored and returning to work we celebrate with her a remarkable accomplishment. We learn from a patient's perspective which actions and words by care-givers were actually helpful. Donna's is a story of honesty, feeling, and wonderful insight that will be a great help to anyone who is dealing with a similar mountain to climb or seeks to help provide support to persons who are dealing with medical trauma like a stroke. Donna's life is also a reminder to me of something that ministry has taught me, that God's fingerprints are present in our lives. They are a wonder to behold if we take the time to look and listen. I highly recommend, "The Evergreen Outside My Window," available through:

[https://www..com/Evergreen-Outside-My-Window/dp/0983970505/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1484060101&sr=1-1&keywords=the+evergreen+outside+my+window](https://www..com/Evergreen-Outside-My-Window/dp/0983970505/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1484060101&sr=1-1&keywords=the+evergreen+outside+my+window) Thank you Donna for sharing your incredible story and your life. Both are gifts I will continue to treasure.

A riveting book about the experience of a stroke and the road of recovery. It's written in such a way to make you feel you go on her journey. Interspersed with journaling from her husband throughout the experience; and medical terminology woven in to educate, but not so much as to overwhelm the

reader. I found this book to be real page turner, holding my breath at times, wanting to know what happened next. This book does for stroke victims what "Still Alice" did for Alzheimer's: it gives them a voice and the readers' insight. A must read for anyone who experienced a stroke, loved-ones of stroke victims, and caregivers of stroke patients.

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