

Author Lise Marinelli to appear at Fireside Books in Marshall

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a&c Contributor

Lise Marinelli of Chicago, author of *Falling from the Moon*, will appear at Fireside Books, 1110 West Michigan Avenue in Marshall, on Sunday January 31 from 1 to 3 p.m. to discuss her novel as well as details of the book publishing process.

This first novel explores the loves, losses, fears and joys of two Michigan families and their intertwined lives at the end of the Great Depression and the dawning of World War II. Marinelli tells the story through the eyes of young Adeline, who, as she grows from girl to woman, learns of the complex history of her elders and finds the wisdom to face her own uncertain future.

Marinelli began writing *Falling from the Moon* when her youngest child started first grade a year and a half ago. "Having children, I've learned to do things around their schedules. I can write sitting in a car watching a tennis lesson! It doesn't bother me to write in chaos, since that is pretty much what my life is like anyway," Marinelli said with a smile. She has children ages 28, 21, 10 and nine.



Lise Marinelli, author of *Falling from the Moon* will appear at Fireside Books on January 31 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Falling from the Moon was written in about nine months. "I like the 1930s time period. My parents were born during the '30s and I grew up hearing stories about those years. I was also inspired by a girlfriend's parents' story which they had written and kept in plastic sheets in a binder. This story as well as those from my family are incorporated into the book."

Marinelli wrote the novel without an outline, allowing the story to unfold organically. "My husband says I write like I cook: I just throw things in!"



Randy Wolfe will appear at Fireside Books January 31.

The novel reads as if it were very carefully planned, regardless of how it came to be written. The story is told in flashbacks and the deft integration of the time periods provides the reader with an ever increasing depth of understanding of the characters.

The adaptation of the novel to film is currently underway. Well-known Calhoun and Kalamazoo County stage director Randy Wolfe of Battle Creek, who will also be at Fireside Books, is in the early stages of writing the screenplay. Marinelli and Wolfe have been friends since kindergarten and graduated from Lakeview High School together.

"When I met with Lise before I read the book, she gave me a stack of CDs she said were her inspiration as she wrote. I understood that, since when I direct, music inspires the pictures I create on stage."

Now a member of the Michigan screenwriter's association, Wolfe is learning about the rapidly developing film industry in Michigan. Marinelli and Wolfe plan to use Michigan locations and take advantage of everything this new state-wide industry has to offer.

"Randy shares my vision about the movie. I have complete confidence in him," Marinelli said.

"Anyone can write and anyone can direct, but not everyone has the vision to draw out emotion in a story. I really feel that Lise did that in *Falling from the Moon* and that's what has attracted me to this project.

"This is a quiet story of complex human emotions; just the kind of story I like. My goal is to tell her story in sound and vision."

A major challenge of screenwriting is to find emotional transitions from each one-minute scene to the next in a 120-page screenplay.

"After over a decade of stage directing, Lise has given me a gift of this wonderful opportunity to transform my art and I'm taking this invigorating challenge to step up into film."

A second feature of Marinelli's visit to Fireside Books will a discussion of how authors can get their work published.

"I love talking to writers and I especially like round-table, open discussions about the publishing process. I do continuing education classes in the Chicago area about such things as editing, product distribution, ISBN numbers and copywriting.

"I also love talking to children about writing and they are welcome to come on the 31st. I'd love to have them come and be encouraged by the literary process. My sister Becky Samra's daughters will be there serving their cookie bars!"

Marinelli began looking for a publisher after completing *Falling from the Moon* and soon realized that existing publishing pathways were not going to work for her. With partners, she founded Windy City Publishers, whose approach

to publishing will also be discussed at the Fireside Books event.

She has also written a children's book, *Merry Birthday*, and writes *Coffee Blog with Lise Marinelli* at lisemarinelli.com.