

Jim Tarvin's head is always full of new ideas. From children's books, to screenplays, to films, Tarvin is always busy. His latest project: a children's book titled *Once There Was a Deep Forest*. The book was a collaborative effort between him and local artist and SUNY New Paltz graduate Tessa Schaumburg.

Once There Was a Deep Forest follows the story of a forest throughout the four seasons. The forest itself is the main character of the book, while various forest critters make appearances on each page. Tarvin's background as a longtime English professor shows in his word choice and ability to describe the beauty of nature so vividly. He wrote the book for children and adults alike. His goal was to keep everything simple enough so that a child could understand it while avoiding any sort of cliches. "There is no babbling brook [in the book]" Tarvin said.

Tarvin described the process of writing a children's book as both "daunting" and "fun." He had no previous experience writing children's literature but has written short stories for adults in the past. Tarvin's favorite part of having written a children's book is hearing about how much kids love reading it. He wants all of his readers to be inspired by the beauty of the nature seen in the book and to help work towards the conservation of our forests.

Once Tarvin had written most of the book, he knew it was time to find an illustrator. It was his granddaughters, Lydia and Katie, who recommended their friend Tessa Schaumburg to him. Tarvin had known Schaumburg since she was a kid and always knew that she had a talent for art. So, he reached out and she said yes. Tarvin would share his vision for each page and Schaumburg would illustrate it in watercolor. Tarvin would give more feedback and Schaumburg would repeat the process, having to completely redo the illustration each time they wanted to make a change. The pair worked "really well" together, according to Schaumburg.

The book took around six months to be put together from the writing to the illustrations and the publication. Tarvin's granddaughter Lydia helped him with some of the editing, something that he was very glad to have. SUNY Orange professor Beth Quinn helped Tarvin with the publishing process. They went through Amazon, where Tarvin had to decide on a price. The lowest price option was \$7.00, so that's how much the book costs on Amazon. Tarvin's main goal is for the book to be as accessible as possible.

As for the future, Tarvin plans on keeping himself busy. He is currently working on a screenplay and even has ideas for another children's book. Tarvin's creative mind has no shortage of plans for the future. But as for now, Tarvin is enjoying the many activities he loves. He spends his time taking care of his property, serving as a Goshen Public Library and Historical Society Trustee, a Friend of the Goshen Public Library, advisor of the Junior Friends of the Goshen Public Library, being a grandfather, and just enjoying his life. Tarvin doesn't plan on stopping any time soon.

Congrats on your book Jim and Tessa! Buy the book today at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)!