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pop & fresh

Scottsdale has something to talk about

Many readers have spotted themselves and their friends in the book, but Fine is quick to point out that none of her characters is based on a specific person.

GOSSIP.COM may be semi-autobiographical, she says, but ultimately it exists as a work of imagination and satire.

But how about the novel's murder victim? Lots of people, no doubt, will mistake fictional gossip columnist Laurance "The Mouth" Duvall for the Valley's Danny Medina. As the publisher of *Trends*, Medina writes a chatty and sometimes pointed gossip column about Scottsdale's high life. Is Duvall a thinly veiled caricature of Medina?

No, Fine says. The character is merely a patchwork of all the society columnists she's read and met over the years.

But even though Medina isn't specifically skewered (and poisoned) in her novel, Fine has heard through the grapevine that he's read it.

So far, there's been no response, in print or otherwise from the *Trends* columnist. Fine has done a remarkable thing: She's forced a gossip columnist to keep his mouth shut.

GOSSIP.COM is available at the Author's Café, 4014 N. Goldwater Boulevard, and also at www.marciafine.com

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