

Local Author Has a Story to Tell

Scottsdale novelist Marcia Fine opens up about her unique collection of books and realizing her lifelong dream of becoming an author.

BY MICHELLE EVERSON

“Everyone has a story to tell,” says Marcia Fine, as she reflects on her journey to becoming the writer she’d always dreamed of being. As a well known Scottsdale-based author, Fine has four popular yet diverse books under her belt and one on the way next year. Since 2000, she has captivated both local and national audiences with her blend of satirical, historical and oftentimes based-in-fact books that give readers a glimpse of the dual identity she cherishes. By using Scottsdale, her family background and her own life experiences as a backdrop for her novels, Fine has created a reputation for unique books.

“My background is as an English teacher, but I’ve always wanted to tell stories,” Fine says. “As a child I listened to my grandmother’s stories about her childhood in Poland and in my 20s I taped her telling them. I always wanted to write her story down—I’m attached to people’s family histories. I like to wonder, ‘What were people like?’ and possibly answer that question in my writing.”

In addition to teaching, Fine has had an eclectic career as the owner and creator of a modeling and talent agency, and a motivational speaker and corporate trainer, as well as a wife and mother. In 2000, she gave her dream of writing a chance and says she hasn’t looked back since.

Her first published novel, *Gossip.com*, is a fictional satire inspired by her own daughter’s wedding. Based in Scottsdale, the book takes a look at the comical side of planning a wedding, high society and the affect of gossip as the main character, Jean Rubin, tries to fend off a gossip columnist while planning her daughter’s wedding.

“When my daughter was getting married, I realized you

either get neurotic or you laugh about it,” Fine says. “The wedding was a fiasco and I became aware of so many great eccentric characters. So, I drew from that inspiration. People love weddings—they’re cozy. I also added in a murder, but it was readable...there were no blood or guts.”

Gossip.com was released to raving reviews locally and was published across the U.S. While enjoying the popularity of her first novel’s success, Fine says she found letters from her grandmother that she worked to get translated. She knew that someday she wanted to turn the letters into a book, but meanwhile, readers kept asking about the next adventures of *Gossip.com*’s main character. It was a question she answered in her second book, *Boomerang*.

“*Boomerang* is three stories in one book,” Fine says. “It’s about dealing with the ‘Boomerang Generation’—when your kids move back home after growing up—and it even delves into politics, so I get to sound off a bit. I write to entertain myself. If people read it and enjoy it, all the better.”

While *Boomerang* enjoyed its success, especially among her fan base that had enjoyed *Gossip.com*, Fine kept working on translating the letters her grandmother had left her. Once she understood the letters, she fell in love with the story they told. She says she wanted to fictionalize her grandmother’s story, which takes her from Poland in 1899 to New York City after the Holocaust to 1960s Florida, where Fine grew up.

“In the 1950s and 60s, people didn’t talk about the Holocaust. I had to research it and find out about it on my own,” she says. “I wanted to address how people deal with such trauma, even generations later—no one gets through this lesson on earth unscathed.”

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Scottsdale author Marcia Fine is working on her fifth novel, due out next year.

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