

# Scottsdale is mother lode for novelist **MARCIA FINE**

Writer's third fictional work based on city is due out by the end of the year

By **John Leptich**  
**TRIBUNE**

Marcia Fine enjoys a good laugh. She loves to write. And, she adores Scottsdale. Combining the three is the perfect equation for a trio of books Fine has written spoofing the city, its residents, politicians and visitors.

"I entertain myself with other people," Fine said. "There's a lot going on in Scottsdale. I say that I write satires of Scottsdale. Not only is it interesting here, it has a lot to offer. It's very unique. Most large cities have an upscale area, a place where you can do certain things and be 'in.' For the Valley, that's Scottsdale."

"Gossip.com," Fine's first offering about the city, came out in 2000. She followed that up with "Boomerang" in 2003. Fine's working on a third book, "Stressed in Scottsdale," which she said will be available by the end of the year. All are fictional works with characters who may resemble people who Fine came across or heard about. She has lived in the city for three years and owned a modeling and talent agency in Scottsdale for a decade. Fine's main character in all three books is a literature teacher at a community college who goes through a series of problems. Fine said the woes are fictional, although she admits some of her material comes from tales she has heard from others in the city.

"The material in Scottsdale is like candy to an author," Fine said of the city's character and characters. "It's too irresistible not to write about. There have been so many scandals, so many interesting people. It's fun here."

Fine said she observes people in Scottsdale. She claims she doesn't have anyone in mind as models for her characters, but said many people have approached her after reading one of the books wondering if they are the genesis for an individual.

"The characters, at least 90 percent, are part of my imagination," Fine said. "Many of the stories are true, although people aren't identified." Fine said she has gained insight into Scottsdale and that each Valley municipality has a different personality.

Fine said Scottsdale's is upper-class with plenty of designer stores, an active social scene and some of the most interesting people she has ever met.

"I think I give readers a good glimpse of who's here and what they're thinking about," Fine said. "There are so many women getting hormone shots, Botox and other things trying to get their youth back. There are weddings for a second and third marriage. There's plenty of crazy stuff in the city." Fine said while there's a genre called "chick lit," a term used to denote fiction written for and



FAMILIAR TERRITORY: Scottsdale author Marcia Fine displays one of her novels. The city is a central theme of her work. To learn more about her books, visit <http://www.marciafine.com> or <http://http://www.marciafine.com>. Leigh Shelle Robertus, Tribune

marketed to young women, especially single, working women in their 20s and 30s, hers can be best described as "chic lit."

"My books are about the very wealthy who have the appropriate amount of designer shoes, clothes and accessories," Fine said. "I keep thinking that each book I write on Scottsdale will be my last, but then there's more I see and learn about." Fine isn't a one-trick pony. She has written "The Blind Eye," a fictional account set in 15th century Portugal and the 1990s where two women explore their identities. Set against historical events, the book creates a narrative about a family expelled from Spain connecting forward across time to a modern woman of Cuban descent. "Paper Children" encompasses the lives of three generations of women starting in 1929 in Poland. Still, Fine enjoys her satire most. She said many orders for those three books have come from Chicago, a place many in Scottsdale once lived. "Visitors and those who relocate like getting the real scoop in Scottsdale," Fine said.