

On Our Cover

Although Trilogy at Vistancia resident Ruth Rotkowitz has been a freelance writer for many years, the novel *ESCAPING THE WHALE*, is her first published book. The novel's protagonist, Marcia Gold, is a daughter of Jewish Holocaust survivors, and the reader follows Marcia as she attempts to lead a "normal" life in 1980 Brooklyn, New York. She thrives in her job as a high school guidance counselor specializing in pregnant teens, and she also has a handsome, successful boyfriend. According to family and friends, she has it all.

All is not as it seems, however, for Marcia is plagued by fears and delusions, which she conceals from everyone. She suffers from her legacy of inherited trauma, and is mortified by her symptoms. A series of crises at the high school, combined with the atmosphere of tension sparked by the Iranian hostage situation, drive Marcia to a breaking point and she can no longer keep up her façade. Once her world explodes, Marcia realizes she must face her problems and take action on her own behalf.

Ms. Rotkowitz has spent years experiencing, observing, and researching the lives of children of survivors. When she realized that Holocaust literature largely neglects the issues of the second generation, she was inspired to draw on her own knowledge and write about it. In the past, she has published fiction, nonfiction, and poetry in anthologies and literary journals, and spent several years as a staff writer and member of the editorial board of the *Woman's Newspaper of Princeton*. However, she feels that this book was always inside her, waiting to come out. The reaction has been heartwarming to her, for she has been hearing from survivors of all types of traumas, who insist that the book speaks to them, and from psychologists, who marvel at the accuracy of the book's depiction of Marcia's mind.

Prior to moving to Arizona ten years ago with her husband, Ms. Rotkowitz resided in New Jersey and New York, where she was born to refugees from Vienna, Austria. She worked as a college and high school English teacher, and currently nurtures the teacher in her by volunteering with the Phoenix Holocaust Association, leading talks in the area about Holocaust-related books and programs that the Association sponsors.

Learn more at: <https://www.amazon.com/author/ruthrotkowitz>