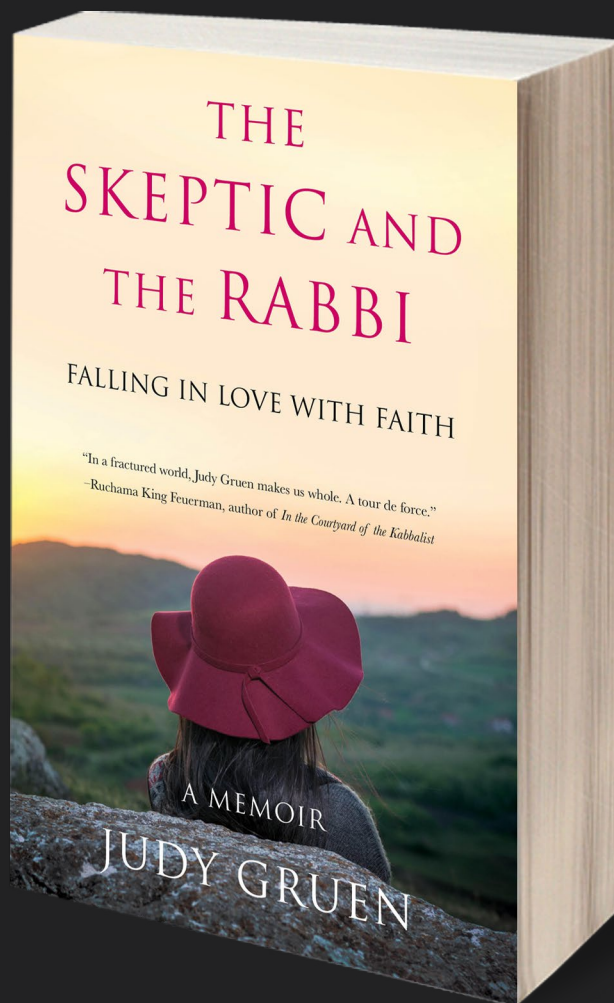


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Judy Gruen



bio

Judy Gruen



Judy Gruen has written several award-winning humor books and co-authored with Linda Abraham the business book *MBA Admission for Smarties: The No-Nonsense Guide to Acceptance at Top Business Schools*. Judy's work has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *American Thinker*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Family Circle*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Northwestern*, *Woman's Day*, and many other media outlets. She has been quoted in the *New York Times* and *Better Homes & Gardens*, and has been a guest on many radio programs. Her writings on Jewish interest and spirituality have been featured on *Aish.com*, *Jewish Journal of Los Angeles*, *jewishwoman.org*, *Jewish Action*, *Beliefnet.com*, and *ReadtheSpirit.com*. She has also contributed to 10 anthologies, including

Chicken Soup for the Soul: Shaping the New You; *Fits, Starts & Matters of the Heart: 28 Stories of Love, Loss & Everything in Between*; *Mirth of a Nation: the Best Contemporary Humor*; *101 Damnations: the Humorists' Tour of Personal Hells*; and *Chocolate for a Woman's Courage*. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in English literature from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master's Degree in journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

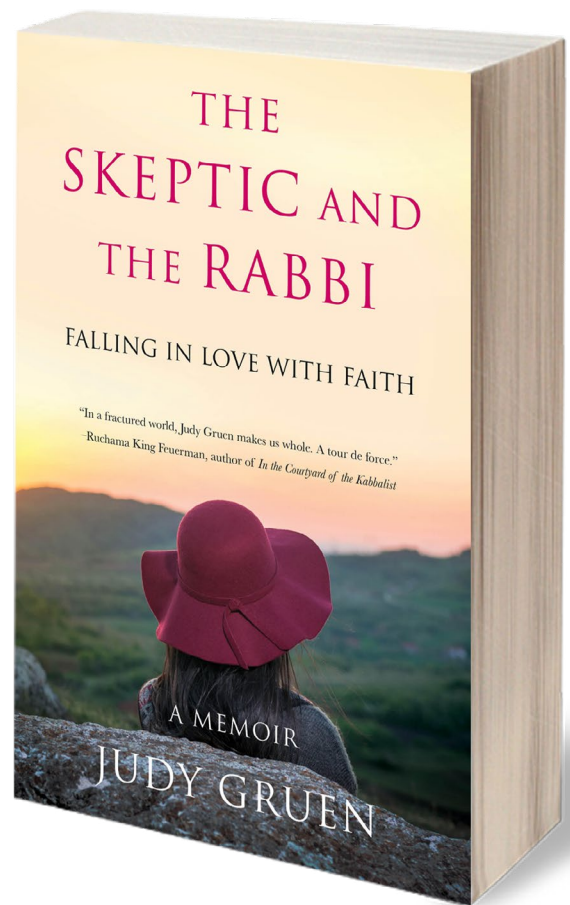
books

THE SKEPTIC AND THE RABBI

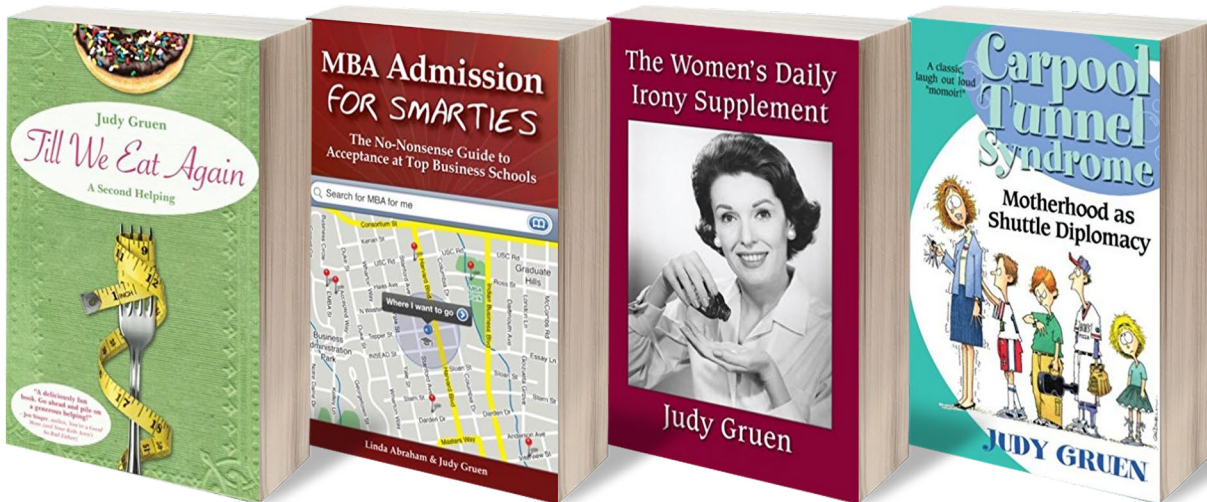
Falling in Love with Faith

As Judy Gruen walked down the aisle and into her Orthodox Jewish future, her bouquet quivered in her shaky hand. Having grown up in the zeitgeist that proclaimed, “If it feels good, do it,” was she really ready to live the life of “rituals, rules, and restraints” that the Torah prescribed?

The Skeptic and the Rabbi is a rare memoir, one that combines historical depth, spirituality, and intelligent humor. Gruen writes with refreshing honesty about what it means to remain authentic to yourself while charting a new yet ancient spiritual path at odds with the surrounding culture. She also writes touchingly about her family, including her two sets of grandparents, who influenced her in wildly opposite ways. As she navigates her new life with the man she loves and the faith she also loves, she survives several awkward moments, including when the rabbi calls to tell her that she accidentally served unkosher food to her Shabbat guests. Reading this wry, bold and compelling memoir, you’ll laugh, you’ll cry, and when you’re finished, you may also have a sudden craving for chicken matzo ball soup—kosher, of course.



books



Till We Eat Again: A Second Helping

“Who among us has not felt terror upon hearing the words, ‘Reunion coming up?’
Fortunately, Judy Gruen’s terror is tastier than a Twinkie and half the calories.”

– Lenore Skenazy, author of *Free-Range Kids: How to Raise Safe, Self-Reliant Children (Without Going Nuts with Worry)*

MBA Admission for Smarties: The No-Nonsense Guide to Acceptance at Top Business Schools

“Filled with thought-provoking questions and tons of examples, it’s destined to become the ultimate handbook for MBA admission.” – Maxx Duffy, President, Maxx Associates

The Women’s Daily Irony Supplement

“Judy Gruen is a genius at finding new and utterly hilarious ways to skewer some of our silliest excesses.” -- Celia Rivenbark, author of *You Don’t Sweat Much for a Fat Girl*

Carpool Tunnel Syndrome: Motherhood as Shuttle Diplomacy

“Do yourself a favor and ... read Carpool Tunnel Syndrome.” -- Mark Schiff, stand-up comic, actor, author of *I Killed. True Stories Of The Road From America’s Top Comics*

speaking

Speaking Opportunities

Judy Gruen has earned an international following for her writing – suffused with warmth, wisdom and humor – on topics related to Jewish life, marriage, motherhood and culture.

She is also an engaging and relatable speaker who offers lively and thoughtful presentations about what it means to stay true to yourself while living a traditional Jewish life, fusing life as a modern, ambitious woman in a Torah-observant world, and keeping the faith even when God is giving you the “tough love” treatment.

As the author of *The Skeptic and the Rabbi: Falling in Love with Faith*, Judy can share highlights from her moving and funny memoir, including transformational moments on her bumpy road to choosing a life of “rules, rituals and restraints” – despite emotional static from her years at U.C. Berkeley and Northwestern University.

Speaking topics include:

What’s a Nice Feminist Like You Doing on This Side of the Mechitza?

Not Everybody Leaves Orthodoxy: Some Say Goodbye; Why I Said Hello

Finding Your Place and Voice in Orthodoxy

How to Become a Religious Fanatic without Alienating Too Many People

What a 3,300-old Book Taught Me about Life, Love, and Becoming My Best Self

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