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# THE MODERN JEWISH GIRL'S GUIDE TO GUILT

Edited by  
RUTH ANDREW ELLENSON

**A hilarious and provocative collection of original essays by some of today's top Jewish women writers exploring all the things their rabbis warned them never to discuss in public.**

Are you certain that a piano is about to fall on your head, simply because too many good things have happened to you lately? Do you use caller ID to dodge your mother's phone calls? Have you ever had the forbidden desire to RSVP "NO" to every wedding, bat mitzvah, and family meal invitation that comes your way? **THE MODERN JEWISH GIRL'S GUIDE TO GUILT** is a laugh-out-loud-funny pull-no-punches collection of original essays on topics that aren't usually talked about – much like the recent best-selling anthology *The Bitch in the House*.

--OVER--

Now living in a world that is their “non-kosher oyster,” modern Jewish women are blessed with opportunities that were unimaginable to their *Bubbes*, thanks to the gains of feminism and Jewish liberal thought. But as they have become assimilated into the world around them, the chances for guilt have greatly increased as well. No longer forced into a stereotype or made to worry about seeming “too Jewish,” these women now battle with the question of, “Am I Jewish enough?” When living in a community that both embraces and judges its members, Jewish women struggle to determine where they end and where their people begin.

- Rebecca Walker, author of the international bestseller *Black, White and Jewish* and daughter of Alice Walker, discusses the guilt she faces in what to name her black Buddhist Jewish baby in “Expecting.”
- Aimee Bender, author of the bestseller, *The Girl with the Flammable Skirt*, confesses to worrying about not worrying enough in “House of Love and Bragging.”
- Daphne Merkin contemplates giving up the idea of atonement as she gets her toes polished in “The Yom Kippur Pedicure.”
- Molly Jong-Fast, author of *Normal Girl* and daughter of Erica Jong, writes about not being neurotic enough to please her therapist in “Tell Me About Your Mother.”

Also includes pieces by: Jennifer Bleyer • Pearl Gluck • Rebecca Goldstein • Lauren Grodstein • Dara Horn • Rachel Kadish • Cynthia Kaplan • Binnie Kirschenbaum • Katie Roiphe • Lauren Gwen Shapiro • Susan Shapiro • Ayelet Waldman, and many more.

### **About the Editor:**

Ruth Andrew Ellenson was born in Jerusalem and raised in New York and Los Angeles. Her writing has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *People*, *Forward*, and *Heeb*. She is the daughter of Rabbi David Ellenson, president of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband.

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