

BOOK RELEASE

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Stumbling Stones
by
Bonnie Suchman

**When is it time to leave the country you know and love?
DEBUT NOVEL TELLS THE STORY OF A JEWISH WOMAN LIVING
IN NAZI GERMANY WHO IS FACED WITH THE ULTIMATE DECISION**

Alice Heppenheimer was a woman ahead of her time, pursuing her art and ignoring the early signs of trouble for Jews in Nazi Germany. But Alice could not anticipate a Germany where simply being Jewish became an existential threat. And she would soon face the horrifying realization – that she and her husband may have waited too long to leave.

Meet Alice Heppenheimer, who was born into a prosperous German Jewish family around the turn of the twentieth century and comes of age at a time of growing opportunities for women. When she turns 21 years old, she convinces her strict family to allow her to attend art school, and then pursues a career in women's fashion. Bonnie Suchman's debut novel, *Stumbling Stones*, transports the reader into post-World War I Germany, at a time of growing opportunities for women. Taking advantage of such opportunities, Alice prospers in her career and settles into married life. Alice has nothing but optimism about her future when the Nazis come to power.

"I was inspired to write *Stumbling Stones* following the release of my non-fiction book, *Broken Promises*, which told the story of my husband's German Jewish family," said Bonnie Suchman. "In researching that book, I found Alice's story. After publication of *Broken Promises*, I realized I was not finished telling her story. To provide a fuller and richer story of Alice's life, I chose to write this novel."

"Stumbling Stones" are small engraved paving stones commemorating those forced to leave their homes or persecuted during the Holocaust, placed on the sidewalk in the front of those homes. "I chose the title because I wanted the book to serve as a stumbling stone for Alice Heppenheimer, but also to remind the reader of the importance of remembering the Holocaust."

Stumbling Stones is a compelling novel that grabs the reader from the first page and never lets go. The story draws the reader into the life of this amazing young woman, providing a vivid description of the events of the period. Through this remarkable work, the reader will understand how Jews could remain in Germany throughout the 1930s, even with all the warning signs all around them.

"There are many Holocaust novels that focus on the horrors of the camps," says Bonnie Suchman. "I wanted to tell a different story. I wanted to tell the story about the origins of the Holocaust from the perspective of a German Jew, seeing Alice's optimism (and the optimism of many among Germany's Jewish community) slowly disappear as the Nazi party expanded its influence over Germany. The

reader will experience the challenges faced by Alice in operating her various businesses, as both a woman and a Jew, through the 1920s and 1930s, as well as the challenges faced by Alice and her husband in trying to escape the Nazi menace.”

Bonnie Suchman is an attorney who used her legal skills to researched her husband’s German Jewish family from 1700 through the Holocaust for her first book, *Broken Promises*. That book received the bronze medal in Non-Fiction - Genealogy at the 2022 International Readers' Favorite Book Awards. In September 2022, Bonnie Suchman presented a paper titled “Why Didn't They Leave? Understanding the Challenges for Jews Fleeing Nazi Germany” at the Conference on Understanding the Holocaust, Genocide, and Mass Violence in the Public Imagination at the Metropolitan State University of Denver. Using her extensive research from both *Broken Promises* and her Holocaust paper, she wrote *Stumbling Stones*. While the novel is about events that happened more than eighty years ago, Bonnie Suchman also believes that the novel is timely, since anti-Semitism is on the rise and the rhetoric of the Nazi era has present day echoes. As Bonnie Suchman explains, “*Stumbling Stones* asks two fundamental questions that could be faced by anyone, anytime and anywhere – when should I leave and am I willing to leave behind everything I have worked so hard for?”

For more information on Bonnie Suchman, visit bonniesuchman.com.

Copies of *Stumbling Stones* are available with all major booksellers, including Black Rose Writing, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble.

Review copies available upon request

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CONTACT:

Christopher W. Miller

PR Team – Social Media & Marketing Expert

pr@blackrosewriting.com