

Ruth Markel

The Unveiling: A Mother's Reflection on Murder, Grief, and Trial Life

About the Author – May 2, 2023





Ruth Markel is a noted author, public speaker, and the president of RNM Enterprises, a leading management consulting firm. She has worked in senior management positions in both private and public sectors for the past forty years.

Ruth has lectured on issues concerning negotiation and advancement in organizations at the University of Toronto, the London Business School, and Toronto Metropolitan University (Ryerson University.)

Due to the circumstances surrounding the murder of Ruth's son Dan Markel, she has appeared on 20/20 ABC, Inside Edition, and Dateline NBC, and participated in the hit podcast *Over My Dead Body*, by Wondery.

In 2016, Ruth was cut-off from any contact with her grandsons. With support from Dan's friends and extended networks, Ruth used advocacy to inspire the Florida State Legislature to pass a grandparent visitation bill known as The Markel Act.

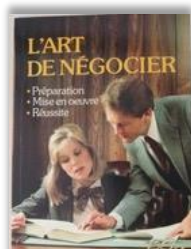
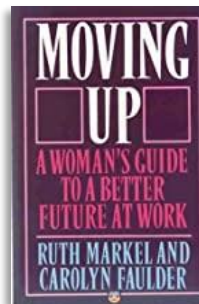
The bill opens a legal path for grandparents in the event a surviving parent is found criminally and/or civilly responsible for the death of the other parent while preserving the surviving parent's rights.

Ruth hopes to use her platform and the media coverage that is inevitable around the trial and the publicity of Dan's case to make sense of, provide consolation and counsel for a horrific and powerlessness situation. And that her story will help others through the experiences of their grief from murders, victims of violence and grandparent alienation.

In 2023, Ruth won the nomination for The Agnes Furey Victim Survivor of the Year Award.

In addition to her several TV and radio appearances, Ruth Markel's published work includes:

Moving Up: A Woman's Guide To A Better Future At Work (HarperCollins Publishers, 1988), Room At The Top: A Woman's Guide To Moving Up In Business (Penguin Books Canada, 1985), Der Weg Nach Oben (Econ, 1987), L'Art De Negocier (La Presse, 1988), Une Place Au Sommet (Les Editions La Presse, 1986), Le Defi D'une Carrier (La Presse, 1987), S'affirmer Pour Evoluer (La Presse, 1988), Comment Gerer (La Presse, 1987), Karriere 1st Weiblich (Rowohlt, 1999.)



RUTH MARKEL

Ruth Markel is the mother of the late Dan Markel, a noted law professor who was murdered in Tallahassee, Florida in 2014.

In *The Unveiling*, she describes her experiences since the day of Dan's death from several distinct perspectives:

- As a devastated mother with the unique human perspective of becoming a homicide survivor and victim.
- As a woman whose attempts to achieve normalcy and live a healthy life are continually interrupted by painful reminders, a rollercoaster of hearings, frequently changing trial dates, verdicts, and appeals.
- As an engaged citizen using what she has learned to help other victims of homicide and violent crimes recover from trauma and begin an optimistic outlook on life.
- As an insider who shows how our collective network of family, friends, and experts - including a murder coach - have helped her family remain involved, motivated, and hopeful.
- As a grandmother who had not been allowed to see her grandchildren in many years, she used advocacy to inspire the Florida State Legislature to pass a grandparent visitation bill.
- And as an experienced author of nine books using the written word to effectively address the shift from grief to promise.

Reader Comments

"This taut, well-paced true-crime account of a murder investigation comes with an interesting twist: the victim is the author's middle-aged son. Family dynamics prove as important as forensics in this unforgettable account of homicide, grief, and a mother's pursuit of justice."

-Nate Hendley, Author of *The Beatle Bandit* – Winner, 2022 Crime Writers of Canada Awards of Excellence

"A moving and powerful account of the anatomy and aftermath of a murder... No one is more qualified to tell the Markel story and its impact on the family than his mother, Ruth Markel herself. With wisdom and heartbreaking depths, Ruth tells a compelling story of grief, resilience, and hope."

~ Orly Lobel, Warren Distinguished Professor of Law, author of *The Equality Machine: Harnessing Digital Technology for a Brighter, More Inclusive Future*

Amazon/Goodreads/Netgalley Reviews

Tallahassee reader - 5.0 out of 5 stars **Courageous book, heartbreaking and hopeful**

Ruth Markel was very brave to write this book. I had it on pre-order and read it immediately when it arrived. It took a few days, and a few breaks in between, because parts of it are heartbreaking to digest. But in full, she tells a story that few could--of loss but also hope, and the many journeys she and her family have gone through since Dan was killed in 2014. Why brave? Because at least 2 people who authorities have named as "co-conspirators" in his murder have not yet been arrested. They are living their lives, and worse, raising Ruth's grandchildren while she and Dan's family remain alienated. So in my mind, writing this book takes a unique kind of courage. **Highly recommend for people experiencing loss, going through the court system, or true crime junkies who seek content full of detail, humanity, and hope.**

City Walk Urban Mission – 5.0 out of 5 – **Read in one day. Couldn't put it down.**

Dan was killed just blocks from our church and I remember how terrified we were. The day after the shooting TPD came to us requesting our security footage. We didn't know Dan but we were all on edge until there was an arrest. Learning about Dan these last years has left us in awe of who he was and saddened we never knew such a wonderful person in our city. **I am in awe of the strength Ruth Markel has shown, including sharing her vulnerability in this book.**

TantumVeritas2022 - 5.0 out of 5 stars **Everything Is Illuminated**

For anyone who has ever lost a loved one and had to dig deep to find the strength to keep going, *The Unveiling* is for you. With incredible candor and vulnerability, Ruth Markel shares the deepest wound a mother can have with us. It is a powerful journey of strength, resilience, and perseverance in a long quest for justice. Eight years after Dan Markel's cold-blooded murder, the true masterminds behind his murder-for-hire have not been arrested and/or convicted. If you read, listen to, or watch anything else about Dan Markel's life and death, it is markedly incomplete without the context and behind-the-scenes insights in *The Unveiling*. Read what other authors/reporters are too afraid, too uninformed, or too inclined toward a partial view to write. **Share Ruth's courageous journey to healing and justice. You'll be glad you did.**

Helen W, Reviewer 5.0 out of 5

What a powerful and reflective book. This could of easily become a book full of hate and vitriol, IT IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE. It is a heartbreaking and dignified account of an horrific time. Not just the immediate aftermath of Dan's murder but the on going legal procedures and processes 7years later. The additional estrangement from two adored grandsons and the fight to change access rights for grandparents. Runs alongside the criminal and court processes. I admire the writing styles and dignity displayed by the author. **An important book.**

Caroline C, Reviewer 5.0 out of 5

I had recently heard of the Dan Markel case because of the podcast Court Junkie and when I saw that Ruth was writing a book, **I knew I had to read it.** The book was very much the writing of a grieving mother who just wants answers as to what happened to her son and more importantly why. We understand the who but we really don't know the why...

Suzanne Ball – 4.0 out of 5

While the memoir is a heartfelt cry for the loss of a beloved child to murder, the focus of this story is how the murder affected extended family dynamics in a highly negative way. The author grieves loss of time with grandchildren, and after repeated snubs, loses faith in her son's wife and in-laws' good intentions. The gradual realization of the guilt of those people who murdered her son seems to be as painful as the murder itself. **The reader will empathize with the author of this gripping narrative.**

Christine Cazeneuve – 4.0 out of 5

A tragic story with a determined mother who shares every intimacy of what she and her family have endured. You cannot help but admire and be inspired by her. **This is a book not to be missed.**