

"A well-written and insightful look at what happens within a family when adult children choose to become Orthodox Jews. Rosenfeld remains a Conservative Jewish mother who embraces her sons' choices. A fascinating view of strict traditions, the changes they bring and how family ties are strengthened by love and acceptance."

— **Suzette Martinez Standring**, Syndicated Columnist  
Award-Winning Author, *The Art of Column Writing*

"BJ has written an honest, moving account of a woman whose Jewish sons suddenly become a little "too" Jewish by embracing Orthodoxy. Her love for her sons ... puts the author on her own journey of straddling two worlds, all with the desire to keep them close to her while trying to respect their individual journeys. Many, including my own mother, will relate to her tale of family dynamics tested, sometimes to the point of conflict, but most often passing with flying colors."

— **Lori Palatnik**, Author and Media Personality  
"Lori Almost Live," aish.com

"A remarkable story... a must read for those seeking to learn more about family healing and how differences can actually be used to teach respect for one another."

— **Janie E. Garnett**, MS, Ass't. Director, Chaplaincy  
Jewish Federation of Northeast New York

"The children in this world are now discovering and embracing new religions and beliefs. BJ Rosenfeld gives us insight into how she coped by using love and understanding."

— **Pamela Goldstein**, Producer/Host, "Boker Tov"  
CJAM, 99.1FM, Windsor, ON

When her older son broke with his Conservative Jewish upbringing and plunged into Orthodoxy, BJ Rosenfeld was confronted with the challenge of accepting or rejecting his rigorous religious beliefs. Somewhere along the way she became a chameleon, changing her clothing and demeanor to suit the situation and the circumstances. Her closet contains two distinct wardrobes: shorts, slacks, and sleeveless tops for the world she lives in; long skirts and long-sleeved blouses for the world in which her sons exist. *The Chameleon in the Closet* gives the reader a fascinating glimpse into the world of Orthodox Judaism.



Before starting a career as a freelance writer, BJ Rosenfeld taught Spanish, French, and remedial reading. She has written for *Boom Magazine*, *Kashrus Magazine*, *The Albany Times Union*, and *The Jewish World*. Her essays have aired on public radio. BJ and her husband live in upstate New York. They have two sons and nine grandchildren. One son lives in Israel; the other is in New York. Visit her website [www.readbj.com](http://www.readbj.com).

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*The Chameleon in the Closet*

BJ ROSENFELD

# The Chameleon in the Closet



A Conservative Jewish Mother  
Reaches Out to Her Orthodox Sons

*BJ Rosenfeld*