

*A Place to Hide* is the remarkable new novel by Ronald H. Balson. The plot is based on a true story and begins in Tel Aviv in 2002. A chance meeting between Karyn and Burt leads Karyn to reveal that she was a hidden Dutch child during WWII. She still yearns for information about the sister she was separated from. Burt's elderly cousin Teddy worked in Amsterdam during the war and has contacts there. Karyn, a former journalist, travels to Washington to seek Teddy's help in return for documenting his war time story. Balson's plot switches seamlessly between Teddy's past and present. Teddy is not in great health.

Theodore "Teddy" Hartigan is the scion of a wealthy and well-connected D.C. family. Teddy leaves his cushy position in the State Department in 1938 when he is re-assigned to the U.S. Consulate in Amsterdam to replace fleeing staff. His job is to process Visa applications when there are no Visa's available. Teddy wants to help all the desperate people, but his hands are tied.

Teddy falls in love with Sara, a Jewish girl from the nearby town of Utrecht. Sara's father is head of the history department at the university there. He understands the Nazi threat and solicits Teddy's help to insure his daughter's future. Teddy and Sara marry and adopt a little girl who has been abandoned, for her own safety, at a pre-school in Amsterdam. When the consulate is permanently closed Teddy is asked to stay on and to work undercover with Sara's father. Teddy becomes part of the resistance movement. Jewish families are sequestered in Amsterdam and awaiting transport to concentration camps. Parents are desperate to save their children, and Teddy conceives a plan to help as many of them as possible. Could these children be adopted by gentile families? Balson's writing puts this extraordinary story where it belongs- available for everyone to read and remember.