

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Adoption Network Cleveland to Host Family Reflections: Authors Share Their Stories
Organization announces one-of-a-kind fundraiser with nationally-known authors

Cleveland, OH (May 23, 2019) – Adoption Network Cleveland announces Family Reflections: Authors Share Their Stories on Wednesday, June 12 at Music Box Supper Club. This event includes award-winning nationally-known authors who share two distinctive commonalities – each have published works revolving around stories of adoption, foster care and kinship care and they all reside in Cleveland.

“We’re thrilled to bring together these talented and nationally-known authors for this one-of-a-kind fundraiser,” says Betsie Norris, executive director and founder. “It’s exciting to see these well-known authors use their platform to share stories around the topics we’re passionate about.”

Adoption Network is excited to host the following authors for this event:

Dan Chaon is the author of six works of fiction, all of which deal in some way with themes of adoption and foster care. His most recent book *Ill Will*, a national bestseller, was named one of the ten best books of 2017 by Publishers Weekly. He is also known for *Await Your Reply*, *Among the Missing* and *Stay Awake*. Dan’s work has been a finalist for the National Book Award, The Shirley Jackson Award, The Locus Award and the Story Prize, and he was a recipient of an Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Chaon was adopted as an infant, and was reunited with his birthfather as an adult.

Paula McLain is best known for her New York Times and internationally best-selling novel, *The Paris Wife*, which has been published in thirty-four languages. After being abandoned by both of their parents, Paula and her two sisters became wards of the California court system. When she aged out of the system, she supported herself through an array of positions before discovering she could—and very much wanted to—write. Since receiving her MFA in 1996, she’s published four novels, including the bestselling titles, *Circling the Sun* and *Love and Ruin*, as well as two collections of poetry, and a memoir of her experiences in foster care, *Like Family: Growing Up in Other People’s Houses*.

Barbara Raymond is the author of the Amazon best-selling nonfiction book, *The Baby Thief*, which details the impact of Georgia Tann, a baby seller on the institution of adoption. *The Baby Thief* has been optioned to be made into a movie by Academy Award-winning actress Octavia Spencer. Barbara’s

writing has appeared in The New York Times, USA

Today, GoodHousekeeping, Redbook, McCall's, Parents, and other publications. She is an adoptive mother whose daughter reunited with her birth family with the help of Adoption Network Cleveland.

Loung Ung is a bestselling author, activist and co-screenplay writer of a 2017 Netflix Original Movie directed by Angelina Jolie based on her memoir, *First They Killed My Father*, now streaming on Netflix in 190 countries. Loung was only 5 years old when the Khmer Rouge soldiers stormed into her native city of Phnom Penh. Four years later, in one of the bloodiest episodes of the 20th century, some two million Cambodians – out of a population of seven million – had died at the hands of the infamous Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge regime. In 1980, Loung, her older brother Meng and his wife, escaped by boat to Thailand, where they spent five months in a refugee camp before relocating to the United States in Vermont.

Abby Vandiver is a hybrid author of four cozy mystery series. She is part of a kinship and formal adoptive family, which has played major roles in her life. Her latest books, the Romaine Wilder Mysteries, showcases the story of kinship adoption. Her other series includes the Logan Dickerson Mysteries, Mars Origin series, Tiny House Mysteries and stand-alone titles *Countdown to Atlantis* and *At the End of the Line*, an Amazon Bestseller. Abby enjoys writing, reading and spending time with her four grandchildren, one of whom is adopted.

Moderator – D.M. Pulley's historical mystery novels revolve around uncovering family secrets and the buried past. In 1949, Pulley's grandmother left her father with relatives and disappeared for several years, leaving unanswered questions that haunt her family to this day. The mystery of where her grandmother went formed the basis for Pulley's second novel, *The Buried Book*. Before becoming a full-time writer, Pulley worked as a professional engineer, rehabbing historic structures and conducting forensic investigations of building failures. Her structural survey of a vacant building in Cleveland inspired her debut novel, *The Dead Key*, the winner of the 2014 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award. She is also the author of *The Unclaimed Victim* and *No One's Home* (due out September 1, 2019).

The event will include a moderated panel discussion, book signings, food and drink, and a raffle. VIP tickets are available which includes a private reception with the authors. Ticket costs are \$50, \$100 and \$250. All proceeds from the event support the programs and services of Adoption Network Cleveland.

To learn more about Family Reflections: Authors Share Their Stories and to register, please visit:

<https://www.adoptionnetwork.org/news-events/events/family-reflections-authors-share-their-stories---a-benefit-for-adoption-network-cleveland.html>

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About Adoption Network Cleveland

Adoption Network Cleveland is an innovative non-profit organization that fulfills otherwise unmet needs for information, advocacy, education and support for members of the adoption (adoptees, birthparents, and adoptive/kinship parents) and foster care community and related professionals. Adoption Network Cleveland is a member of Greater Cleveland Community Shares.

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