

2026 Short Speaker Introduction for Amanda (mental illness topic)

Our guest today is a **National Award-Winning Author and Teacher** who served **10 years** on the Board of Directors for the **National Alliance on Mental Illness, Orange County** affiliate. She's currently writing her tenth book.

Her critically acclaimed debut memoir, ***LOSING DAD, Paranoid Schizophrenia: A Family's Search for Hope***, won an IBPA silver award in **psychology**, was a finalist for a Readers' Favorite Award and a quarter finalist for the *Publishers Weekly BookLife* Prize. Her sequel, ***FINDING DAD, Paranoid Schizophrenia: An End to the Search***, was selected as a finalist for the IAN Book of the Year awards.

Please join me in welcoming our guest, author **Amanda LaPera (La-Pear-uh)**