

AMANDA LAPERA

Award-Winning Author |
Speaker | Educator |
Mental Health Advocate



ABOUT AMANDA

Amanda LaPera is an award-winning author of fiction and nonfiction and a speaker whose work explores the role of hope and resilience in overcoming trauma. Her books include *Losing Dad*, *Paranoid Schizophrenia: A Family's Search for Hope* and its sequel *Finding Dad: An End to the Search*, as well as the coming-of-age *Desert of Dreams Series*. Her books are recognized for their emotional honesty and depth. She devoted ten years to the NAMI-OC Board of Directors and has been an educator for over twenty years.

SIGNATURE SPEAKING TOPICS

- TOGETHER IS BETTER: Lessons from lived experience
- MENTAL ILLNESS & FAMILY IMPACT: What needs to change
- RESILIENCE IN UNCERTAINTY: Navigating systems and stigma
- STORYTELLING AS HEALING: Power of sharing your story
- OVERCOMING ADVERSITY: Motivational - Reclaiming identity

WHAT DO AUDIENCES GAIN?

- Practical tools for resilience
- Mental health awareness & empathy
- Emotional connection + perspective shift
- Actionable mindset changes

PRAISE FOR AMANDA'S FICTION

"A realistic portrayal of a troubled upbringing"

— **Kirkus Reviews** (*Reach for Hope*)

"a heartfelt tale of resilience and hope."

— **Publishers Weekly BookLife** (*Dare to Dream*)

BOOK AMANDA LAPERA | Keynotes •
Conferences • Panels • Workshops •
Podcasts • Speeches • Media Interviews

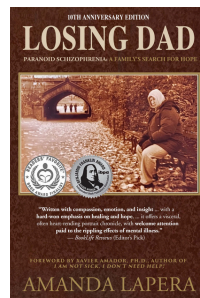
BOOKS



DESERT OF DREAMS SERIES

Coming-of-age standalone stories that explore connection, identity, trauma, hope, and resilience.

- *Sway with the Wind* (prequel)
- *Dare to Dream* (Book 1)
- *Reach for Hope* (Book 2)
- *Embrace the Truth* (Book 3)



LOSING DAD

PSYCHOLOGY MEMOIR:

Losing Dad, Paranoid Schizophrenia: A Family's Search for Hope

- Award-winning
- Amazon Category Bestseller



FINDING DAD

PSYCHOLOGY MEMOIR:

Finding Dad, Paranoid Schizophrenia: An End to the Search

- Award-winning
- Amazon Category Bestseller

CREDIBILITY & RECOGNITION

- IBPA Benjamin Franklin Silver Award
- BookLife Editor's Pick
- LQHS Teacher of the Year (2 times)
- Honored by Mental Health Assoc. of Orange County
- Former Board Member, NAMI-OC (10 years)
- BookLife Prize Quarter Finalist
- Readers' Favorite Award Finalist
- IAN Book of the Year Award Finalist

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