

PRESS RELEASE

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Coming November 2018, **WE: An Adoption and A Memoir** by Ben Barnz Has Major Influencers Gushing, Weeping and Cheering — “Captivating, enthralling, and ultimately full of love and hope,” reviews **Samantha Bee**. “I read this book once. Put it down on my bedside table and carried it around in my heart until I picked it up again and read for a second time...then a third. It’s that good,” reviews **Felicity Huffman**. “A moving reminder of the capacity of love,” reviews **Jesse Tyler Ferguson**. “At once heart-warming and gut-wrenching. I did the same ugly crying while reading as when I saw *Kramer v. Kramer* and *Terms of Endearment*,” reviews **Mark Feuerstein**. “Part memoir, part love letter, part haunting tale, *We* speaks in simple truths. What it means to be a father, a son, a partner, an adopted family. What it means to hold your baby girl knowing you may have to give her up. This gem of a first book burns deep with feeling, humor and the grace of salty tears,” reviews **Jodie Foster**.

WE is a meditation on parenting, an exploration of fatherhood, and an examination of family – a narrative that is particularly relevant today when the very concept of what constitutes a family is so hotly debated.

NOVEMBER 1, 2018 — Deadwood, OR — **WE: An Adoption and A Memoir** centers on the story of Barnz adopting a child and the legal battle with the birthfather that began the day after the child’s birth – and two days before 9/11. The book interweaves this narrative with Barnz’s path to parenthood – beginning with his closeted youth in 1980’s New York, a time when it was statistically more likely he would die from AIDS than become a father.

Alternating between legal suspense story and memoir, **WE** examines shifting gender roles in parenting as well as modern notions of family-construction, but ultimately **WE** is a personal narrative with universal appeal. It delves into the complicated relationships that arise between birthparents and adoptive parents, between birthmothers and birthfathers, between parent and child, between married couples. In this story, as in life, empathy is revealed where, technically, none should exist; this book examines our desire to do better, be better– better people, better friends, better parents, better strangers, better ourselves. And in the end, it celebrates the potential we all have for forgiveness.

Independent film producer Ben Barnz and his husband, filmmaker Daniel Barnz, make up “We’re Not Brothers Productions” and have written, directed and produced the films *Cake* and *Phoebe in Wonderland*. They are currently developing an HBO pilot with Lena Dunham and a feature film with Brad Pitt’s Plan B about Ryan Wash, an openly gay black debate champion.

WE: An Adoption and A Memoir will be available November 2018 from booksellers internationally.

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WE: An Adoption and a Memoir (NOV 2018) Ben Barnz; 272 pages; ISBN: 9781948018-21-0, \$28 Hardcover; ISBN: 9781948018-22-7, \$18 Softcover; ISBN: 9781948018-23-4, \$9.99 eBook; BIO026000/BIOGRAPHY& AUTOBIOGRAPHY/Personal Memoirs; FAM004000/FAMILY & RELATIONSHIPS/ Adoption; FAM006000/FAMILY & RELATIONSHIPS/Alternative Family; SOC012000/SOCIAL SCIENCE/Gay Studies; Distributed by Ingram, Follett, Coutts, Bertrams, and Gardners. Available in Braille from Bookshare; published by Wyatt-MacKenzie in Deadwood, Oregon.