

Traverse City author celebrates *The Orphan Daughter* with three May events Second novel is already a regional best-seller

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TRAVERSE CITY – Michigan author Cari Noga's second novel, *THE ORPHAN DAUGHTER*, set almost entirely in her hometown of Traverse City, will be released by Lake Union Publishing in paperback, Kindle and audio editions on May 8, 2018.

THE ORPHAN DAUGHTER is the story of how two fragile souls – 11-year-old orphan Lucy Ortiz and her aunt, prickly empty-nester Jane McArdle -- forge a family in the aftermath of tragedy. The contemporary novel, told by Lucy and Jane in alternating first-person point of view chapters, is already a northern Michigan best-seller, according to sales statistics compiled by Horizon Books of Traverse City.

A 20-year resident of Traverse City, Noga mined the resources of the resort and agriculture community for both plot and characters as she wrote and revised the novel between 2013-16. Co-protagonist Jane runs a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) on Traverse City's Old Mission Peninsula. In real life, Noga subscribed to Barbara Wunsch's Peak Season CSA, also located on Old Mission. Wunsch also served as a volunteer beta reader, or test reader, as the novel was in progress.

For the character of grieving Lucy, whose parents are killed in a car accident, Noga drew on the expertise of Traverse City art therapist Barbara McIntyre, founder of Munson Hospice's children's art therapy group. McIntyre, too, was a beta reader. Research and public forums into migrant worker issues conducted by the Leelanau County chapter of the League of Women Voters also informed plot and character development, as did actual events in northwest Michigan, including a 2010 deportation chronicled in the *Northern Express* weekly newspaper and the decimation of the 2012 cherry crop by unseasonable weather. In addition, Noga tapped into ten years of covering the region's agriculture economy as a newspaper reporter and freelance writer in Traverse City, from 1998-2008.

The following launch month events are planned in Traverse City in May:

- Saturday, May 5 – Launch party, 4-5:30 p.m. Horizon Books' Shine Café, 243 E. Front Street
- Saturday, May 12 – Book signing and author meet & greet, 1-3 p.m. Brilliant Books, 118 E. Front St.
- Wednesday, May 23 – Reading, beta reader introductions, Q&A and book signing, 6:30 p.m., Traverse Area District Library Woodmere branch, McGuire Room.

THE ORPHAN DAUGHTER is Noga's follow-up to her debut novel, *SPARROW MIGRATIONS*. She wrote the first drafts of both books during National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), the worldwide project in which writers attempt to write a 50,000-word book in November. NaNoWriMo led to a kind of Cinderella story for Noga herself. In November 2010 she completed the first draft of *SPARROW MIGRATIONS*, the story of five characters whose lives are transformed by the Miracle on the Hudson plane crash. She then attempted to traditionally publish it while revising over two years.

Unsuccessful but undeterred, she chose to self-publish in April 2013. Spurred by local sales, book club selections and online promotions, *SPARROW MIGRATIONS* earned hundreds of positive reader reviews, attracting the attention of Lake Union Publishing, an imprint of Amazon Publishing, which re-released it

in paperback, Kindle and a new, audio edition in June 2015. The novel has now been adapted into a five-part mini-series script, which is available for development.

Meanwhile, Noga began THE ORPHAN DAUGHTER in 2013 as another NaNoWriMo project. Similar to SPARROW MIGRATIONS in its focus on contemporary, unconventional family relationships, she continued to revise the manuscript through 2016, when Lake Union acquired it for release in May 2018.

Noga, 48, lives with her husband and two children, ages 12 and 9, in Traverse City. She grew up in Dearborn, Mich., and lived and worked in Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa between 1987-1997.

Advance electronic review copies of the contemporary tale, are now available on NetGalley. Contact Noga for the link.

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