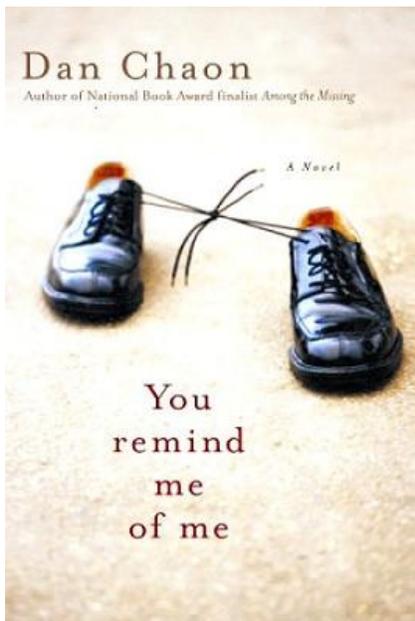


You Remind Me of Me by Dan Chaon A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit



About the Book

You Remind Me of Me begins with a series of separate incidents: In 1977, a little boy is savagely attacked by his mother's pet Doberman. In 1997 another little boy disappears from his grandmother's backyard on a sunny summer morning. In 1966, a pregnant teenager admits herself to a maternity home, with the intention of giving her child up for adoption. In 1991, a young man drifts toward a career as a drug dealer, even as he hopes for something better. With penetrating insight and a deep devotion to his characters, Dan Chaon explores the secret connections that irrevocably link them. In the process he examines questions of identity, fate, and circumstance: Why do we become the people that we become?

How do we end up stuck in lives that we never wanted? And can we change the course of what seems inevitable?

In language that is both unflinching and exquisite, Chaon moves deftly between the past and the present in the small-town prairie Midwest and shows us the extraordinary lives of "ordinary" people.

Cited resource:

"About This Book" from Random House

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780345441409>



About the Author

Fiction writer Dan Chaon, born and raised in Sidney, Nebraska, is the author of the collections **Among the Missing** (Ballantine, 2002) and **Fitting Ends and Other Stories** (Northwestern UP, 1996; reprinted by Ballantine, 2003). He has received many awards and has been a finalist for the National Book Award (2001). **Among the Missing** was listed as one of the ten best books of 2001 by the American Library Association, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Las Vegas Mercury*, and *Entertainment Weekly*. It was also cited by *Publishers Weekly*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New York Times* as one of the Notable Books of the year. The collection has

been translated into several languages. His first novel, **You Remind Me of Me**, was released in 2004. **Await Your Reply** was published in 2009.

Dan's stories have appeared in the anthologies **Best American Short Stories** 1996 and 2003, and **The Pushcart Prize** 2000, 2002, and 2003, as well as such noteworthy literary journals as *TriQuarterly*, *Ploughshares*, *American Short Fiction*, *Crazyhorse*, *Gettysburg Review*, *MSS*, *Story*, *Helicon*, *Mid-American Review*, and elsewhere. Dan has won the Raymond Carver Memorial Award and has been a "Special Mention" several times in the Pushcart Prize for fiction. His story "Big Me" won 2nd prize and is reprinted from *Gettysburg Review* (Summer 2000) in **Prize Stories 2001: The O Henry Awards**. He has been a finalist for the National Magazine Award in Fiction, and was the recipient of the 2006 Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Chaon lives in Cleveland, Ohio, and teaches at Oberlin College, where he is the Pauline M. Delaney Professor of Creative Writing.

Author Resources:

Writers on Writing: Interview with Dan Chaon

<http://averyanthology.blogspot.com/2008/07/writers-on-writing-interview-with-dan.html>

NPR Interview with Dan Chaon

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6551196>

Oberlin News and Features: Interview with Dan Chaon

http://www.oberlin.edu/news-info/01oct/dan_chaon_profile.html

Ohio Magazine article on Dan Chaon and the 2010 Ohioana Book Festival

http://www.ohiomagazine.com/Main/Articles/Story_Line_4164.aspx

Cited resources:

"Author Spotlight" from Random House

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780345441409>

Book Guide Nebraska Authors: Dan Chaon

<http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/DEPTS/bookguide/lists/chaon.htm>



Discussion Questions

1. Why did Nora give up her first baby and not her second? In turn, how did each child pay the price of her decision?
2. How do Jonah's scars influence his life the most?
3. Why is Jonah so much more interested in the baby his mother gave up than Troy is about being adopted?
4. How do you feel Jonah and Troy's lives would have been different if Nora had been honest with Wayne Hill, Troy's natural father, about being pregnant?
5. How are Steve and Holiday, and Jonah important to each other? Why did their relationship end?
6. Why couldn't Jonah recognize the circumstances he could change or influence so his fate would turn out differently?
7. How would Jonah and Troy's lives been different if Jonah had been honest with Troy about their connection when they first met?
8. Why do you think Jonah didn't tell Troy the truth about Nora's life and personality when they first meet? Would this have changed the relationship between Troy and Jonah?
9. At what point did you recognize that Jonah has seriously broken with reality?
10. What is the significance of names in this novel? Why do you think the author chose each name?

Troy
The Mrs. Glass House
Jonah
Gary Gray

Mrs. Keene
Lisa Fixx
Loomis
St. Bonaventure

Cited resource:

Reader's Guide from Random House

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780345441409&view=rq>



Additional Resources

“The Links that Connect Brothers” by Ron Charles

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0608/p15s02-bogn.html>

Article from the *Christian Science Monitor* about **You Remind Me of Me**.

Deigning to Entertain Panel

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyL0-PNPFwl&feature=related>

Video clip of Dan Chaon at the Association of Writers & Writing Programs conference in Atlanta.

Literature Map

<http://www.literature-map.com/dan+chaon.html>

What else do readers of Dan Chaon read? Check this interactive map. The closer two writers are, the more likely someone will like both of them.

Dan Chaon’s faculty page at Oberlin College

http://new.oberlin.edu/arts-and-sciences/departments/creative_writing/faculty_detail.dot?id=20631

Poets & Writers interview with Dan Chaon

http://www.pw.org/content/interview_ficton_writer_dan_chaon

2002 Cleveland Arts Prize biography of Dan Chaon

http://www.clevelandartsprize.org/awardees/dan_chaon.html

Dan Chaon reads his short story “Shepherdess”

<http://wiredforbooks.org/danchaon/>

Available in RealAudio or MP3 from Wired for Books.

Book details:

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Ballantine Books, 2004, ISBN 978-0345441416.

About Choose to Read Ohio

Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) spotlights Ohio authors and promotes reading across Ohio. The State Library of Ohio, in partnership with Ohioana Library Association, developed this initiative to encourage Ohioans of all ages to share literature by authors native to, residing in, or associated with Ohio. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups.

Explore Choose to Read Ohio resources & toolkits: <http://oh.webjunction.org/ohctrointro>.