

The Record Keeper: The Unfolding of a Family Secret in the Age of Genetic Genealogy

by Allison Lawrentz Barnhart



No secret stays buried forever.

In a 1950s small Midwestern town, Evelyn, a young wife and mother, found solace from a world where she had little say by methodically documenting her life through various hobbies: taking photos, creating scrapbooks, and keeping...everything. But in doing so, she inadvertently laid the groundwork for her future granddaughter, Allison, a young wife and mother herself, to unearth a 60-year-old secret capable of reshaping an entire branch of their family tree—and their identity.

The Record Keeper is a true story about DNA, genealogy, and memory. This touching personal narrative brings to light the complex dynamics of family and friendships, motherhood and marriage—how they can be torn apart by betrayal and abuse, yet mended together by time, forgiveness, and love.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Allison Lawrentz Barnhart grew up in Ashland, Ohio, and graduated from Ashland University which included a year intensive at The Art Institute of Pittsburgh. Although she's a full-time graphic designer, genealogy research has been a constant love of hers since grade-school. With the encouragement of her relatives on all sides of the tree, she has been on a decades-long mission to not only build her own family's story and write about it, but to help others find joy in discovering their origins and tell their stories. This is her debut book. Allison resides in Ashland, Ohio, with her husband and two children.

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