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Literary Agents
Reader Report
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A Family, Maybe: Two Dads, Two Babies, and the Court Cases That Brought Us Together is part gay memoir, part adoption memoir, and a whole lot of family drama—think *The Fosters* meets *This is Us*, but with babies!

Set against the gay civil rights struggle of the early 2000s, author Lane Igoudin, a Russian-Jewish immigrant and his partner Jon, an African American man, battle the ineptitude of the Los Angeles County foster and family court systems, and a sympathetic but unfit teenaged birth mother to adopt two babies and build the family they've always dreamed of.

Lane and Jon first take in Marianna, a chubby, curly-haired Hispanic 20-month-old girl, then her newborn half-sister Gabriella, fostering the girls while their birth mother is given time and resources to meet the court's terms for reunification. But if the mother fails to satisfy the court in time, Lane and Jon can begin the adoption process. As time goes on, extension after extension is granted, a wayward biological father emerges, overworked social workers are abruptly reassigned, and the couple's hopes for fatherhood are dashed as often as they are raised. But the girls continue to grow and thrive in their care. Bonding with their temporary fathers over the course of three years, the men have been the only source of stability, safety, and love these girls have ever known—but to the court, biology beats all. The book does have a happy ending, but happy for whom? That's for you to decide.

The story is told in a nonlinear fashion, strategically utilizing prolepses and analepses to maintain a quick pace sure to keep the reader's interest. It is an epistolary memoir, using diaries, letters, court transcripts, and legislative rulings masterfully woven through elegant prose. I have fact-checked the well-researched, cited, historical events using the sources provided by the author. Perhaps the best feature of this book though, is the author's voice, which is strong and clear—that of a confident gay man, loving and sincere, with just a touch of snark.

This book is rife with representation racially, culturally, and spiritually, and has the potential for broad appeal despite the controversial nature of the topic. It is bound to spark discourse among myriad social, political, literary, and diverse circles. I see this in book clubs, college classrooms, and the nightstands of the socially conscious. Of course, there are also bound to be objections to its content, and it will likely be banned in a conservative county or two, but we all know what book banning does for sales numbers! Foreign Rights may be tricky since several international markets may be opposed to the content, but then, some of them may surprise you. These rights would still be worth reserving.

The style, writing, and emotionality of this book make it a strong contender for literary awards. It is solidly a memoir, but of the upmarket variety. It could be shelved with other memoirs, but also under gay activism and history, or family and adoption books. Some relevant comps include *All You Can Ever Know: A Memoir* (Penguin Random House) and *Does This Baby Make Me Look Straight: Confessions of a Gay Dad* (Simon & Schuster).

Ultimately, my verdict is this: *A Family, Maybe* is definitely worth a full read. It has immense potential for both best-seller status and as a literary award darling. It is also incredibly timely—the rights that have been previously fought for and earned, the same ones depicted in this book, are in jeopardy with the current Supreme Court, as we have seen with the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* earlier this year. The author would also make for a promising client as he is a contributor to various gay and adoption related publications, an elegant public speaker with experience testifying before state and federal legislatures on matters of equality, and has impressive credentials, earning his PhD in Linguistics from Stanford University. I would urge you to read fast and schedule a meeting!