



## The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year Margaret Renkl

Award-winning bestselling author and contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times*.

## Mary Laura Philpott

Bestselling author of *I Miss You When I Blink* and the memoir *Bomb Shelter: Love, Time, and Other Explosives*

**Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 7:00 PM (on Zoom)**

**Register: [www.bit.ly/RenkIFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/RenkIFANWebinar)**

**PLUS: After-Hours Event!**

Purchase a copy of *The Comfort of Crows* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall to receive a link to an interactive "After-Hours" event hosted by Renkl and Philpott. Details on the Zoom registration form.

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with

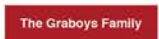
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This event is #freeandopentothepublic and will be recorded. Suitable for youth 12+. [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARGARET RENKL – ON ZOOM

CONTACT: Lonnie Stonitsch, Executive Director of FAN, lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net

Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 7:00 PM, The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year, a FAN webinar featuring Margaret Renkl, in conversation with Mary Laura Philpott.

REGISTER: [www.bit.ly/RenklFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/RenklFANWebinar).

**BONUS AFTER-HOURS EVENT:** Attendees who purchase a copy of *The Comfort of Crows* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall are invited to attend an AFTER-HOURS event hosted by Renkl and Philpott that will start immediately after the webinar. Details on the webinar registration page.

In *The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year*, award-winning bestselling author **Margaret Renkl** presents a literary devotional: fifty-two chapters that follow the creatures and plants in her backyard over the course of a year. As we move through the seasons—from a crow spied on New Year's Day, its resourcefulness and sense of community setting a theme for the year, to the lingering bluebirds of December, revisiting the nest box they used in spring—what develops is a portrait of joy and grief: joy in the ongoing pleasures of the natural world, and grief over winters that end too soon and songbirds that grow fewer and fewer.

Along the way, we also glimpse the changing rhythms of a human life. Grown children, unexpectedly home during the pandemic, prepare to depart once more. Birdsong and night-blooming flowers evoke generations past. The city and the country where Renkl raised her family transform a little more with each passing day. And the natural world, now in visible flux, requires every ounce of hope and commitment from the author—and from us. For, as Renkl writes, “radiant things are bursting forth in the darkest places, in the smallest nooks and deepest cracks of the hidden world.”

With fifty-two original color artworks by the author's brother, Billy Renkl, *The Comfort of Crows* is a lovely and deeply moving book from a cherished observer of the natural world.

Renkl lives in Nashville and is a contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times*, where her essays appear weekly. She will be in conversation with **Mary Laura Philpott**, the nationally bestselling author of *I Miss You When I Blink* and the memoir *Bomb Shelter: Love, Time, and Other Explosives*, which won the Southern Book Prize and was named a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice and one of NPR's “Favorite Books of 2022.”

This event suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded and available on FAN's website and YouTube channel.

Sponsored by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with **The Alliance for Early Childhood, The Avery Coonley School, Baker Demonstration School, Bernard Zell Anshe Emet School, Catherine Cook School, Chicago Jewish Day School, Compass Health Center, Countryside Day School, Evanston Township HS D202, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, Family Service Center, The Frances Xavier Warde School, Francis W. Parker School, Gorton Center, Grayslake Community High School D127, Hyde Park Day School, Kenilworth D38, Lake Bluff D65, Lake Forest Country Day School, Lake Michigan Association of Independent Schools, Latin School of Chicago, Leo Catholic High School, Loyola Academy, Lycée Français de Chicago, Mindful Psychology Associates, New Trier High School D203, New Trier Parents' Association, North Shore Country Day, Northwestern University Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Rebel Human, Regina Dominican High School, Resurrection College Prep High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, Santa Clara University School of Law, Science & Arts Academy, Stevenson High School D125, University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District, Woodlands Academy, and Youth & Opportunity United.**