



PRESS RELEASE
North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 31, 2025
Contact: Jennifer Smathers, West End Adult Services Library Service Specialist
360-374-6402 x7792; JSmathers@NOLS.org
Re: Author Putsata Reang to discuss storytelling as an antidote to erasure in free talk
at Forks Library
Attached: *HW-Putsata-Reang.png*

Join the North Olympic Library System (NOLS) and Humanities Washington for “[Resisting Erasure through Storytelling](#),” a free talk with author Putsata Reang on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Forks Branch Library, 171 S. Forks Ave.

At eight years old, Reang didn’t understand why her skin was brown when that of her classmates was white. Hoping to change this, she put an eraser to her arm and rubbed. A decade later, as she struggled to reckon with the dawning realization that she is gay, she held a razor to her wrist. Recalling how her mother had once saved her as an infant when their family fled war in her native Cambodia, Reang ultimately could not end her own life.

External forces such as anti-LGBTQ+ legislation, and internal forces, such as shame and discrimination, put an increasing number of Americans like Reang at risk for erasure. The presentation will discuss the dangers of dwelling on differences and encourage the audience to share their personal stories as an antidote to erasure.

Information about the event can be found at NOLS.org/HW.

About the Presenter

Putsata Reang (she/her) is an author and journalist whose debut memoir, “[Ma and Me](#),” was awarded the 2023 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association prize for nonfiction and was recognized as a finalist for the 2023 Lambda Literary Award. Her writing has appeared in publications including the New York Times, Ms. magazine, Politico, and The Guardian. Reang has held several prestigious residencies and was a fellow of the Jack Straw Writers program and Alicia Patterson Foundation for journalists.

About Humanities Washington

Humanities Washington is a nonprofit organization dedicated to opening minds and bridging divides by creating spaces to explore different perspectives. For more about Humanities Washington, visit humanities.org.



Join author Putsata Reang on Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Forks Branch Library as she explores storytelling as antidote to shame, erasure, and discrimination. The free public talk begins at 11 a.m.

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