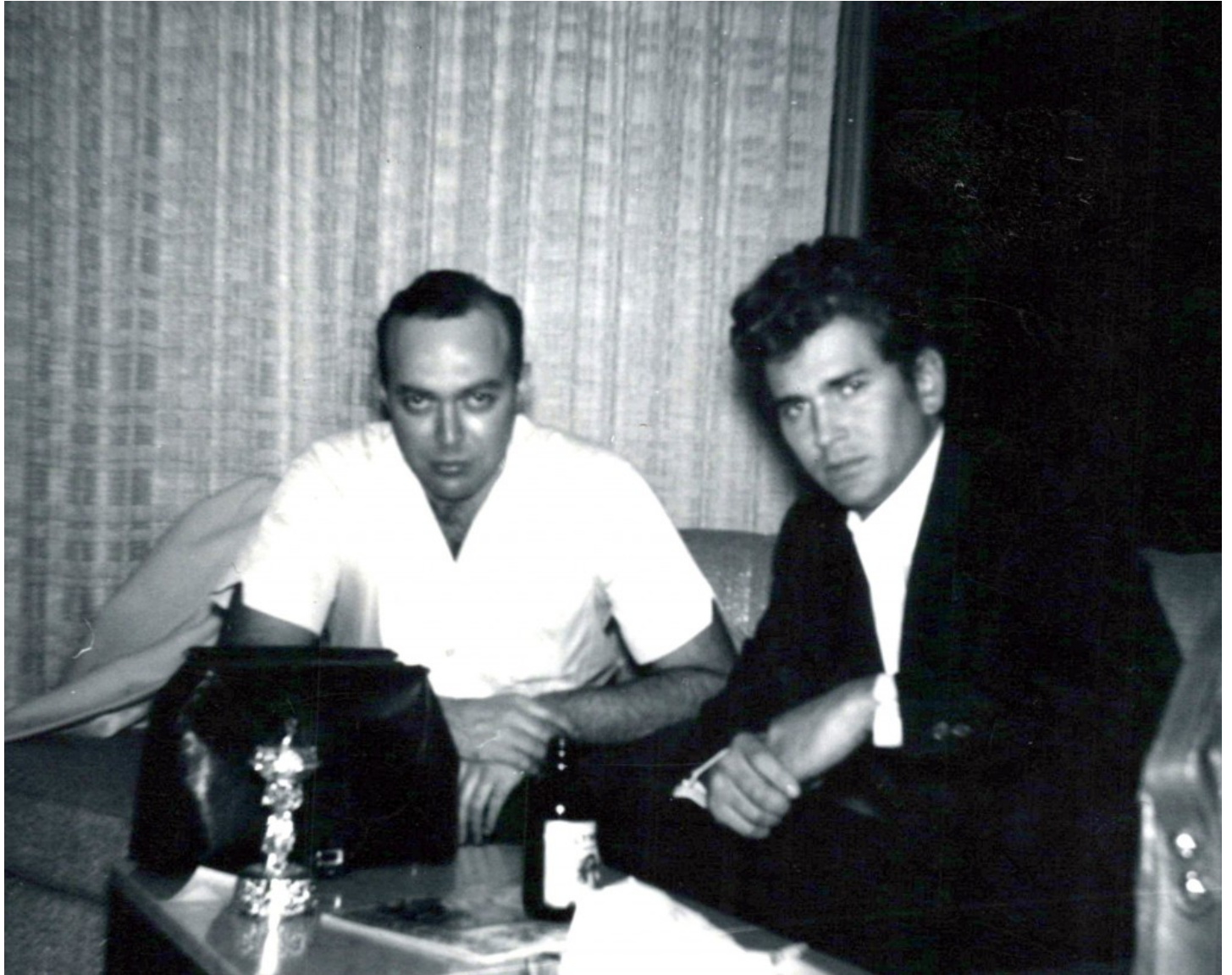


The Dark Secret Television Star Michael Landon Took to His Grave

A new tell-all memoir from JIA Publishing reveals the roles actors Michael Landon, Melissa Gilbert, and several others played in a closed adoption orchestrated by infamous former LA Clippers owner Donald Sterling and Addams Family composer Vic Mizzy.



Hollywood, California Oct 27, 2025 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - A new tell-all memoir from JIA Publishing reveals the roles television star Michael Landon, actress Melissa Gilbert, and several other celebrities played in a closed adoption orchestrated by infamous former LA Clippers owner Donald Sterling and Addams Family composer Vic Mizzy in the fall of 1976. According to Kirkus Reviews, "The Secret Adoption" recounts the elaborate measures taken by an influential Beverly Hills couple to conceal the child's origins after the death of their eldest son, on whom Landon modeled the character Albert Ingalls in "Little House on the Prairie."

Gilbert, herself an adoptee, praised the story on her Instagram, saying, "It's about survival. It's about coming to terms with the truth of who we are at the core of our beings. It's about forgiveness—mostly it's

just about love and trying to be a good human. You simply must read this book."

Penned by the adoptee who uncovered the secret as an adult, the whimsical story features irreverent run-ins with notable personalities such as Frank Sinatra, Ozzy Osbourne, Magic Johnson, and Al Pacino, whom the author, Rafael Moscatel, nearly killed in an intersection while driving through Los Angeles. In one intriguing passage, the author's father recalls socializing with Nicole Brown, ex-wife of notorious O.J. Simpson, the night of her murder, a detail described as immaterial to his inquiring son. The anecdote underscores the author's recurring theme throughout the book that his "family knew how to keep secrets." Throughout the explosive memoir, untimely deaths of Moscatel's young friends to addiction, including Sterling's own son and comedian Mort Sahl's, are retold with poignant reflections on parenting and insights into childhood trauma.

"Everybody today knows somebody going through an identity crisis," Moscatel laments. "Especially today, youths are questioning who they really are. The struggle with late-discovery adoption is analogous, and the answer is the same—becoming comfortable in your own skin and accepting how you were made.

The Department of Health and Human Services estimates that about 120,000 adoptions occur each year in the United States. However, late-discovery scenarios, in which an adoptee may never learn of their circumstances, remain common. Almost all states have laws that seal adoption records. Access to those records is generally restricted and requires a court order, though the process and exceptions differ by state.

To mark the book's release, the publisher is posting a trove of never-before-seen private photographs of Landon and celebrity friends from the family archives on its [website](#).

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