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Adoptionland: From Orphans To Activists



Synopsis

Ever wondered what it's like to be adopted? This anthology begins with personal accounts and then shifts to a bird's eye view on adoption from domestic, intercountry and transracial adoptees who are now adoptee rights activists. Along with adopted people, this collection also includes the voices of mothers and a father from the Baby Scoop Era, a modern-day mother who almost lost her child to adoption, and ends with the experience of an adoption investigator from Against Child Trafficking. These stories are usually abandoned by the very industry that professes to work for the "best interest of children," "child protection," and for families. However, according to adopted people who were scattered across nations as children, these represent typical human rights issues that have been ignored for too long. For many years, adopted people have just dealt with such matters alone, not knowing that all of us as a community have a great deal in common.

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Customer Reviews

I do live in Adoptionland...Full disclosure: I contributed to this incredible book and I just finished re-reading it and I am completely blown away (again) at the breathtaking scope of voices. I am so thoroughly moved. If ONLY this book had been available to me to read when I was a much younger adoptee in the depths of pain and lost in the adoption fog and fear. This book would've educated me on adoptionland, that what I was feeling was shared with other adoptees. Reading this in my 20s - after I opened my adoption with a judge, I would have felt

less isolated, less alone. (Isolation exists for adoptees who are not with our first families and in our countries of origin.) This book would have truly helped me to see how I fit into this world of being a product for baby brokers (in my case the Catholic Charities) and how the word “adoption” should really be changed to “trafficking in children and babies.” As one reviewer wrote: The book asks realistically, "What is the best interest of adopted children?" All these writers do answer this with our own narratives. Our continued social activism in books like ADOPTIONLAND will provide healing and answers to those still lost due to adoption and counter the adoption policies, propaganda and practices that countries and institutions still refuse to deal with, even in 2014. I strongly feel that we are the only ones who can change it and it must change. I cannot stress this enough: Adoptionland is a must read.

The 28 personal narrative will move you, break your heart, haunt you as the voices describe their pain and frustration. This anthology of domestic and transracial adoptees, and first family mothers and fathers tell the darker sides of the adoption process and the often cruel disregard for the "other" families. The book often takes the social and political stance of adoption institutions as child trafficking profit centers, coercing unsuspecting birth parents, the host countries as first world neo-imperialists that grow tired of cute foreign children once they become adults, the adult adoptees as alienated foreigners in both their host and birth countries. The book asks realistically, "What is the best interest of adopted children?" These adoptee voices who have moved on to adoptee-children-social activism bravely speak out and provide healing answers that the adoption policies and practices, countries and institutions refuse to deal with. Must read, must understand, must support and must reform.

This is an anthology written by adult adoptees and first/birth mothers about their experiences with adoption. Although each piece is very different in form (included are short non-fiction, articles, interviews, and poetry) and story, they are woven together with the common thread of injustice. Authors include some of today's well-known adoption thought leaders and writers -- this is not "just" a book written about adoption, it's a lovely kaleidoscope of pieces, each a work of art standing alone. Although the book is organized into sections, one piece might be a short and terse article, while the next is a detail-driven non-fiction. Somehow this worked. As to the specific works, anyone who was adopted will be able to identify with most, if not all pieces. The book is really not as sad as I expected. It's also very hopeful. The universal truths about adoption are evident. I really enjoyed the personal stories by women who were in Magdalene Laundries, firsthand accounts of how

children are stolen, and a man whose child was taken from him. As an adoptee, I'm familiar with adoptee stories (though all of these were refreshing and insightful), so the stories from parents were very interesting. This book is emotionally hard to read, and consequently, I couldn't put it down. Yes, some pieces were more compelling than others, but overall, it's a beautiful, sad crash course.

This is a very compelling book! If you are contemplating adoption or are an adoptive parent (domestic or international), this is an absolute Must read book. If you work for or contribute in any way in the adoption industry (including as a politician) this is also an absolute must read for you, too. Here you will find some of the real life experiences of the most important voices in adoption...that of the adopted person. I say shame on the governments, legislators, adoption industry, adoption agencies, churches, adoption facilitators for permitting and contributing to the many abuses against first mothers, fathers, and their little children world wide. For me, as an adoptive parent who has been highly suspicious of the industry for so many years now I applaud every single author in this superb anthology for speaking up loud and clear. Their voices and the voices of millions of other adopted persons world wide will no longer be drowned out by The Adoption Industry and their lobbying groups. It is long past due to hear the truths about how this industry has and still continues to manipulate the truth and create all the unchecked corruption that has been going on for so very many, many years. The time for change is long past due! I so appreciate each contributor to this wonderful anthology. Of particular personal interest for me is the section at the end written by internationally adopted adult, Arun Dohle. To each author I say "Thank you so very much" and a special thanks to Janine Myuung Ja for putting it all together.

Before reading this book I never considered what it would be like to be the person adopted and then taken from their country and brought to a foreign land. Adoptionland's personal stories of people adopted from abroad or within the United States shows clearly the desire for roots, one's biological family and origins. What struck me was that these writers--whether adopted from China, India, a U.S. Native Tribe, Haiti, Germany, Korea or domestically-- all wanted to find their biological families and be reunited with their people, cultures and heritages. This book would be of immense value to all those studying culture, social work or psychology.

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