

Adoption Circle of Hawaii

Adoption Circle of Hawaii Selected Books on Adoption

The following are some of the many books on adoption. New books are coming out each year! You will find a brief description for the books listed.

An attempt has been made to categorize the books as pertaining to nine topic areas: adoptees, adoptive parents, birth parents, cross-cultural issues, open adoption, personal story, policy/politics, psychological/emotional, and search. Please note these categories are only a rough guide. For example, a book may be characterized as for birth parents, yet you as an adoptee or adoptive parent may be interested in reading it. See key in the box at left.

A =	Adoptee
AP =	Adoptive Parent
BP =	Birth Parent
CC =	Cross-cultural
OP =	Open adoption
Story =	Personal story
Pol =	Policy / Politics
Psy =	Psychological
Search =	Search

A big thanks to the New Jersey Coalition for Adoption Reform and Education (NJCARE), American Adoption Congress, Concerned United Birthparents, and Bastard Nation whose book lists were reviewed in our development of this list.

AN ADOPTED WOMAN. Katrina Maxtone-Graham. Remi, 1983. A well-written memoir by a New York City woman who found her birth mother in Mexico. Obstacles to searching twenty years ago are powerfully and poignantly documented. *Story, A, Search*

ADOPTEEES COME OF AGE: Living within Two Families. Ronald J. Nydam. John Knox Press, 1999. For adoptees and anyone who relates to them. Describes distinct emotional and spiritual challenges and emphasizes importance of ongoing issues of adoption and relinquishment. *Psy, A*

ADOPTING THE HURT CHILD: Hope for Families with Special Needs: A Guide for Parents and Professionals. Gregory C. Keck & Regina M. Kupecky. Pinon Press, 1998. Comprehensive and beneficial guide. Includes foreign adoption and integrates social and psychological issues that interrupt the adopted children's normal development. *Psy, AP*

ADOPTION: Philosophy and Experience. Randolph W Severson. House of Tomorrow, 1994. Deeply spiritual and emotional, covers adoption practice, adoption rights movement and social science/social service with sensitivity and eloquence. *Psy, Pol, BP*

ADOPTION AND ASSISTED REPRODUCTION. Adoption and Ethics Series. Madelyn Freundlich. CWLA, 2001. The growing use of sperm donation, gamete donation, and surrogate

motherhood has raised ethical issues in common with adoption. These issues include legal and social roles, secrecy, and the growing role of money and power of market forces. This book reviews the available literature and current case law and statutes. *Pol, Parents*

ADOPTION AND THE FAMILY SYSTEM. Miriam Reitz & Kenneth Watson. Guilford Press, NY. 1992. Brings together family systems theory and adoption with case samples, useful interventions and examples of good practice for working with all members of the adoption triad. *Psy, A, BP, AP*

ADOPTION HEALING: A Path to Recovery. Joe Soll. Liturgical Press, 2000. Traces adoptee's personality from birth through developmental milestones; techniques for healing, visualizations and anger management. *Psy, A*

ADOPTION IN AMERICA: Coming of Age. Hal Aigner. Paradigm Press, 1992. Thoughtful chronology for all whose life is touched by adoption as well as professionals. *Psy*

ADOPTION MYSTIQUE. Joanne Wolf Small. Authorhouse, 2004. A collection of essays outlining the history and background of the American adoption culture and exploring the covert powerful religious, social, political and economic factors that affect adoption's collective image. *Pol*

ADOPTION NATION: How the Adoption Revolution is Transforming America. Adam Pertman. Basic Books, 2001. Groundbreaking work that examines historic metamorphosis occurring in the adoption world and resulting extraordinary changes in the U.S. This Pulitzer Prize nominee and adoptive parent, through compelling true stories, covers issues on foster care, international and domestic adoption, open adoption, use of the internet, infertility, sealing of adoptees' birth certificates - and more. *Pol, A, BP, AP, CC*

ADOPTION POLITICS: Bastard Nation and Ballot Initiative 58. E. Wayne Carp. University Press of Kansas, 2004. *Pol, A*

THE ADOPTION READER: Birth Mothers, Adoptive Mothers & Adopted Daughters Tell Their Stories. Susan Wadia-Ells, Editor. Seal Press, 1995. Thirty women, including well-known writers and adoption activists, write eloquently about a wide range of adoption experiences, including international adoption. *Story, A, AP, BP, CC*

THE ADOPTION REUNION SURVIVAL GUIDE: Preparing Yourself for the Search, Reunion, and Beyond. Julie Jarrell Bailey & Lynn N. Giddens, M.A. New Harbinger Publications 2001. Using real-life examples, this compassionate guide helps adoptees and birthmothers decide whether or not to search, prepare for reunion, survive emotional turbulence of initial meeting and avoid common pitfalls. Includes an overview of pertinent state laws. *Search, A, BP*

ADOPTION REUNIONS: A Book for Adoptees, Birth Parents and Adoptive Families. Michelle McColm. Second Story Press, 1993. An adoptee working with other adoptees and birth parents explores the roots of reunion and how to support the reunion process. *Search, A, BP*

ADOPTION SEARCHBOOK. Mary Jo Rillera. Triadoption, 1991 (1st Ed. 1988). A basic handbook outlining techniques for finding people. Author is both an adoptee and birthmother, making her uniquely qualified to scrutinize the emotional and procedural aspects of post-adoption issues. *Search, A, BP*

THE ADOPTION TRIANGLE: Sealed or Open Records, How They Affect Adoptees, Birth Parents, and Adoptive Parents. Arthur Sorosky et al. Anchor Books, 1984 (1st Ed. 1978). Groundbreaking research classic based on 1000 interviews of adoptees, adoptive parents and birth parents. *Pol, A, BP, AP*

ADOPTION WISDOM: A Guide to the Issues and Feelings of Adoption. Marlou Russell. Broken Branch Productions, 1996. Well-balanced perspective that fosters insight and understanding of adoptees, birth parents and adoptive parents. *Psy, A, BP, AP*

ADOPTION WITHOUT FEAR. James L Gritter. Corona Publishing Co., 1989. Seventeen couples tell their emotion-filled experiences with open adoption. They conclude: "Would we do it again? You bet!" *AP, OP*

ADOPTIVE KINSHIP: A Modern Institution in Need of Reform. H. David Kirk. Ben-Simon, 1985. A critical examination of adoption practices and laws in North America, which subscribe to secrecy and discrimination. Written by an adoptive father and sociologist. Academically oriented. *AP, Pol*

AIN'T NOTHIN' AS SWEET AS MY BABY. Jett Williams. AdJett Productions, 1997. The autobiography of a child who became a ward of the State and later was adopted. The legal system conspired to keep her from knowing who she was. Follow her through the court battle to be acknowledged as Hank Williams' daughter. *Story, A*

BEGGARS AND CHOOSERS: How the Politics of Choice Shapes Adoption, Abortion, and Welfare in the United States. Rickie Solinger. Hill & Wang, 2002. Author compares white women with women of color, poor or middle class, during the era of 'choice'. Well-written and researched, the book defines the politics of motherhood and how it pertains to Medicaid funding for abortions to family tax credits, infertility treatments, international adoption, teen pregnancy and welfare. *Pol, BP, CC*

BENEATH A TALL TREE. Jean Strauss. Arete, 2001. Best-selling author's memoir about her quest to unearth her past. An incredibly funny and touching journey that redefines the meaning of family and celebrates the universal connections that link us all *Story, A, Search*

BIRTBOND: Reunions Between Birthparents & Adoptees, What Happens After. Judith Gediman & Linda P. Brown. New Horizons Press, 1989. Interviews with birthmothers, adoptees, adoptive parents and others to discover the impact of reunion on all involved. *A, BP, AP, Search*

BIRTH MARK. Lorraine Dusky. M. Evans & Co., 1979. Eloquent first memoir written by a birthmother. *Story, BP*

BIRTHMOTHERS: Women Who Have Relinquished Babies for Adoption Tell Their Stories. Merry Bloch Jones. Chicago Review Press, 1993. Seventy women share their experiences of giving birth and placing a child for adoption, raising subsequent children, searching and being found. *Story, BP*

BIRTHRIGHT: The Guide to Search and Reunion for Adoptees, Birthparents, and Adoptive Parents. Jean Strauss. A. S. Penguin Press, 1994. Important, valuable reference by an adoptee; includes guidance on decision to search, negotiating legalities, surviving emotional turbulence of a reunion and dealing with impact on adoptive parents. *A, BP, AP, Search*

COURAGEOUS BLESSING: ADOPTIVE PARENTS & SEARCH. Carol L Demuth. A thoughtfully written handbook for adoptive parents. Available through: Aries Center, 1437 Meandering Way, Garland, TX 75040-4213. *AP, Search*

DEAR BIRTHMOTHER. Kathleen Silber & Phyllis Speedlin. Corona, 1991 (1st Ed 1983). A compilation of letters written to birthmothers by the adoptive parents of their children. An early perspective on open adoptions. *AP, BP, OP*

ETHICS AND ADOPTION: Challenges for Today and the Future, Conference Proceedings. Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, 2000. Proceedings from an outstanding conference examining ethical issues in adoption. Includes talks by adoption notables: Annette Baran, Reuben Pannor, H. David Kirk, Joyce Pavao, Susan Soon-Keum Cox, Joseph Crumbley, B.J. Lifton, Sharon Kaplan Roszia, Joan Hollinger, Ruth McRoy, Madelyn Freundlich, Joe Kroll, Amy Silberberg. Topics include infant adoption, international adoption, reproductive technologies, foster care and adoption, open adoption, issues of race, culture, national origin, and more. <http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/proed/confessions/transtest2.html> *Pol, AP, A, BP, CC*

ETHICS IN AMERICAN ADOPTION. L. Anne Babb. Bergin & Garvey, 1999. A review of ethical standards in the U.S. and a call for reform. *Pol.*

THE FAMILY OF ADOPTION. Joyce Maguire Pavao. Beacon Press, 2005. As a pioneering and nationally recognized family and adoption therapist, Pavao argues eloquently in *The Family*

of Adoption that there are predictable and understandable developmental stages and challenges for every adoptee. An insightful book which enlightens everyone about adoption. *A, BP, AP, Psy*

FAMILY SECRETS. Harriett Webster. Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., 1991. Through down-to-earth and true-life stories, this book gives a bird's-eye view of the damage that is done when we keep family secrets. Author advocates sharing our shames and sorrows to help us grow in love and understanding. *Story, AP*

FINDING ME IN A PAPER BAG: Searching For Both Sides Now.

Sally Howard. Gateway Press, 2003. A safe haven baby searches for her birthmother and also her child she relinquished after being raped. *Story, Search, A, BP*

THE GATHERING OF THE FIRST GENERATION OF ADULT KOREAN ADOPTEES: Adoptees' Perceptions of International Adoption. Evan B. Donaldson Institute, 2000. available on internet: <http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/proed/korfindings.html>.

Nearly 400 adult Korean adoptees met for the first meeting of its kind in 1999. This report contains an historical overview of the international adoption of Korean children; the results of a survey of Korean adoptees conducted prior to the meeting; a synopsis of the discussions at the gathering; and the implications for international adoption policy and practice. *A, AP, Pol, CC*

A GHOST AT HEART'S EDGE: STORIES AND POEMS OF ADOPTION Susan Ito, Tina Cervin and Jacquelyn Mitchard, (Eds.). North Atlantic Books, 4th Edition, 1999. Fifty short stories and poems reveal the sometimes heartbreaking, often joyful tales of adoption. Written from the point of view of birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptees, this unique anthology spans nations and cultures. *Psy, A, BP, AP, Story*

THE GIFT WRAPPED IN SORROW: A Mother's Quest for Healing. Jane Guttman. JMJ Publishing, 1999. A well-written memoir of a single mother's pregnancy, loss of her child to adoption and subsequent search for him. This poignant description of the author's profound loss and her healing process is a must read for anyone whose life has been affected by adoption. For those who wish to heal any life loss, this is a quick read that will remain forever etched upon our hearts. *Story, BP, A.*

GIVING AWAY SIMONE: A Memoir. Jan Waldron. Times Books, 1995. The author reunited with her daughter when the girl was eleven years old. Waldron powerfully describes the struggle of birthmother and child to build a relationship. *Story, BP, A*

GROWING UP IN THE DARK: Adoption Secrecy and its Consequences. Janine M Baer. Xlibris Corporation, 2004. Chronicling California's changing adoption laws with the broader philosophies and social mores across the nation, this book addresses the consequences of these laws through the eyes of psychologists, child welfare advocates, adoptive and birth parents,

feminists and baby sellers. *Pol, Psy*

HEALING THE HOLE IN A HEART: One Birthmother's Journey into the Adoption Triangle. Nancy Mac Isaac. Mac Isaac Enterprises, 1998. This book chronicles one birthmother's reunion journey, guiding others in understanding, adjusting and learning how to build new relationships from birthing ties. *Story, BP*

HOW TO LOCATE ANYONE WHO IS OR HAS BEEN IN THE MILITARY. Lt. Col. Richard S. Johnson. Military Information Enterprise, 1999. A reader-friendly, how-to-guide packed with tips and techniques for finding anyone with an American military background, whether active, reserve or retired. *Search*

HOW TO OPEN AN ADOPTION: A Guide for Parents and Birthparents of Minors. Patricia Martinez Dorner. R-Squared Press, 1997. A valuable resource for families in closed adoptions, those who are in the process of opening an adoption or those who have already done so. *AP, OP*

I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD LIFE. Campbell Armstrong. Crown, 2000.

After his wife's death, he writes about her experience of being a birthmother and her reunion with her daughter who has the same disease. An engaging narration, however the author interjects his own life struggles. *Story, BM*

THE IDEA OF ADOPTION: An Inquiry into the History of Adult Adoptee Access to Birth Records. Elizabeth J Samuels. Rutgers Law Review, Vol. 53, Winter 2001, Number 2. An outstanding overview of the history of sealed records and how they were affected by social attitudes and understandings. Article under News and Events: <http://americanadoptioncongress.org>. *Pol, A*

IMAGINING ADOPTION: Essays on Literature and Culture. Marianne Novy, Ed. University of Michigan Press, 2001. Engaging essays give insight into how adoption is treated in literature and social sciences. Writings express how it feels to be adopted and to adopt in the US. *A, BP, AP*

THE IMPACT OF ADOPTION ON MEMBERS OF THE TRIAD. Adoption and ethics series. Madelyn Freundlich, Joy Kim Lieberthal, Child Welfare League of America, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute CWLA Press, 2000. An excellent and concise compilation of research on the effects of adoption on triad members. It explores the psychological, social, and cultural aspects of adoption. This book assesses the extent to which current policy and practice meet the needs of those whom adoption is designed to serve. *Psy, A, BP, AP*

I'M STILL ME. Betty Jean Lifton. Bantam, 1986. Family tree research assignment propels a high school junior to search for truth and her birth parents. Through her loving adoptive parents, Lori comes face-to-face with her past - and herself. *A, Search*

INSIDE TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION: Strength-based, culture-sensitizing parenting

strategies for inter-country or domestic adoptive families that don't "match." Gail Steinberg & Beth Hall. Perspectives Press, 2000. Comprehensive guide aimed primarily at white adoptive parents; offers practical information from hair care to holidays. A must-read for multi-racial families created through adoption and helpful for anyone raising children today. *AP, CC*

ITHAKA: A Daughter's Memoir of Being Found. Sarah Saffian. Basic Books, 1998. A gripping true story of a young woman's quest for the meaning of family and belonging. *Story, A*

JOURNEY OF THE ADOPTED SELF: A Quest for Wholeness. Betty Jean Lifton. Basic Books, 1994. Addresses the myths and psychological effects of adoption. Highly recommended reading after general books. *Psy, A*

JOURNEYS AFTER ADOPTION: Understanding Lifelong Issues. Jayne Schooler & Betsie Norris. Bergin & Garvey, 2002. Drawing on experiences of dozens of triad members, authors offer insight into concerns, issues, joys and pain experienced by those whose lives are framed by adoption. *Psy, A, BP, AP*

LETHAL SECRETS: The Psychology of Donor Insemination: Problems and Solutions. Annette Baran & Reuben Pannor. Harper Collins, Reprint Edition, 1999. ISBN: 1567430201 The authors explore the implications of the secrecy that surrounds human donor insemination in the firm belief that maintaining the human element and historical connection is crucial. *Psy, Parents*

LIFEGIVERS: Framing the Birthparent Experience in Open Adoption. James Gritter. CWLA Press, 1999. A social worker-adoption practitioner describes the situation of birth parents in adoption. He outlines the importance of birth parents remaining a part of their adopted children's lives, for the well-being of the children. *AP, BP, OP*

LOOKING FOR LOST BIRD: A Jewish Woman Discovers Her Navajo Roots. Yvette Melanson. Bard Books, 1999. An inspirational story for adoptees, particularly Native Americans seeking to uncover their past. Hallmark TV movie. *Story, A*

LOST & FOUND: The Adoption Experience. Betty Jean Lifton. Perennial, Reprint Edition, 1998. Based on an adoptee's talks with other adoptees. Includes conversations with birthparents and adoptive parents, making this a good all-around starter book. *Story, A*

A MAN AND HIS MOTHER. Tim Green. Harper Collins, 1997. With intelligence and emotional honesty, former football star Tim Green (now a novelist and commentator) tackles the subject of his search for his birthmother. *Story, A, Search*

THE MARKET FORCES IN ADOPTION. Adoption and Ethics. Madelyn Freundlich. CWLA, 2000. The role of money and power in adoption and the extent of accountability have become critical questions in adoption policy and practice today. This book considers these issues

in the adoption of infants in the United States, the adoption of children in foster care, and international adoption. *Pol, AP, CC*

MAY THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN: An Intimate Journey Into the Heart of Adoption.

Lynn Franklin & Elizabeth Ferber. Harmony Books, 1998. A no-nonsense book that weaves a poignant memoir of a woman who reunited with the child she gave up for adoption with many stories from others into an intelligent, well-informed and complete picture of the varied experience of adoption. *Story, A*

MOMMIE DEAREST. Christina Crawford. Seven Springs Press, 1997 (1st Ed. 1978). A shocking and heartbreaking story by Joan Crawford's adopted daughter. Also 1981 movie about the abuse suffered by Joan Crawford's adopted children. *Story, A*

MOTHER CAN YOU HEAR ME? Elizabeth Cooper Allen. Dodd Mead, 1983. An extraordinary true story of an adopted daughter's reunion with her birthmother after a separation of fifty years. Order from author via email: betglori@aol.com. *Story, A*

THE MULBERRY BIRD: Story of an Adoption. Anne Brodzinsky. Perspectives Press, 1996. For younger children (beyond pre-school); tells the story of a mother bird who tries to care for her baby, then decides to place it for adoption and explains her reasons in a non-threatening way. *AP, BM*

THE OTHER MOTHER: A Woman's Love for the Child She Gave Up for Adoption. Carol Schaefer. Soho Press, 1991. A Bay Area woman tells her experience of pregnancy in a Midwest maternity home, relinquishing her son, her years of loss, her search and reunion. 1995 TV movie. *Story, BM*

OUT OF THE DARKNESS: How a Birthmother Found Herself While Searching for Her Daughter. Helen Stummer. HMS Press. For birthmothers who have put the past behind them or those interested in experience of relinquishment. Contact author, hmstummer@earthlink.net (\$7 incl. postage) *Story, BP*

OUT OF THE SHADOWS: Birthfather Stories. Mary Martin Mason. Howard, 1995. Frank, honest look at those who had confidence to speak out. Often invisible, birthfathers care deeply and in many cases had no say in their child's future. *Story, BP*

OVER THE MOON: An Adoption Tale. Karen Katz. Henry Holt, 1997. Magical and reassuring story of international adoption just right for the youngest child. A good model for sharing your child's own story with him or her. *AP, CC*

PANDORA'S HOPE: Poems and Prose About Being Adopted. Penny Callan-Partridge. Illustrated by Charles Filius. \$12 to author at P.O. Box 3193, Amherst, MA 01004. *A, Psy*

PERSPECTIVES ON A GRAFTED TREE. Patricia Irwin Johnston. Perspectives Press, 1983. A lovely collection of poetry expressing perspectives of all members of the triad. *AP, BP, A*

THE PRIMAL WOUND: Understanding the Adopted Child. Nancy Verrier. Gateway Press, 1993. Provides profound information about pre- and perinatal psychology, attachment, bonding and loss. Clarifies the effects on adoptees of separation from the birthmother. Outlines the pain of loss and abandonment and gives insight into the healing process. *Psy, A, AP*

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF ADOPTION. David Brodzinsky & Marshall Schechter (Eds.). Oxford Press, 1993. Theoretical, empirical, clinical and social policy issues offer new insights into the problems facing adoptive parents. A comprehensive study of interest for all professionals. *Psy, A, AP*

RAISING ADOPTED CHILDREN: Practical Reassuring Advice for Every Adoptive Parent. Lois R Melina. Harper Perennial, Rev. 1998. Editor of Adopted Children newsletter, mother of two adopted children, draws on latest research in psychology, sociology and medicine to guide parents through stages of adoptees' development. Addresses open, international and transracial adoption & parents' FAQs. *AP, CC*

REAL PARENTS, REAL CHILDREN: Parenting the Adopted Child. Holly Van Gulden & Lisa M. Bartels-Rabb. Crossroad, New York 1995. Leading adoption authority gives practical advice for parents on how to talk with their children about adoption. Addresses special challenges and concerns of interracial, international and older-child adoptions. *AP, CC*

REUNION: A Year in Letters Between a Birthmother and the Daughter She Couldn't Keep. Katie Hern & Ellen McGarry Carlson. Seal Press, 1999. Beautifully written and authentic exchange between an English instructor at a Bay Area university and gay adoptee and her birthmother as they get to know each other and face the inevitable issues and emotions of reunion. *Story, A, BM*

THE ROLE OF RACE, CULTURE, AND NATIONAL ORIGIN IN ADOPTION. Adoption and Ethics. Madelyn Freundlich. CWLA, 2000. What role does race, culture, and national origin place in an adoptee's personal identity? To what extent should racial and cultural similarities and differences between adoptive parents and children be taken into account? This synthesizes current research, literature, and legislation in three areas: transracial adoptions, adoptions of American Indian children, and international adoptions. *Pol, CC*

SACRED CONNECTIONS - Stories of Adoption Essays. Mary Ann Koenig. Running Press

2000. Twenty-four stories in which adopted persons, birth parents and adoptive parents share their moving experiences of finding the sacred connections in their lives. Niki Berg's beautiful photography. *Story, A, BP, AP*

SEARCH: A Handbook for Adoptees and Birthparents. Jayne Askin. Oryx Press, 1998. Detailed step-by-step process for unearthing adoption information through sealed records, government data and reference resources. Includes listing of online services for networking with other searchers. *A, BP, Search*

THE SEARCH FOR ANNA FISHER. Florence Fisher. Arthur Fields and Fawcett Press, 1973. Groundbreaking memoir by the founder of Adoptees' Liberty Movement Association (ALMA) that catapulted the adoption reform movement into public consciousness. *Story, Search, A*

SEARCHING FOR A PAST: The Adopted Adult's Unique Process of Finding Identity. Jayne Schooler. Pinon Press, 1995. Provides insight into adoptees' motivations to search for their birth families. Essential resource for all members of the triad as well as anyone desiring a better understanding of the search and reunion process. *Story, A, Search*

SECOND CHOICE: Growing Up Adopted. Robert Anderson, M.D. Badger-Hill, 1993. A psychiatrist, who was a black-market adoptee, tells how the search process can be healing even when no birth relatives are found. *Story, A*

SECRET THOUGHTS OF AN ADOPTIVE MOTHER. Jana Wolff. Andrews McMeel Publishing, 1997. One adoptive mother's painful, hopeful, fearful but ultimately honest journey from infertility into the world of open, interracial adoption. *AP, Story, CC*

SECRETS IN FAMILIES AND FAMILY THERAPY. Evan Imber-Black, (Ed.). W.W. Norton & Co., 1993. This collection reveals the confusion, mystery and terror associated with secrets. Secrecy in adoption is comprehensively covered in one section and reveals that secrecy does the most harm in the family of adoption. *Psy, AP*

SHADOW MOTHERS: Stories of Adoption and Reunion. Linda Back McKay. North Star Press of St. Cloud, 1st Edition, 1998. McKay tells her life story and those of nine other birth mothers who survived the pain, uncertainty, and secrecy of relinquishment to reunite with their children years after giving them up. *Shadow Mothers* is a poignant, masterful chronicle of tragedy, relief, joy, and acceptance and a probing look into the realities of adoption. *Story, BP, A*

SHARED FATE: A Theory of Adoption and Mental Health. H. David Kirk. Free Press, 1964. Adoptive father/sociologist expresses a theory of adoptive relationships - thoroughly attuned, insightful, compassionate and timeless in its wisdom. *AP, Psy*

SHEA'S SEARCH SERIES. Shea Grimm. A guide to self-empowered search written by an adoptee rights activist. Available online at www.bastards.org/bookstore. Click 'Search' to download. *A, Search*

THE SNAKE-STONE. Berlie Doherty. Orchard Books, 1995. A well-written book for young teens in which a young man's search for his birthmother leads him to feel more connected to his natural talents and at ease with himself. *AP, Search, A*

SO HERE I AM BUT WHERE DID I COME FROM? An Adoptee's Search for Identity. Mary Ruth Wotherspoon. Pate 1994. The author shares the account of her search for her birth parents and offers ways to help others understand the process and what to expect in their own quests. *A, Search*

SOUL CONNECTION: Memoir of a Birthmother's Healing Journey. Ann Hughes. Otter Bay Books, 1999. Captures the spiritual journey of a birthmother who holds onto hope that something, someday, will heal the darkest, blackest hole in her life - the surrendering of her daughter. *Story, BP*

THE SPIRIT OF OPEN ADOPTION. James Gritter. Child Welfare League America Press, 1997. A refreshing voice from an adoption worker about the need for more candor, openness, and cooperation in adoptions. *AP, OP*

SYNCHRONICITY AND REUNION: The Genetic Connection of Adoptees and Birthparents. LaVonne Harper Stiffler. Stiffler 1992. A book exploring the nature/nurture connections through studies and the author's life situation. *Psy, A, BP*

TALKING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN ABOUT ADOPTION. Mary Watkins & Susan Fisher, MD. Yale Univ. Press, 1995. A clinical psychologist and a psychiatrist, both adoptive mothers, insightfully & sympathetically prepare parents for conversations with their children about adoption. *AP*

TELL ME A REAL ADOPTION STORY. Betty Jean Lifton. Illustrated by Claire A. Nivola. Knopf, 1993. A small boy listens to his adoptive mother's made-up stories about his adoption but insists on the real one, which she then tells. This story he likes because it's his. *AP, A*

TELL ME AGAIN ABOUT THE NIGHT I WAS BORN. Jamie Lee Curtis. Harper Collins Juvenile Books, 1996. Beautifully illustrated by Laura Cornell, the story of a young adopted girl's birth is a cherished family tale. *AP*

TELLING THE TRUTH TO YOUR ADOPTED OR FOSTER CHILD: Making Sense of the Past. Jayne Schooler & Betsy Keefer. Bergin & Garvey, 2000. Provides excellent and straightforward guidance for adoptive and foster parents. Easy format gives parents the help they need to share information openly and honestly at various stages with their children, adolescents and adults. *AP*

THANK YOU SON, FOR FINDING ME: A Birthmother's Story. Beth Kane. Aslan, 1999. A personal story about the reunion of a birthmother and the son who searched for her. *Story, BP, Search*

THEN SHE FOUND ME. Elinor Lipman. Washington Square Pr., 1991. A story of what happens to a Latin teacher's quiet life when her birthmother, a flamboyant talk show hostess, decides to contact her daughter after 36 years. *Story, Search, A*

THE THIRD CHOICE: A Woman's Guide to Placing a Child for Adoption. Leslie Foge & Gail Mosconi. Creative Arts Book Co., 1999. Family and child counselors who have facilitated hundreds of adoptions discuss practical and emotional issues birthmothers face in choosing adoption. *Psy, BP*

TO PRISON WITH LOVE: The True Story of an Indecent Indictment and America's Adoption Travesty. Sandy Musser. Adoption Awareness Press, 1994. A personal story of a birthmother's search for her child and her subsequent involvement in assisting other members of the triad to search, resulting in her imprisonment. *Story, Search, BP*

TOUCHED BY ADOPTION: Stories, Letters and Poems. Nancy A Robinson. Green River Press, 1999. A variety of literary expressions about the adoption experience. A powerful, wide-ranging anthology. *Story, A, BP, AP*

TWENTY THINGS ADOPTED KIDS WISH THEIR ADOPTIVE PARENTS KNEW. Sherrie Eldridge. Dell, 1999. A guide to emotions of the adoptee and ways adoptive parents can allay feelings of fear, abandonment and shame. *AP, Psy*

TWICE BORN: Memoirs of an Adopted Daughter. Betty Jean Lifton. Griffon, 1998. Travel

with the author through her journey of self-discovery, from her need to know, through her search and into reunion. *Story, A, Search*

WAKE UP LITTLE SUZIE: Single Pregnancy & Race Before Roe V. Wade. Ricki Solinger. Routledge, 2nd Ed. 2000. A pioneering work, examines the different treatment of black and white women in the postwar era. A must-read for anyone seeking to understand the complex and disturbing politics surrounding issues of race, class and reproductive rights. *Pol, BP, CC*

WHERE ARE MY BIRTH PARENTS? A Guide for Teenage Adoptees. Karen Gravelle & Susan Fischer. Walker, 1993. Discusses how and why adopted children may try to locate and get to know their birth parents. Examines possible psychological benefits and associated problems. *A, AP, Search, Psy*

THE WHOLE LIFE ADOPTION BOOK: Realistic Advice for Building a Healthy Adoptive Family. Jayne Schooler. Navpress, 1993. Author deals with issues of attachment, adjustment and identity. By being prepared, parents can avoid the disillusionment, feelings of inadequacy and resentment that may come with unrealistic expectations. Gives hope and direction to all involved in adoption issues. *AP, Psy*

WRONGFUL ADOPTION: Law, Policy, & Practice. Madelyn Freundlich, Lisa Peterson. Child Welfare League of America, 1998. Some adoptive parents were not given accurate or complete information about a child's physical, emotional, or development problem. Sometimes expensive and extensive medical or mental health care was needed. Wrongful Adoption examines the history of adoption practice related to disclosure of children's health and other background information, cases that have shaped the wrongful adoption law, key policy and practice issues. *Pol, AP*

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Internet sites that have adoption book lists:

Adoption Circle Hawaii www.adoptioncirclehawaii.com

American Adoption Congress www.americanadoptioncongress.org

Evan B. Donaldson Institute www.adoptioninstitute.org

Bastard Nation www.bastards.org

Concerned United Birthparents www.cubirthparents.org

Tapestry **

A big thanks to the New Jersey Coalition for Adoption Reform and Education (NJCARE), American Adoption Congress, Concerned United Birthparents, and Bastard Nation whose book lists were reviewed in the development of this list.

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