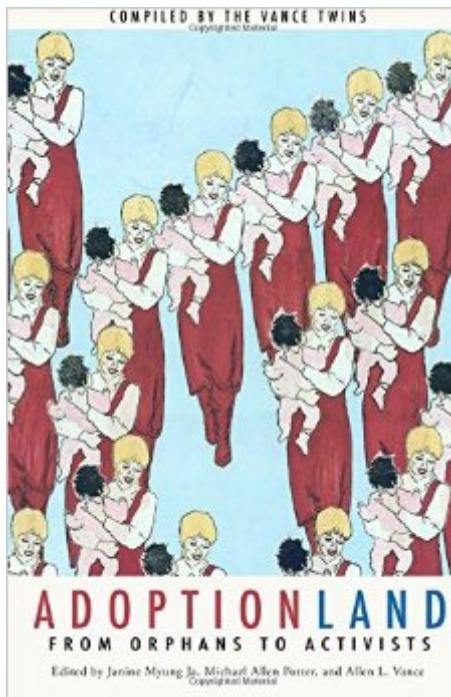


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# Adoptionland: From Orphans To Activists



## **Synopsis**

Ever wondered what itâ™s like to be adopted? This anthology begins with personal accounts and then shifts to a birdâ™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 âœbest interest of children,âœ child protection,âœ 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 usâœ "as a communityâœ have a great deal in common.

## **Book Information**

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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 wouldâ™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.

Disclosure: I am an Adopter (aka Adoptive Parent) of a child from Bulgaria. I am also a member of the Facebook group set up by the authors. AND I am familiar with a few of the authors in this book, having corresponded with a few in email. For far too long "adoption" has been allowed to continue unchecked. For far too long - fifty, sixty years at least - we have not "heard" the stories from Adopted Persons and First Parents. It was incredibly difficult reading the stories from the first mothers and one from a first father. The highlights of the Irish adoption trade were just terrible. Hearing from transracial adopted persons (Korean persons procured for adoption and trafficked to Norway, Sweden and the USA) is a must read. Daniel Ibn Zayd and his overview of international adoption as slavery is essential reading. Arun Dohle's story and his activism for trafficked persons from India and Ethiopia needs to be widely distributed. Next time you see the "happily ever after" spin our media puts on adoption - international and domestic - keep in mind it's a nasty industry which treats people as if they are nothing but inter-changeable commodities.

This compilation of stories from those 'touched' by adoption highlights what is wrong with adoption today. The voices of the now adult adoptees, and first family members are coming together and telling their truths and the cold hard facts of what it means to be adopted or to lose a child to adoption. Reform is desperately needed in the big business of adoption, the 'best interest' of the children really need to be addressed, and the voices of the adults affected need to be heard and acted upon. A must read.

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