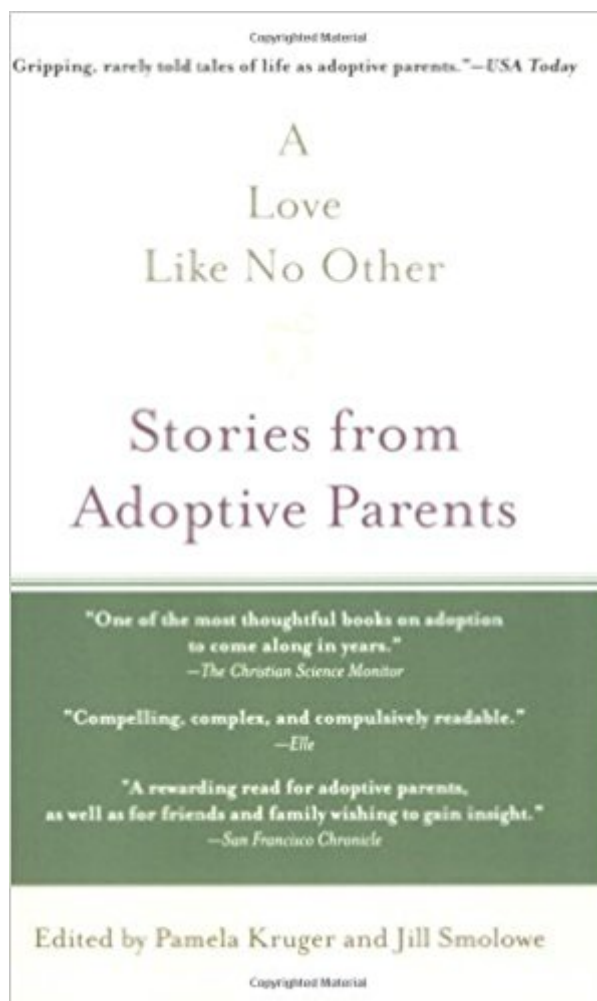


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# A Love Like No Other: Stories From Adoptive Parents



## Synopsis

Drawn from personal experience, these stories offer vivid and beautifully rendered snapshots of the adoptive parenting experience. Featuring: Marcelle Clements, Laura Shaine Cunningham, Christina Frank, Jesse Green, Melissa Fay Greene, Doug Hood, Pamela Kruger, Jenifer Levin, Antoinette Martin, Jacquelyn Mitchard, Adam Pertman, Emily Prager, Amy Rackear, Bonnie Miller Rubin, Dan Savage, Bob Shacocchis, Jill Smolowe, Sheila Steinbeck, Joe Treen, and Jana Wolf.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From various perspectives, 20 adoptive parents offer evocative, sometimes provocative, personal essays that have the liveliness and immediacy of prose fiction. Biological parents are variously imagined, sought and found in the opening section, "Reflections on Birth Parents." In "Encounters with the Unexpected," adoptive parents confront "postadoption depression," family wariness, ethnic identity issues and disabling psychological problems. Each family (single parent, gay parent, divorced parents, intra-family adoption, blended family) is adoptive in its unique way, persuasively confirmed in "Variations on Family." While the early sections focus on the parent-child relationship, the concluding "Personal Transformations" leans toward the child-to-parent effect; as one writer puts it, "I knew a child would rearrange my home life, but upend my career and worldview? Those two items weren't even on my list." Any parent will find commonality here, but the collection will especially engage adoptive parents in conversation and controversy with people who share their dilemmas and delights. Diverse as this collection is, it's worth noting that the essayists are

professional writers (they include Jacquelyn Mitchard, Emily Prager and Dan Savage), most of the children are preadolescent and 11 of the adoptions are transnational (five of them from China).

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"Gripping, rarely told tales of life as adoptive parents." - USA Today  
"Illuminates both the thrilling and trying elements of adoption." - People  
"Compelling, complex, and compulsively readable." - Elle  
"A rewarding read for adoptive parents, as well as for friends and family wishing to gain insight." - San Francisco Chronicle  
"Gorgeous writing, deeply felt and strikingly expressed." - Christian Science Monitor  
"A magical and candid collection, which I found impossible to put down...I guarantee it will provoke, edify, anger, amuse, stretch, touch, captivate, or even transform you." - Adoptive Families

Easy, quick read but I was hoping the stories covered more current issues, struggles, etc with adoption since so much has changed in the last 8 years with international adoption. That's my fault though, I should have looked at the date:)

Of the (too) many adoption related books I've read over the past years, this was one book that I could not put down until I had finished it. What I loved about it was its inclusiveness, and its "real-ness." Every type of family situation is covered here (singles, married, divorced after adoption, domestic adoption, international adoption, transracial adoption, same-race adoption, special needs adoption, supportive extended families, non-supportive ones, post-adoption depression, birth family searches). And the parents of these children tell their stories, warts and all. Their joys, their sorrows, their bafflement over behaviors they haven't anticipated and cannot understand, and their acceptance of their children, as they are and for who they are. Several of the essays resonated personally with me. I could have written them from my own experience. I highly recommend this book, particularly for pre-adoptive parents seeking to learn all they can about the post-adoptive experience, from every angle.

This was a very moving collection of adoptive stories from professional writers. I emphasize the "professional" part only because the result is a much better book (editing, flow, content) than other compilations I've read written by non-writers. (Those, unfortunately, caused me to sometimes focus on lack of editing, poor grammar, etc rather than the content). The experiences written about include domestic (open & closed), foster care, and international adoption. I enjoyed the variety of stories

included in this compilation. I also appreciated the inclusion of stories addressing various stages and experiences that are common to most adoptive parents, regardless of the origin of your child.

As aunt to an adopted niece and grandmother to an adopted grandson, I read these essays with keen interest. The range of issues is fascinating, the breadth of family constellations is impressive and the individual stories are alternately moving, thought-provoking and humorous. I was also impressed by how beautifully each writer told his or her story. I'd recommend this book to any person--adoptive parent, adoptive relative, friend of adoptive family--whose life has been touched by adoption (which I guess these days is pretty much everyone!).

This book consists of a series of essays by adoptive parents, each of which expresses some distilled, highly personal, and pretty intense kernels of truth about their own individual adoptive parenting experiences. The authors are all professional writers, and this really comes across in the power of their words. The essays reflect both joyful and painful experiences and as a result richly characterizes the complexities of being an adoptive parent. I was completely hooked--couldn't put it down.

This is an amazing collection of very well-written adoption experiences. I especially liked that these are actual writers who are also adoptive parents. Each essay is powerful and thought provoking. Joe Treen's story was my favorite as he described feeding his new daughter in the middle of the night in a hotel in China. I could picture exactly what he was describing. His voice comes through in a wonderful and very funny way.

This collection of essays covers all aspects of adopting. The stories are very moving, honest and compelling. It covers both international and domestic adoption. It addresses some of the most difficult challenges that adoptive families must face. It is the best adoption book that I have read in YEARS!!

What drew me to this book was my interest in understanding different life experiences. What I did not expect was to get such an honest, poignant and intense look into the diverse journeys some people have made in the process of adoption. Of all these incredibly engrossing stories, I think I was most affected, and surprised, by Melissa Fay Greene's painful struggle (painful for her and painful to read) with "post-adoption panic" ( I never heard of such a syndrome). She exposes her VERY

personal and very troubling self-doubt about her newly-adopted Bulgarian (?) son and if she can truly love him. Wondering if she's the only person who ever felt this way, instantly made her troubles so 'real' and, in turn, so universal to me. What a difficult topic to discuss publicly. I cannot imagine that most books on the subject have been willing to explore and reveal such a candid account of an adoption. I am not married, and do not intend to have children of my own, so this book really took me somewhere that, until now, was quite alien to me. I'm very glad I chose this particular book on adoption, because I imagine it's a uniquely honest and diverse presentation of the subject. Now, I can move on to the next life experience.

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