

The Colours in Me

Writing and poetry by adopted children and young people

Edited by Perlita Harris

Adoption is sad and happy at the same time. You get a new family but you lose one too.

Muireann age 10

What do adopted children and young people really feel about being adopted? How do they feel about being parted from birth parents and siblings? How much do they remember of their "previous" lives?

The Colours in Me is a unique collection of poetry, prose and artwork by adopted children and young people. Over eighty contributors – ranging from four to 20 years of age – tell it like it is, revealing what it feels like and what it means to be adopted. With extraordinary clarity and candour they describe the huge changes that adoption brings and the impact of these changes on their identity, their relationships and their understanding of the meaning of "family".

The book is divided into five sections exploring many aspects of the adoption experience:

- life before adoption;
- on being adopted;
- on being parted from birth family;
- staying in touch;
- revisiting birth places.

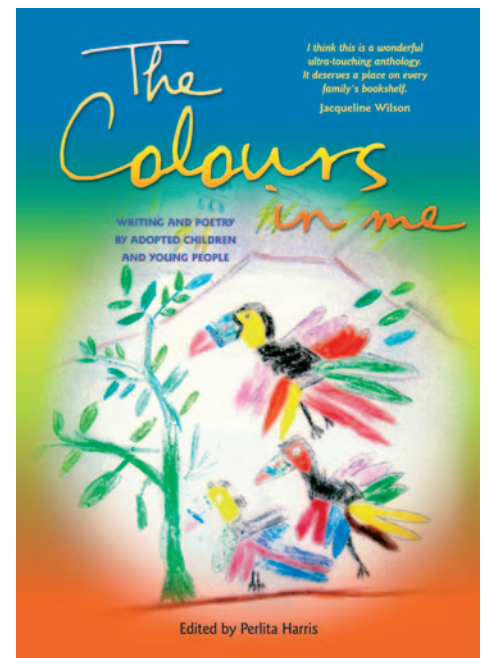
A concluding section contains a series of poignant and encouraging messages to other adopted children/people, adoptive parents and

social workers. Amy, aged 17, writes: *'All you adopted people! Believe: believe in yourself, believe you can make it, believe in those around you, believe that you are loved, and believe that YOUR life has probably changed for the better!'*

This highly original and thought-provoking book – the first of its kind in the UK – is a must-read not only for adopted people and their parents, but also for social workers, psychologists, teachers and anyone else seeking to understand what it is like to be adopted.

The editor

Dr Perlita Harris is a lecturer in social work at Goldsmiths College, University of London. She was transracially adopted and previously edited *In Search of Belonging* (BAAF 2006), the first UK publication to give voice to transracially adopted children and adults.



I think this is a wonderful ultra-touching anthology. It deserves a place on every family's bookshelf.

Jacqueline Wilson author

BAAF 2008 220pp 166x240mm
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In Search of Belonging

Reflections by transracially adopted people
Edited by Perlita Harris

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