

Book Excerpt

JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

“Life is a journey that must be traveled no matter how bad the roads and accommodations.”

Oliver Goldsmith

It’s very hard for me to define adoption. Each member of the triad stands from a different viewpoint. As a foster parent and an adoptive parent myself, I am keenly aware of how different the perspectives are. However, when broken down to its very simplest form for the sake of a definition, adoption is the relinquishing of one family through choice, termination, or coercion to create or add to another family.

My earliest memory associated with being adopted is from preschool. Our class had a young boy come to our school to share about his disability. He was born without legs, and proceeded to show us the tools and prosthetics he used. I found it fascinating and it was also my first exposure to someone with disabilities. However, at some point after that presentation, a teacher suggested to me that I should share about my adoption. Immediately, within my four-year-old brain, the connection was made in my head that I was different, just like that boy with no legs. I was other.

Ethnicity: White

Gender: Female

Current Age: Thirty-seven years old

Age of Adoption: Three days old

Place of Birth: Southfield, Michigan

Closed or Open Adoption: Open