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## Media Release

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## The Adoption Mystique

**A Hard-hitting Exposé of the Powerful Negative Social Stigma that Permeates Child Adoption in the United States**

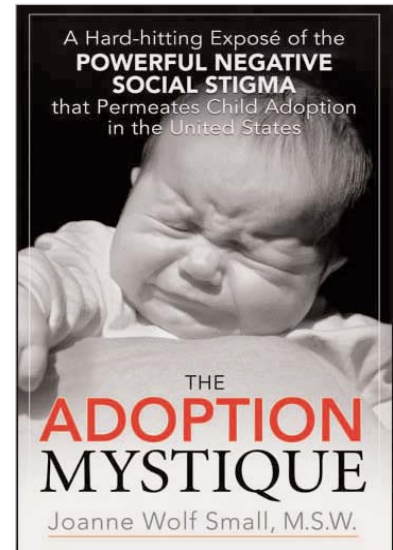
### November is National Adoption Month

“...*The Adoption Mystique* is uncompromising in its view that adoption should be a process that considers the rights of the adoptee over the wishes of the birth parents or adoptive parents...it debunks the myth that an adopted person is sundered of ties to their heritage, or that they should just "get over" the need to search for their birth record information. **Strongly written and highly recommended.**” - Michael J. Carson, *Midwest Book Review*

“**I highly recommend *The Adoption Mystique***, it gives us a deeper understanding of how the world seems to see adoption and how that view is less than flattering to those impacted by adoption” - Carrie Craft, Adoption Guide, *About.com Adoption/Foster Care*

### ADOPTION THE STORY LURKING BEHIND THE WORD

**Kissimmee, FL, August 2007** - There are many ways to build a family; historically adoption has been an alternative to the traditional family and a popular solution for unwed mothers. Experts estimate that one out of eight American families has adopted a child. In an ideal world, adoption would fulfill the needs of all involved and grant the adoptive child and parent all the social, emotional, and legal rights and responsibilities enjoyed by non-adoptive families. Unfortunately, this has not been the case. Although society claims to value adoption, religious, political, and social forces routinely practice adoptee intolerance. Viewed as second-class citizens, adoptees have been asked to deny their feelings and set aside their rights to direct access to information regarding their heritage, ethnicity, biological parentage, and birth name, until now.



### THE ADOPTION MYSTIQUE

A Hard-hitting Exposé of the Powerful Negative Social Stigma that Permeates Child Adoption in the United States

**AUTHOR:** Joanne Wolf Small, M.S.W.

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To request a review copy, or author interview, contact Reina Santana at [rsantana@resmarketingalliance.com](mailto:rsantana@resmarketingalliance.com) or call 863-427-4848.

Over

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Listed as recommended reading by the American Adoption Congress (AAC), *The Adoption Mystique: A Hard-hitting Exposé of the Powerful Negative Social Stigma that Permeates Child Adoption in the United States* shatters common adoption myths and gives a voice to the millions of adoptees who have been denied their civil rights. In a series of essays, Joanne Wolf Small, MSW, an adoption rights activist, psychotherapist, and adopted person herself, explores the many facets of adoption that traditionally have been ignored or considered taboo. Powerfully written, and filled with factual information, the author helps readers understand adoption and teaches them revolutionary ways of dealing with difficult topics such as how to tell children they are adopted. Complete with citations, indices, and suggested reading this book is an indispensable resource for adoptees, adoptive families, birth parents, birth families, policy makers, and practitioners seeking to better understand adoption. *The Adoption Mystique:*

- dispels common myths and reveals hard truths
- provides ground-breaking solutions
- empowers the adoption community
- gives adoptive families permission to look and think beyond the taboo

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## ADOPTION FACTS

- There are 5 to 9 million adopted persons in the United States\*\*
- There are 1.5 million adopted children in the United States, over 2% of all U.S. children\*
- About 60% of Americans have a personal connection to adoption\*
- It is estimated that 11% to 24% of couples who experience difficulty conceiving or carrying a pregnancy to term pursue adoption\*
- Almost 90 percent of children adopted internationally are less than five years old\*

Sources: \*E.B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, \*\*U.S. Children's Bureau

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Joanne W. Small, M.S.W.** is an adopted adult, adoption rights activist, author, and psychotherapist. She was executive director of Adoptees in Search (AIS) and served as the first and only adopted person on the Model Adoption Legislative Procedures and Advisory Panel. Her 30 year professional experience includes a post-adoption clinical practice, clinical supervision, in-service training and seminars, lectures, publications, and interviews with over a thousand adoptive family members. Visit her website at <http://www.jwsmall.com/>.

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