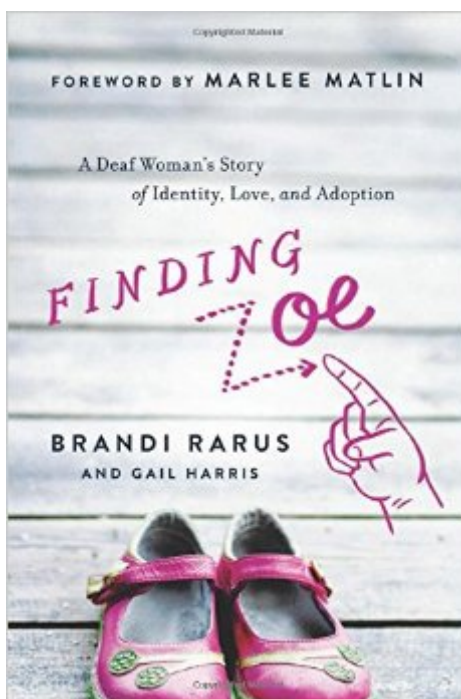


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# Finding Zoe: A Deaf Woman's Story Of Identity, Love, And Adoption



## Synopsis

At just a few months old, Zoe was gradually losing her hearing. Her adoptive parents loved her&#151;yet agonized&#151;feeling they couldnâ€™t handle raising a Deaf child. Would Zoe go back into the welfare system and spend her childhood hoping to find parents willing to adopt her? Or, would she be the long-sought answer to a motherâ€™s prayers? Brandi Rarus was just 6 when spinal meningitis took away her hearing. Because she spoke well and easily adjusted to lip reading, she was mainstreamed in school and socialized primarily in the hearing community. Brandi was a popular, happy teen, but being fully part of every conversation was an ongoing struggle. She felt caught between two worlds&#151;the Deaf and the hearing. In college, Brandi embraced Deaf Culture along with the joys of complete and effortless communication with her peers. Brandi went on to become Miss Deaf America in 1988 and served as a spokesperson for her community. It was during her tenure as Miss Deaf America that Brandi met Tim, a leader of the Gallaudet Uprising in support of selecting the universityâ€™s first Deaf president. The two went on to marry and had three hearing boys&#151;the first non-deaf children born in Timâ€™s family in 125 years. Brandi was incredibly grateful to have her three wonderful sons, but couldnâ€™t shake the feeling something was missing. She didnâ€™t know that Zoe, a six-month-old Deaf baby girl caught in the foster care system, was desperately in need of a family unafraid of her different needs. Brandi found the answer to her prayers when fate brought her new adopted daughter into her life. Set against the backdrop of Deaf America, *Finding Zoe* is an uplifting story of hope, adoption, and everyday miracles.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Finding Zoe begins with the heartwarming image of a bright-eyed girl watching her expressive dad create a Christmas storybook scene using sign language. And, just like that, I was hooked. I admit to being initially hesitant about the premise of Finding Zoe. I wasn't sure whether the authors could explore pertinent, and partly controversial, social issues - such as adoption, teenage pregnancy and the deaf culture - without any bias or judgment. I was afraid the book would be a half-baked mishmash that would not resonate with me. Boy, was I wrong or what! I would be hard pressed to classify Finding Zoe. Do I call it a memoir, a biography, an autobiography, an account, a narration? Therein lays the beauty of this epic novel. It cannot be categorized. It doesn't matter what type of reader you are or what kind of books you enjoy devouring, this saga (aah that sounds perfect! ;) ) will quickly encamp itself in your soul; because it shimmers with hope, honesty and a lot of heart - it is THAT special. Finding Zoe pulsates with the colors of humanity, evoking a cornucopia of hearty emotions that left me deliciously exhausted by the end of it. As someone who revels in visualizing while reading, I was supremely impressed with the ability of the authors to paint a picture with their words. Their vibrant writing will leave you with no choice but to get immersed in this charming universe of Zoe and her loved ones. I would suggest keeping a box of tissues by your side because almost every page will tug at your heart and fill your eyes with both rapturous and rueful tears!

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