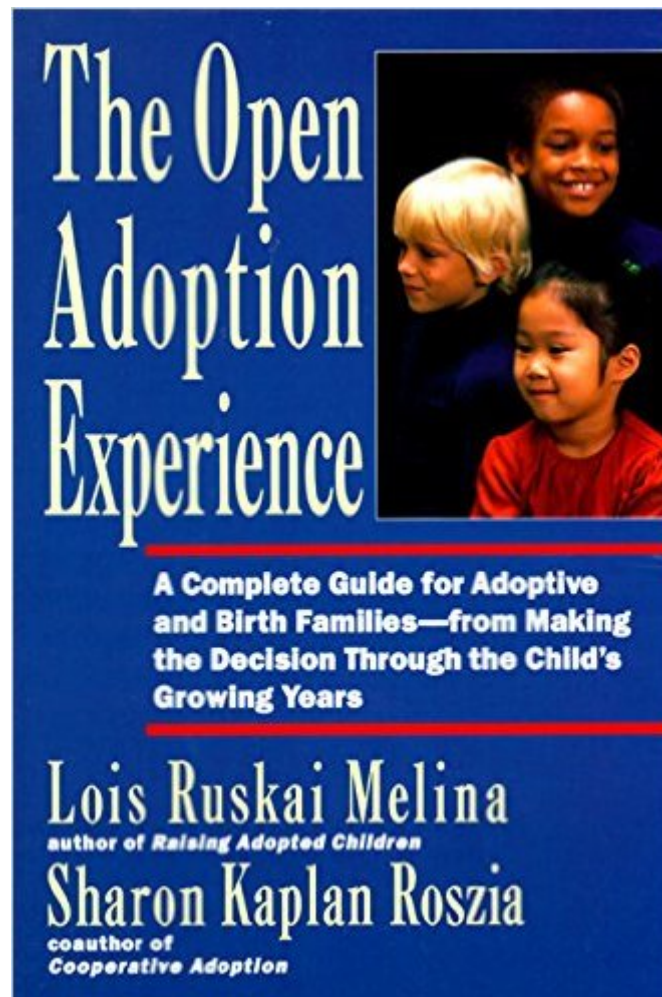


The book was found

# The Open Adoption Experience - A Complete Guide For Adoptive And Birth Families



## Synopsis

Two leading experts provide an authoritative and reassuring guide to the issues and concerns of adoptive and birth families through all stages of the open adoption relationship.

## Book Information

Paperback: 416 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #108,917 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Adoption](#) #541 in [Books > Deals in Books](#) #2109 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Parenting](#)

## Customer Reviews

If I were adopting today and had read this thoughtful book, I would jump at the opportunity for an open adoption. The information on pre-adoption and placement aspects is persuasive for both adoptive and birth parents, especially since the author is non-judgmental. When you think about it, open adoption seems ideal for both parties involved. Really a utopia. I get goose bumps thinking about it. And yet. . . yet. . . The U.S. has gone from one extreme of adoption practice (secrecy) to another, openness. Unfortunately, the adversarial relationship between advocates and critics of openness in adoption is exacerbated by lack of empirical research. It is this lack of empirical evidence that should caution prospective adoptive parents about this new extreme practice. Lois Ruskai Melina's book was published in 1993, but we have now at least one large longitudinal study on openness. Harold D. Grotevant and Ruth G. McRoy report in their study, *Openness in Adoption, Exploring Family Connections* (Sage 1998): "The clearest policy implication of our work is that no single type of adoption is best for everyone." These authors warn that the long-term impact of openness for all parties in the adoptive kinship network is not known and longitudinal research is necessary to answer this question. We now have a generation of children who grew up in open adoptions, and we need to find out from them, now that they are adults, how they perceived the practice in their lives. We do not have such a comprehensive study of their

experiences, but only anecdotal records. Even if some adoptive and birth parents like openness, this does not mean that the practice is good for the children. Some research also indicates that birthmothers who see their children suffer more than those who do not see them.

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