

Whats A Foster Family Anyway

There are great rewards that come along with being a foster parent, yet there are also great challenges that can leave you feeling depleted, alone, and discouraged. The many burdens of a foster parent's day--struggling children, difficult biological parents, and a broken system--are only compounded by the many burdens of a foster parent's heart--confusion, anxiety, heartache, anger, and fear. With the compassion and insight of a fellow foster parent, Jamie C. Finn helps you see your struggles through the lens of the gospel, bringing biblical truths to bear on your unique everyday realities. In these short, easy-to-read chapters, you'll find honest, personal stories and practical lessons that provide encouragement and direction from God's Word as you walk the journey of foster parenting.

Featuring a spectrum of families from diverse backgrounds, this book reveals the joys and challenges of adoptive and foster parenting. The authors outline how the experience of adopting and fostering has changed for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people over the years, major changes in policy, and what the research can tell us about LGBT parenting. They interview families involved at different stages of the fostering and adoption process, from those undergoing assessments through to the experienced foster carers and adopters who were interviewed for the first edition of this book 20 years previously. While the number of LGBT people adopting or fostering has increased since then, some of the very real challenges still endure - including social stigma, homophobia and discriminatory policies - and families share some of the strategies they have used to help to address them. This is an essential source of information and advice for same-sex couples and LGBT single parents, as well as social workers, social work educators, sociologists of personal life, fostering and adoption panel members.

Caelie has never broken a rule in her life, but when her English teacher gives the class an assignment to write a letter to a celebrity, she ends up breaking the most important rule of all: Never Tell Anyone. There's only one person in the world with enough power to make her believe the two little words she ends up holding in her hands, but will they be enough? After a lifetime of learning to be invisible, she now has only a few minutes to figure out if she can trust the stranger who knows everything about her.

Eighteen-year-old high school senior Dennis Moore is in a quandary. Unsure of what direction he should take after he graduates from high school, he writes in his journal, hoping that through his unspoken words he will find the answers. But with his father passed away and his mother and brother both battling serious health issues, Dennis's sense of duty is overwhelming as he wonders if he should stay on the farm and help his family. Gifted through his faith with strength and confidence enough to see him through many crises, Dennis is inspired by his partnership with a crime prevention program that places troubled boys at their family farm to perform chores and hopefully gain self-esteem. As he continues to pray for answers, Dennis is encouraged by his high school counselor to apply to the police academy. But just as he thinks he is squaring away his future, Dennis's brother, Paul, becomes gravely ill again. Now, Dennis must learn to trust God's wisdom as he attempts to balance his dreams with his obligation to his family and the farm. In this Christian coming-of-age story, a young man standing at a crossroads must wait and hope that the Lord will provide the answers he so desperately needs to move forward with his life.

BECOME A FOSTER PARENT A mom, dad, house and dog do not make a home. Everyday, there are children who experience this sad fact when they are removed from their home due to neglect or abuse. Not every foster child has a foster family. In some regions, foster children must wait for long periods of time in shelter care. More than one-half million children in the United States rely on foster families to provide a

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safe and loving home. Many wonderful and caring families would like to open their homes to these children, but are clueless about how to get started. There are many misconceptions, myths and misunderstandings surrounding foster care. These concerns must be shattered and waiting children must be nurtured. This book details for prospective foster parents the requirements, qualifications and screening process. Step by step, foster parents are guided through the crucial decisions and directed to the vital information they will need to foster parent effectively. Foster Parent Handbook provides an indispensable guide for navigating through the foster care system. It is designed for use by prospective foster parents, those who are currently foster parents and professionals providing foster care services.

Books have a way of taking us somewhere else. This book will put you on the edge of your seat for a while, and then bring a soft spot in your heart. Read what's in the attic to see what these two young boys find, and how they handle it.

Abducted as a teenager, a woman must now confront her past and untangle the truth of what really happened to her in this dark thriller from the author of *The Wolf Wants In*. "Compulsively, propulsively readable."—Laura Lippman, bestselling author of *Lady in the Lake* Seventeen-year-old Sarabeth has become increasingly rebellious since her parents found God and moved their family to a remote Arkansas farmstead where she's forced to wear long dresses, follow strict rules, and grow her hair down to her waist. She's all but given up on escaping the farm when a masked man appears one stifling summer morning and snatches her out of the cornfield. A week after her abduction, she's found alongside a highway in a bloodstained dress—alive—but her family treats her like she's tainted, and there's little hope of finding her captor, who kept Sarabeth blindfolded in the dark the entire time, never uttering a word. One good thing arises from the horrific ordeal: a chance to leave the Ozarks and start a new life. Five years later, Sarabeth is struggling to keep her past buried when investigator Nick Farrow calls. Convinced that her case is connected to the strikingly similar disappearance of another young girl, Farrow wants Sarabeth's help, and he'll do whatever it takes to get it, even if that means dragging her back to the last place she wants to go—the hills and hollers of home, to face her estranged family and all her deepest fears. In this riveting novel from Laura McHugh, blood ties and buried secrets draw a young woman back into the nightmare of her past to save a missing girl, unaware of what awaits her in the darkness.

Abandoned by her teenage mother in 1954 to a overwhelmingly white charity organization so begins Theresa's life as a 'ward of the state' of New York. She shares the heartbreaking struggle to survive in a foster care system where children's welfare often seemed the lowest priority. This book is my diary's perspective of leaving an abusive family and entering the madness of foster care. It chronicles the ups and downs of the eating disorder, depression, and abuse that tried to mold me. *Dear Diary* starts in 1995 when I was only 13 years old, and takes you through three of my most formative years.

As a little girl, Nae-Nae was devastated after being shot and waking up to her momma and daddy being gunned down. At the time, she didn't have a slightest idea as to why it happen. All she knew was that it happen. Her little brother Trey was asleep during the shooting. He was awaking during the aftermath. Nae-Nae left the house in the ruthless New Orleans Third ward going to seek some help that she eventually want find right away. As a result, her momma and daddy would die. On her journey searching for help, she ran across a couple cops that was scared to intervene. Instead of helping her, one of them tried to rape her, but she manage to escape the predator's intentions. When she turned back home, the same gunman's that shot her, her momma and daddy returned to in search for something. After they couldn't find what they was looking for, they decided to rape her, just to get something outta the deal. Gloria was a next door neighbor and her mom's best friend. She had plotted the robber and murder of Nae-Nae's momma and daddy. It was Gloria's idea to get the lump sum of cash they they had just recieved from their lawsuit. However, Gloria ended up cashless. As time went on Nae-Nae and her little brother was being bullied, but they

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showed no signs of fear. They eventually ended up in Foster care and were often mistreated, but that wasn't the end, because some monsters were being created. "PAYBACK IS NEVER FORGOTTEN"

The stunning new psychological thriller from the award-winning author of *Darkness Peering* and *The Breathmaker*. She'll need all her wits about her, and then some, to eventually do battle with one of the most memorable genre villains since Hannibal Lecter. - *Wall Street Journal*
Sixteen years ago, Kate Wolfe's young sister Savannah was brutally murdered. Forced to live with the guilt of how her own selfishness put Savannah in harm's way, Kate was at least comforted by the knowledge that the man responsible was on death row. But when she meets a retired detective who is certain that Kate's sister was only one of many victims of a serial killer, Kate must face the possibility that Savannah's murderer walks free. Unearthing disturbing family secrets in her search for the truth, Kate becomes sure that she has discovered the depraved mind responsible for so much death. But as she hunts for a killer, a killer is hunting her...

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Adoption is currently taking centre stage in family policy in the UK and USA, with new legislation that places emphasis on providing and maintaining permanent family homes for children separated from their families of origin. This book explores the challenges of adoption and how best to support families coping with these demands. Angie Hart and Barry Luckock draw together adoptive parents' experiences, professional practice and empirical research to provide an integrative account of adoption support services. Using three fictional families, they illustrate issues such as the adoption of older children, single, lesbian and gay adoptive parenting and the importance of openness in adoptive relationships. The authors bring sociological and anthropological perspectives to bear on current developmental psychology models of trauma and attachment and examine the effectiveness of various therapeutic interventions. *Developing Adoption Support and Therapy* will make current research and legislation on adoption support accessible to therapists, parents, social work practitioners and managers alike. Since the early 1980s, states child welfare agencies' use of relatives as foster parents has grown rapidly, yet little information is available on this practice. This lack of information has made it difficult to evaluate how well kinship care ensures children's safety, promotes permanency in their living situation, and enhances their well-being--three basic goals of the child welfare system. *Kinship Care: Making the Most of a Valuable Resource* sheds light on this changing issue. Using a study involving focus groups of child welfare workers and kinship caregivers, in addition to interviews with local administrators, advocates, and service providers, the authors describe frontline kinship care practices in today's system. They also examine how and when child welfare agencies use kin as foster parents, how their approach to kinship care differs from traditional foster care, and how kinship care practices vary across states. The book also features the experiences of actual kinship foster parents, their challenges, and their interaction with agencies and the courts. Finally, the book provides recommendations for policy development, worker and caregiver training, and issues for further research.

Always the most gorgeous man in town... That's how Alisa Merrick sees Kerry Springs's most unattainable rancher, Matt Rafferty. Alisa's a tough politician, but she's never forgotten their wonderful weekend together, or her heartbreak when he walked away.... Now Matt's back from the army and he's a changed man: quiet and closed off. Alisa can't help but wonder why—even though she's determined to steer clear. As she watches Matt adjust to civilian life, her old feelings surge up. For, deny it though she might, Matt will always be the cowboy for her....

The *Foster Parenting Manual* is a comprehensive guide offering proven, friendly advice for novice and experienced parents alike. Distilling many years' experience into one book, John DeGarmo combines his own wisdom with that of fellow foster parents. He describes what to expect from the process, how to access help and how to ensure the best care for your child. He tackles thorny issues such as children's use

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of the Internet and social media, managing contact with birth parents and how to support your child at school. Most importantly, he provides advice designed to help your child feel safe, secure and loved. The Foster Parenting Manual offers seasoned, sympathetic advice that will be valued by foster parents and the professionals who support them.

The first book of its kind, *Homosexuality and Family Relations* focuses on the effects of homosexuality and being homosexual on individuals in families and on the family as a group. Edited by Frederick W. Bozett, RN, DNS, and Marvin B. Sussman, PhD, this informative and enlightening volume examines the multiple varieties of family forms in which gay men and lesbians live, addresses the ramifications of homosexuality on family relationships, and explores the countless aspects of parenthood as they are experienced by gay men and lesbians, including adoption and foster care by lesbians and gay men, and the choice of increasing numbers of lesbians to bear children through artificial fertilization. Any professional who is interested in the family--educators, clinicians, academicians, researchers, and students, as well as others interested in families and in human sexuality and men's and women's studies--family science, gay studies, nursing, medicine, law, psychology, sociology, social work--will find this book useful, insightful, and unique.

More and more individuals, families, and churches are seeking ways they can respond to the biblical mandate to care for "the least of these." The desire to help children coming from difficult situations is a necessary starting point, but what comes next? You need to know the steps for getting involved and what will truly help. Filled with real-life stories and practical advice, *Called to Care* starts by helping you honestly assess your motivation to help--sometimes the wrong motivation sets the stage for an unsuccessful experience. From there, the book shows what adoption and foster care really look like in a variety of situations, from domestic and international adoptions to short-term foster care and foster-to-adopt arrangements. Also included is how churches and individuals can minister to refugees. Rounding out this comprehensive yet concise book are tips for assessing your preparedness, how to meet common emotional and physical challenges, and the most effective ways to help families stay together and thrive. Bethany is a global nonprofit that supports children and families with world-class social services, all designed to help families thrive. We believe every child deserves to be loved, connected, and empowered through family. Each year tens of thousands of teenagers are released from the foster care system in the United States without high school degrees, homes, or strong family relationships. Two to four years after discharge, half of these young people still do not have either a high school diploma or equivalency degree, and fewer than ten percent enter college. Nearly a third end up on public assistance within fifteen months, and eventually more than a third will be arrested or convicted of a crime. In this richly detailed and often surprising exploration of the foster care system, Betsy Krebs and Paul Pitcoff argue that the existing foster care system sets teens up to fail by inadequately preparing them for adult life. They contend that the primary goal of foster care for teenagers should be preparation for a fully productive adult life, and that current policies and practice are misguided. The authors draw on their fifteen years of experience working with teens and the foster care system to introduce new ways to empower teens to be responsible for themselves and to identify and develop their potential. They also explore what sorts of resources--legal, financial, and human--will need to come from inside and outside the system to ensure that more teens reach successful independence. Ultimately, Krebs and Pitcoff argue that change must include the participation of caring communities of volunteers who want to see disadvantaged youth succeed, as well as the use of creative approaches such as the Socratic Method to help teens to take control of their lives. Bringing together a series of inspiring, real-life accounts, *Beyond the Foster Care System* introduces readers to a number of dynamic young people who have participated in the Youth Advocacy Center's programs. Their stories demonstrate that alternatives to the standard way of providing foster care are not only imaginable, but possible. With the practical improvements Krebs and

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Pitcoff outline, teens can learn the skills of effective self-advocacy, become better prepared for the transition to independence, and avoid becoming the statistics that foster care has so often produced in the past.

Jamie had spent her life in care, she felt alone in the world, until she meets Mary, who gives her a home, security and the love she so desperately needed. As Mary tries to heal Jamie's wounds, Jamie's past comes back to haunt her. .

The pastor of Atlanta's New Birth Missionary Baptist Church will show you how to live a life of God-filled greatness and experience success—spiritually, personally, and financially. Captured in these pages is his wisdom on how to be everything that God wants us to become. And it can begin in 60 seconds. Every minute of your life can bring you one step closer to God, who promises great things. Bishop Long challenges you to prepare for the coming of these promises. Pray for and expect prosperity—and, with his Strategic Life Plan, you can create a blueprint for success in every area of life: work, family, finances, and self-fulfillment. And the greatest gift of all: the realization of God's plan for your life. Full of 60-second exercises, quizzes, and affirmations, Bishop Long's breakthrough book will challenge everything you thought you knew about transforming your life. Long shows how to take cues from inspirational Biblical figures—from the prophet Nehemiah's right mindset to Joseph's work ethic. And just as Jacob and Esther did, you too can move from mediocrity to magnificence in God's eyes. Now you can make the most of your minutes, by being everything God wants you to be. And you can start your journey to greatness in 60 seconds. "Bishop Eddie Long is a leader who can help you transform your life. Let him teach you how to unblock the blessings in your life and open the doors of opportunity. Greatness can be yours!"—Bishop T. D. Jakes, The Potter's House of Dallas, Inc. "To connect with Bishop Long in any way will make you a stronger person. He is one of our greatest voices."—Lou Gossett, Jr., Golden Globe and Academy Award-winning actor "60 Seconds to Greatness is the blueprint that shows you how to travel the road to greatness. This should be a required reading everywhere . . ."—Warren Ballentine, nationally syndicated radio personality, author, and youth activist "60 Seconds to Greatness is the playbook on not just how to live a better life, but the best life you can, by maximizing every minute and seizing every opportunity."—Ray Buchanan, All-Pro NFL star

The Papadakis family takes in a foster child, a troubled young girl named Lou, and Kristy soon discovers that Lou's difficult behavior makes her a real challenge to baby-sit.

Friends. You gotta have 'em, but sometimes they drive you crazy. You love 'em, but sometimes they make you mad. They'll help you through a crisis...unless they are the crisis. So What's the Deal? Friends are more than just the people you hang out with. They make you laugh, they keep your secrets, they offer advice (some good, some bad), they give you a shoulder to cry on. Sometimes they move away, or betray your trust, or flake out, but mostly they are the people who are always there for you. And they know you'll be there when they need you most. Because that's what it means to be a friend. Sometimes friendship is overwhelming, sometimes it's confusing, sometimes you feel like you don't have a friend in the world, but don't worry, it's like that for everyone. That's what the stories in this book are all about. They're from real teens, and they're about the bizarre, difficult and wonderful things that really happened to them and their friends. Put that together with weird facts, cool graphics, fun advice and quizzes designed to help you figure out what you and your friends are all about, and you've got the real deal on friendship!

She is the most amazing little girl . Her name is Ariel Janae' and she is three years old at the time of this writing . She has been

abandoned by her mother and has been placed in the foster care system in the county where we live . My wife Anna works at the social service department and came across this information about the child . And even though we had decided that the two boys were enough , but God has the final say .

A hearing was held on education, training, and service programs that serve disadvantaged teens. Testimony was presented on recent research findings concerning these programs and on their implementation. The major lessons learned from the Summer Training and Employment (STEP) program were presented, including those of implementation and impact. A second topic was a discussion of the effectiveness of three programs serving teenage mothers on welfare: New Chance (for mothers who have dropped out of school); Learning, Earning, and Parenting (LEAP), an Ohio program for teen parents; and Demonstrations of Innovative Approaches to Reduce Welfare Dependency among Teen Parents. A third topic was the discussion of the work provisions of the Family Support Act of 1988. The following witnesses addressed the hearing: (1) Milton J. Little, Manpower Demonstration Research Corp.; (2) Deanna Phelps, Maryland Department of Human Resources; (3) Alan M. Hershey, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.; (4) Kevin W. Concannon, Oregon Department of Human Resources; and (5) Michael A. Bailin and Frances Vilella-Velez, Public/Private Ventures. Three submissions for the record are included. (SLD)

Warning: once you start reading this book, you won't stop until you are finished. This book is a true story or stories about my life. I explain in detail why and when I was taken away from my family by social services and put in an orphanage and then placed in two different foster homes, where I was abused and terrified, and I had a relationship with a twenty-year-old woman when I was seven and a half years old. I also talk about very crazy experiences I had playing drums professionally on stage. The experiences are very dramatic, humorous, and sexy. Drums were and still are a very big part of my life. I would play with my complete heart and self-expression when I performed. Music was a big part of my life that gave me purpose when I was at one of my lowest points in my life. I have also suffered with Crohn's disease most of my life. I have been in and out of the hospital as a result of this disease since I was a baby. The disease became so severe I had to quit my job and I became homeless, and I lived in the woods for two long years suffering from this disease. I also share some of my terrifying experiences from heavy drinking of alcohol and some of my deadly situations I put myself in from heavy addiction to drugs. It is absolutely amazing and a true miracle that I am still alive and able to write this book about my experiences. I experienced the presence of God while I was writing this book in such a profound way. I cannot even try to explain how powerful this experience was. You have to read this book to understand this absolute wonderful experience I had.

The sequel to the popular Kicking the Habit! When Eleanor Stewart abandoned her vows and her life as a nun, she found herself in the middle of the swinging Sixties - and soon joined in. Boyfriends, parties, and mini-skirts took the place of silence and restraint, as she pursued her career as a midwife and the men she met with equal commitment. Troubled by her relationship with her mother, and what she saw as a growing estrangement from her faith, she finally falls in love and settles down - only to discover her past catching up with her, as she faces infertility. But with her husband at her side, they battle to adopt two children. Will the

dream of a happy family, that drove her out of the convent, finally come true?

A practical guide for human service workers and students which describes and shows techniques for use in assessing families. The author reviews a conceptual basis of family assessment in chapters that focus on the family as a system, the family and its environment, and the family life cycle. She goes on to describe such methods of assessment as the ecomap, the genogram, family sculpture, and the use of observation and checklists. Throughout the guide, case examples are used to illustrate concepts and show the techniques in use. A special feature of particular value is the self-teaching exercises designed to give the reader practice in applying these ideas and methods. A concluding chapter relates family assessment to treatment or intervention.

This book provides new and empirically grounded research-based knowledge and insights into the current transformation of the Russian child welfare system. It focuses on the major shift in Russia's child welfare policy: deinstitutionalisation of the system of children's homes inherited from the Soviet era and an increase in fostering and adoption. Divided into four sections, this book details both the changing role and function of residential institutions within the Russian child welfare system and the rapidly developing form of alternative care in foster families, as well as work undertaken with birth families. By analysing the consequences of deinstitutionalisation and its effects on children and young people as well as their foster and birth parents, it provides a model for understanding this process across the whole of the post-Soviet space. It will be of interest to academics and students of social work, sociology, child welfare, social policy, political science, and Russian and East European politics more generally.

In the bestselling tradition of *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and *Humans of New York* comes a collection of authentic, emotional, and inspiring stories about life's most important moments, as curated by the editors at Love What Matters. "90% of the reads bring me to tears. I just can't believe the love this world truly has when all we see is hate. This is so uplifting." —Shelsea Where do you go when you want to feel inspired? When you want to forget about the divisiveness and the anger? For over five million people, that place is Love What Matters, a digital platform dedicated to finding and sharing the daily moments of kindness, compassion, and love that so often go overlooked. This curated collection of powerful stories features first person accounts and photographs that perfectly capture each moment: A husband learning he's about to be a dad. A new mom embracing her body. A cashier inadvertently teaching a young girl a lesson about patience. A bagel from a stranger that saved a homeless man's life. From long overdue adoptions to military heroes returning home; from a fireman's touching 9/11 tribute to what an old dinner plate found at a bake sale can teach us all about life—these are the moments that matter. They are genuine. Authentic. Raw. And they are perfect in their imperfection—just like all of us. You will no doubt experience goosebumps and tears, but this mosaic of life's moments will leave you with something even more profound: a reminder that, in the end, love always wins. "This really is

the best page on Facebook. It renews your love of humanity. There are still good people. We need more reports of acts of kindness.” —Johnny

"The lessons in this book remind us that we can—and that we must—do better, for the sake of our children, their futures, and the sake of our nation. . . . This volume is a call to action, and I encourage everyone who reads it to take steps to ensure that all America's children are given an equal chance to succeed. We must all work together to replace the cradle-to-prison pipeline with a pipeline to responsible, productive adulthood." —From the Foreword by Marian Wright Edelman, JD, President and founder, Children's Defense Fund, Washington, DC "Juvenile Justice: Advancing Research, Policy, and Practice appears at a critical time, when promising juvenile justice reforms are underway in so many jurisdictions across the United States. Sherman and Jacobs, and their impressive array of expert authors, fill a significant gap in the literature, making the current body of juvenile justice research and experience accessible to policy makers, researchers, and funders, and doing so through a practical and positive lens." —Patrick McCarthy, President and Chief Executive Officer, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD "Most people have narrow views of what it means to be a delinquent youth. In Juvenile Justice: Advancing Research, Policy, and Practice, Sherman and Jacobs have diligently collected essays from the top experts in the juvenile justice field who tell an empirically based and powerful narrative of who is really in the delinquency system. As this book makes clear, until we ask and answer the right questions, we will remain unable to help the youth most in need." —Alexander Busansky, President, The National Council on Crime and Delinquency, Oakland, CA A comprehensive reference presenting a rehabilitative, youth- and community-centered vision of juvenile justice Juvenile Justice: Advancing Research, Policy, and Practice brings together experts in juvenile justice, child development, and public health to explore the intersections between juvenile justice and needed development of programs and policies that look out for the health and well-being of the youth who enter this system. This timely book provides a usable framework for imagining juvenile justice systems that emphasize the welfare of juveniles, achieved primarily through connections within their communities. A must-read for professionals working in juvenile courts and within juvenile justice agencies, Juvenile Justice: Advancing Research, Policy, and Practice reflects both the considerable advances and the challenges currently evident in the juvenile justice system, with an emphasis on the development and implementation of policies that can succeed in building a new generation of educated young people able to embrace their potential and build successful futures.

Children's rights: the phrase has been a legal battle cry for twenty-five years. But as this provocative book by a nationally renowned expert on children's legal standing argues, it is neither possible nor desirable to isolate children from the interests of their parents, or those of society as a whole. From foster care to adoption to visitation rights and beyond,

Martin Guggenheim offers a trenchant analysis of the most significant debates in the children's rights movement, particularly those that treat children's interests as antagonistic to those of their parents. Guggenheim argues that children's rights can serve as a screen for the interests of adults, who may have more to gain than the children for whom they claim to speak. More important, this book suggests that children's interests are not the only ones or the primary ones to which adults should attend, and that a best interests of the child standard often fails as a meaningful test for determining how best to decide disputes about children.

This book provides a much needed resource in helping children cope with the potentially traumatic experience of placement into foster care. It should be offered to all children making such a transition and may help to reduce some of the normal fear, confusion, and discomfort inherent in this experience.

In 1973 Marcia Lowry, a young civil liberties attorney, filed a controversial class-action suit that would come to be known as *Wilder*, which challenged New York City's operation of its foster-care system. Lowry's contention was that the system failed the children it was meant to help because it placed them according to creed and convenience, not according to need. The plaintiff was thirteen-year-old Shirley Wilder, an abused runaway whose childhood had been shaped by the system's inequities. Within a year Shirley would give birth to a son and relinquish him to the same failing system. Seventeen years later, with *Wilder* still controversial and still in court, Nina Bernstein tried to find out what had happened to Shirley and her baby. She was told by child-welfare officials that Shirley had disappeared and that her son was one of thousands of anonymous children whose circumstances are concealed by the veil of confidentiality that hides foster care from public scrutiny. But Bernstein persevered. *The Lost Children of Wilder* gives us, in galvanizing and compulsively readable detail, the full history of a case that reveals the racial, religious, and political fault lines in our child-welfare system, and lays bare the fundamental contradiction at the heart of our well-intended efforts to sever the destiny of needy children from the fate of their parents. Bernstein takes us behind the scenes of far-reaching legal and legislative battles, at the same time as she traces, in heartbreaking counterpoint, the consequences as they are played out in the life of Shirley's son, Lamont. His terrifying journey through the system has produced a man with deep emotional wounds, a stifled yearning for family, and a son growing up in the system's shadow. In recounting the failure of the promise of benevolence, *The Lost Children of Wilder* makes clear how welfare reform can also damage its intended beneficiaries. A landmark achievement of investigative reporting and a tour de force of social observation, this book will haunt every reader who cares about the needs of children.

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