



pact's

point of view

The newsletter for adoptive families with children of color

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## Pact Family Stories

### Surprise Adoption



I didn't know you could have .an unplanned adoption. There we were, spending the day In San Francisco with our two boys, Kieran, who was eight, and Kai, who had just turned two. I'd spent the earlier part of the week clearing out baby clothes and gear we weren't going to use anymore. Only the crib was left. Domestic chores well in hand, we headed out to play.

Kai had fallen asleep in the car on the drive into the city and my husband Ojas elected to sit in the car while Kai slept, knowing a nap would make the rest of the day go more smoothly. I took Kieran to the PlayStation store to watch a steady stream of teenagers play the new Guitar Hero game.

After about 30 minutes, Ojas showed up with a groggy Kai. "I talked to Shawna," he told me. That was good news. We hadn't heard from Kai's birthmother in several months. We had a good relationship with her and I was happy she had called.

"She's pregnant," Ojas said.

So, there we were, standing in the middle of the PlayStation store. Should we be happy? Concerned? We didn't know what this sibling-to-be would mean for Kai. We didn't know what this could mean for us. The store was too noisy for much conversation. Then Ojas's phone rang again –Shawna calling back. He spoke to her and then handed the phone to me. I asked her how she was feeling, talking about everything except the one question that I wanted to blurt into the phone: What are you going to do??

Afterwards in the car, Ojas and I tried to decode the conversations we each had with Shawna. In the course of about three or four minutes, we decided that if she chose to place this unborn baby for adoption, we wanted the baby placed with us. And boom, life changed. How could we make such a big decision so quickly? Simple: Kai. Kai already has two half-brothers he may never meet. To think that Kai would have another a half-sibling out there that he might never know if Shawna placed this baby with another family tore me up inside. How could we tell him it was inconvenient to

