

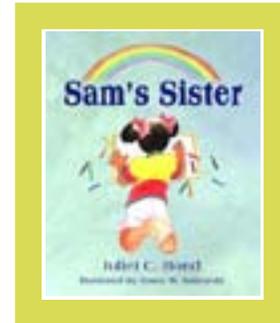
Book Review

Sam's Sister

By Juliet C. Bond

Illustrated by Dawn Majewsk

Perspectives Press



Finally – a book that acknowledges the birth siblings of adopted children. Today over 65% of women planning an adoption are already parenting at least one child. Until now, there have been no tools to help these mothers explain adoption to their older children. *Sam's Sister* will change all that. It follows six-year-old Rosa as she comes to understand her mother's dilemma, learns about adoption, experiences his birth and placement with Sarah and Joe. We are delighted that Rosa and her family are Latino. We need more books that reflect the experience of all members of the triad, not just those that are white. The illustrations of Dawn Majewski bring the characters to life with soft pastels.

The content of the book is a bit old for what appears to be its target audience (early school age?), and the images are a bit saccharine. Despite its imperfections,, it fills a crucial gap in adoption literature for children and we welcome it at an important contribution to the world of adoption.

Author Juliet Bond has been working in the foster care and adoption field for over 10 years. She attributes her professional dedication to children and families to the life lessons and unconditional love her own beautiful children and husband have afforded her.

Currently, she provides counseling and support to birthparents at The Cradle, in Evanston, Illinois, one of the country's oldest adoption agencies. Juliet wrote *Sam's Sister* after seeing several birthmothers abandon their adoption plans due to anxiety about revealing their decision to the children they were already parenting. She was particularly interested in providing avenues for children to deal with grief and loss that arise with a sibling's adoption. Juliet felt that with better tools, birthmothers and their children might feel more confident and comfortable in making their adoption plans. She hopes this book affords comfort and peace to families making such an important life decision.

We hope this book makes it into every adoptive and birth family home as well as becoming a staple for agency personnel to use with their prospective clients. Parents, buy a copy for your own children and your adopted children's birth siblings. Even if your child doesn't know his or her birth family, this story delivers a terrifically positive message about the way adopted children are valued by BOTH their families. Great job! Four stars