Ari, three years old, gravitates to people his size. He makes friends quickly and hates to leave his brand-new pals when it’s time to go. I overheard a five-year-old ask Ari, “Why are you Black?” His answer was, “I don’t know. Let’s play trucks over there.” Only later that day, while coloring, did Ari tell me that black was no longer his favorite color. I feigned nonchalance and asked him what his new favorite color was. “Pink” he said, and my heart sank.

I told him the black is still my favorite color; that black is a special color because it is the combination of all the colors in the world. I want Ari to love black. I like that his black crayon always gets used up first. I want there to be black lollipops and black angels and black flowers.

Jana Wolff and her husband live in Hawaii with Ari. She is the author of The Secret Life of an Adoptive Parent.