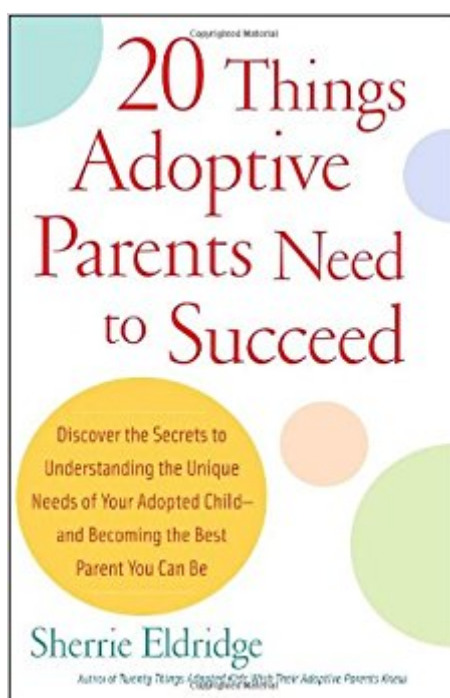


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# 20 Things Adoptive Parents Need To Succeed..Discover The Unique Need Of Your Adopted Child And Become The Best Parent You Can



## Synopsis

This book is PURE ENCOURAGEMENT for adoptive parents! Most adoptive parents don't know that their child has a different "heart language" than theirs. They need a translator, which Sherrie Eldridge becomes in her new book. Read real-life accounts from 100 adoptive parents who "get it" Learn how to speak your child's "heart language" fluently (different than yours) Soak in the words of love from your child from infancy to adulthood--if you're having a difficult time, you can look ahead and know it won't always hurt as much Give as a gift to new or veteran adoptive parents In her groundbreaking first book, *Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew*, Sherrie Eldridge gave voice to the very real concerns of adopted children, whose unique perspectives offered unprecedented insight. In this all-new companion volume, Eldridge goes beyond those insights and shifts her focus to parents, offering them much-needed encouragement and hope.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A companion book and sequel to adoption expert Eldridge's *20 Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew*, this offers prospective, new, troubled or experienced adoptive parents a combination self-help manual, sourcebook and emotional touchstone featuring 20 ways to confidently and competently address the specific challenges of raising adopted children. Adopted as an infant (at age 47 she met her birth mother and learned she was the result of a rape), Eldridge is sensitive to all aspects of the adoptive parents' journey and adroitly tackles many difficult, loaded issues including the importance of telling children the truth "positive and negative" about their origins as soon as possible, communicating heart-to-heart even when angry, when to seek

professional help and understanding their own needs as well as their children's. Since the advent of open adoption, the demand for secrecy has waned, but the stresses and disillusion of an adoptive family remain, and parents want to know they are doing the best they can. The author's accessible information coupled with an accepting, understanding tone and personal insights will educate and reassure readers. Each chapter opens with a story about a family problem that is bound to resonate with readers and has imagined letters to parents from the young child, teen and adult adoptee's point of view. Helpful direction and assignments appear in boxes, sidebars and bulleted lists. (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Sherrie Eldridge once again makes a remarkable contribution to adoption literature, weaving together her personal experiences as both an adoptee and an adoption expert and skillfully examining the often unspoken thoughts of adoptive parents." —, MS, author of *Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens*, and executive director, The Center for Adoption Support and Education "A must-read and must-keep resource for all adoptive parents, getting straight to the core of adoption issues. This is one of the most validating books for adoptive parents I have ever read, helping them to know not only that their experiences are different but how to turn challenges into healing moments." —Heather T. Forbes, LCSW, author of *Beyond Consequences, Logic, and Control*

This book is very informative about all the things that a new adoptive parent should know. It is a must read!!!

This was well written, easy to understand and very informative. The author truly put this book together with a lot of research and it helped bring understanding to a complex situation.

Received in great shape

Excellent source of information for anyone who plans on adopting or has adopted. I encourage all adoptive parents to purchase a copy of this book. It's very resourceful!

This was an EXCELLENT book for adoptive parents. I am reading this prior to the finalizing of our adoption (so, if reading this, keep that in mind!) but Eldridge's writing is easy to read while her advice is practical! She touches on many topics that other books address but also provides

strategies for working through various situations. I should also state that the strategies address multiple age groups which was great to read. Adoption is not a singular event in the life of a person; parents, children, family, etc are impacted by this event in many ways and over the course of their lives. Many books address only infant or toddler adoption and Eldridge address all age groups.

I adopted both of my daughters as infants in the 1980s; one was born in Taiwan in 1982, the other in India in 1987. I am also a single parent. Although there were a few seemingly minor issues related to their being adopted while they were growing up and into their early adulthood, I tended to minimize them as much as I could, attributing these issues as being tied to their general personalities. Reading this book really opened my eyes! It has answered so many questions and given me so much insight into some of the behaviors my girls exhibited--and to some extent, even exhibit today. Oh how I wish this book would have been published and in my hands 25-30 years earlier!

This book approached the subject from a couple different angles. Not just a clinical look at the subject but also a child's and teen's perspective. This is a great book!

If you are an adoptive parent (counselor or social worker) this book is important. Readers who have experienced adoption or who know anyone well who has will understand the contents of this book. Those who have no experience with adoption may misconstrued the book's contents as something it is not. It's all in the perspective of the beholder. Many questions adoptive parents and extended family members have about adoption are here. The bibliography is filled with roughly 125 references. Sherri Eldridge has focused in this book (one of three books of "The Eldridge Trilogy"\*) on how parents can approach a wide range of situations in which adoptive parents find themselves. This book is a god-sent for adoptive parents who just can't seem to find ways to deal with their child as s/he grows physically, cognitively, emotionally and socially. Kids become more "aware" of adoption and all that it encompasses gradually. Each child's awareness is different as they age. The book is divided into 20 chapters, each chapter ends with valuable Support Group Discussion Questions. These support questions are also helpful if you don't have, or want/need, a support group. The chapters include such things as knowing when and how to talk about birth and adoption, being different as a "good thing" and what comforts your child; it addressed guilt, perfectionism, stress, "real-parent" questions, and much more. Chapter 5 includes a chart that plots the adopted child's changing view of adoption from infancy through late teens. This chart covers four categories

of development: cognitive, emotion, social and adoption awareness. It's invaluable because it provides a basis for a parents' understanding of how to talk with their child and what s/he may or may not be understanding. If this sounds technical or sterile, it is NOT. Most chapters include a section called "Listen to Your Child's Heart" which poses certain questions your child may be asking or thinking at different stages in their development. For example: When I'm young, I'll think about my birth parents. If our family has a spirit of openness where we talk about my birth family often, I will feel sad sometimes. At bedtimes, I might think about my birth mother and cry. I miss her. If you got me when I was young from foster care, I'll still love my first mom, even though she didn't take good care of me. When I'm a teen, more thoughts about my birth parents will surface as my body changes. As a teenager, I may wonder if I look like my birth parents. When pimples invade my face, I'll wonder if my birth father had them, too. When my female body becomes shapely, I'll wonder if I'll look like my birth mother. When I'm asked about my background by others or physicians during a physical exam, I will be embarrassed and may act like being adopted is no big deal. But, when I look in the mirror, not only will questions about my appearance surface, but also deeper identity issues. "Who am I"? Who are they? What would they think of me? Would they want to meet me?.....I'm trying to get back what I lost when I lost my birth family. As with all of Sherri Eldridge books, she recognizes that the child's need and the parents need are inexorably linked. Her web site (SherrieEldridge.com) also dovetails well with the books\*; it includes frequent hints on addressing with many issues. As with her books, there are always comments and encouragements and practical suggestions during important calendar dates which have an impact on adoptees and their families: birthdays, mother's day, father's day, etc. \*I highly recommend "The Eldridge Trilogy" which consists of "Twenty Things...; Questions Adoptees Are Asking (about beginnings, about birth family, about searching, about finding peace)" and "20 Things Adoptive Parents Need to Succeed (Discover the secrets to understanding the unique needs of your adopted child- and becoming the best parent you can be)." These should be required reading for every adoption counselor or social worker involved in adoption, every adoptive parent, and when age appropriate, every adoptee.

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