

Readers split on adoption

Dear Annie: I am still reeling after reading the letter from "Pat in North Dakota," who was adopted and wanted to meet her biological family. She said she's "sick of the right to privacy for women who give up children for adoption."

I say it was more than kind for the birth parents to give the child a life with a two-parent family in the first place. I cannot believe an adoptee would not show more

understanding. Apparently, the choice to abort would have been a better scenario for this ungrateful adopted idiot.

—Yorba Linda, Calif.,
Mother

Dear Yorba Linda: We needed oven mitts to handle the scorching mail on this subject — from both sides.

From Anywhere: I am tired of hearing how the poor adoptive children should be able to contact their birth parents. There is a reason these people gave them up in the first place. They didn't want them in their lives. I know that sounds harsh, but our family life was practically ruined after a "long lost" daughter found us. This total stranger expected me to give her money and a place to live,

and take care of her kids.

Florida: With all the adoptions, anonymous sperm donors, and so on, knowing your biological background is vital. I'd hate to grow up and marry a man I thought was my soulmate, then discover we're so much alike because we are brother and sister.

California: I was lucky enough to have a picture-perfect reunion with my birth mother, but what made the biggest impression on me was the effect it had on her. To give up a child for adoption can be one of the most tragic events a mother must endure. To force her into any type of reunion against her will is cruel.

Ewing, N.J.: The tone of that letter was very hostile, and it is exactly this hostility that scares birth parents away from contact with the children they gave up for adoption. Worse yet, it may scare someone into seeking an abortion instead.

Tennessee: I gave up my son eight years ago, but I have an open arrangement with the adoptive couple. "Joshua" will have no problem finding me if and when he wants to. My home will always be open to him.

Canada: A few years ago, my husband received a phone call from someone looking for his brother. We invited the man over and gave him a photo album with pictures of his father, whom he had never met. It wasn't this brother's

fault that he was adopted. He deserves to know what his family looks like.

Springfield, Mo.: I was adopted into a family and treated worse than the family dog. Now I am searching for my biological parents. I'm not asking to be taken in or given an inheritance. I just want to be respected as a human being.

Kansas City, Kan.: What is that woman thinking? I was adopted 35 years ago when having a baby out of wedlock could ruin a young girl's life. I give thanks each day that my biological mother was so unselfish and let me grow up with two loving, adoptive parents. How grateful would it be to barge in on her all these years later?

Denver: I gave up my son 32 years ago and would very much like to find him. The problem is I have no idea where to start. I want him to know that I gave him up because I loved him, not because I didn't. Please help me in any way you can.

Dear Denver: We think birth parents and adoptees should be able to find each other, but only if both parties wish to do so. No one should force a reunion.

Adoptees and biological parents can see if someone is searching for them by registering with the International Soundex Reunion Registry, P.O. Box 2312, Carson City, NV 89702-2312 (www.isrr.net).

