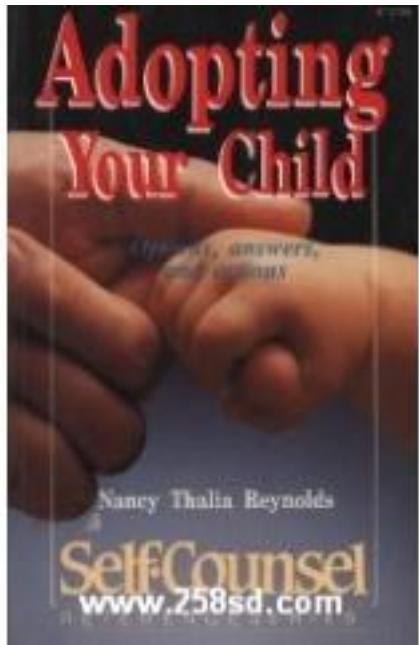


# Adopting Your Child: Options, Answers, and Actions



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When my husband and I began to explore adoption as a way of building our family, I pictured a simple, straightforward process. I knew it could take a year or more from the time we signed on with an agency until we had our baby and that there would be plenty of frustrations along the way. But if we were patient, I thought, one day the magic phone call would come from our agency telling us "your baby is ready for you." My mental picture couldn't have been further from the way it really happened -- or usually happens. Two years after we started, we were indeed adoptive parents, but of a baby adopted independently from Brazil, without agency help. While we were thrilled with

the final results we found ourselves following many aggravating and expensive and unnecessary dead ends before we got there. Although we sought and received help from a succession of agencies in the end we found our baby through networking with other adoptive parents. Over the two years I frequently drew on my legal and advocacy experience to help us out and I often wondered how adoptive parents managed who didn't have my background.

作者介绍:

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