

[PDF] Ithaka: A Daughter's Memoir Of Being Found

Sarah Saffian - pdf download free book



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Description:

When 23-year-old Sarah Saffian picked up the phone in January 1993 and heard a woman's voice on the other end say, "I think I'm your birth mother," she embarked on a journey both longed for and feared by almost all adopted children, the parents who raised them, and the ones who gave them up. Saffian's case was unusual: her birth parents eventually married and had three more children, her full-blood siblings. She honestly depicts her feelings of wariness and sometimes annoyance as they gently pressed her for a reunion. It was three years before Saffian felt ready to visit Hannah Morgan

and Adam Leyder.

As befits a topic of such intimacy, Saffian sticks closely to specifics. She not only delineates her own shifting emotions with precision, she quotes extensively from her birth parents' letters to vividly reveal their personalities (Hannah understands her caution, Adam is needier and pushier). Saffian does not identify any of the players as villains or victims, despite the tricky emotional space they navigate, but finds human beings doing their best to give and receive love in circumstances for which there are no fixed guidelines. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From Publishers Weekly One month shy of her 24th birthday, Saffian received a telephone call from a woman who simply said, "Sarah, my name is Hannah Morgan. I think I'm your birth mother." What makes this story different from those on talk shows or in magazines and tabloids is that Saffian did not instigate the search; instead, her birth parents sought her out. The theme of "being found" when one wasn't particularly lost is the thread that holds the book together. The fact that the decision to contact and even establish a relationship with her birth parents was taken out of her hands sent Saffian into a three-year period of confusion during which she lost control of her career, relationships and social life. During those years, her birth father pushed for a reunion, but Saffian was apprehensive and suggested exchanging letters. These letters, interwoven with the daily events and emotions of Saffian's life, provide a documented history of her birth parents' eagerness to get to know their lost daughter, and Saffian's hesitation. The reunion finally took place, but it was Saffian's acceptance of her birth parents that is the real climax: "Yes, a reunion with my birth parents is a profound experience, but ultimately, they are just people, I am just a person, we are just meeting. What we do together is unremarkable: chop vegetables, pad around the house in socks, watch home videos, take walks. Maybe that is exactly what is so wonderfully remarkable about it." Admirably free of self-pity, this is a thoughtful investigation into what makes a family. \$25,000 ad/promo; author tour.

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