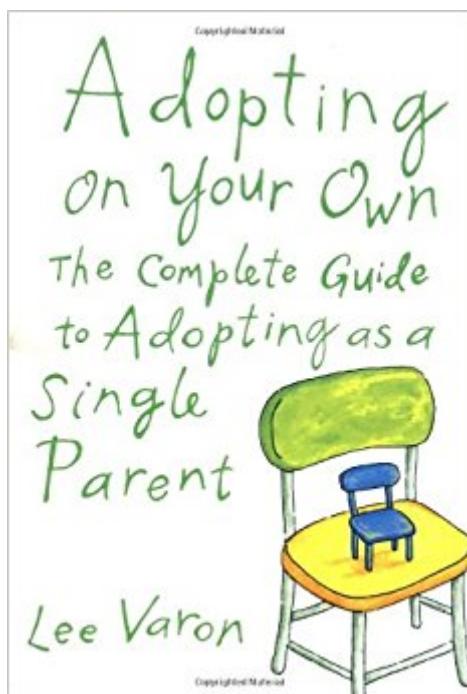


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# Adopting On Your Own: The Complete Guide To Adoption For Single Parents



## **Synopsis**

The first guide of its kind, covering all stages of the adoption process *Adopting on Your Own* addresses the questions and concerns of prospective single parents. Lee Varon, a practicing therapist specializing in adoption counseling and the single mother of two adopted children, helps readers make an evenhanded assessment of whether adoption is right for them, then leads them through the different stages of arranging and financing the adoption. She weighs the advantages of open versus closed and international versus domestic adoption for the single parent, and demystifies potentially daunting steps such as choosing an agency and preparing for the home study. *Adopting on Your Own* also offers up-to-date information on the latest developments in interracial adoption policy, the legal rights of gays and lesbians to adopt, and the evolving attitudes of agencies and social workers toward single-parent adoptions. Throughout the book, Varon draws on personal anecdotes and the experiences of her clients to offer honest, insightful advice on every step of the adoption process.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Herself an adoptive mother of two and a counselor who has helped thousands of clients through their adoption decisions, Varon candidly covers just about every issue of concern to single men and women who are considering adoption in this excellent guide. She starts at the beginning with making the decision and offers insights on a variety of crucial questions: How old is too old to parent? How much money do I need to adopt a child? Can I adopt if I had cancer five years ago? Are there right and wrong reasons for wanting to adopt? She then walks readers through the

adoption process, from determining which child is right for you to different types of adoption, including international. She covers the ins and outs of choosing an agency and preparing for the home study including whether or not potential adoptive parents should be open about their sexual orientation. Varon also discusses issues that commonly arise with adopted children and offers suggestions on how to handle them. There are exercises, suggestions for keeping an adoption journal and an extensive resource section that concludes the book. While Varon's primary focus is on adoption for singles, anyone considering adoption will find this an invaluable resource. (Sept.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"...gives singles who are considering adoption the information they need in decision-making and maneuvering through the adoption maze. ..." -- Betsy Burch, Executive Director of Space [Single Parents for Adoption of Children Everywhere] and mother of four transracially adopted children "A path to discovery . . . gives prospective singles the tools to make decisions all along the way." -- Adoptive Families magazine "A thorough and thoughtful book to use whether considering adopt[ion] as a single parent [or] weighing the pros and cons of international adoption." -- The Seattle Times "An invaluable guide not only for single parents but for any parents considering adoption, as well as the professionals ..." -- Richard Bromfield, Ph.D., Harvard Medical School, author of Handle with Care: Understanding Children and Teachers "A thorough and thoughtful book to use [when] you are considering whether to adopt as a single parent" -- Seattle Times,

This book allows you to look into several aspects of adoption. Adoption isn't just about being financially prepared, it's like preparing an "entire village" for the arrival of a child. More than the economics and legal sides, it's the non-tangibles that would really matter (family support, your personal issues with being single, your real reason for adopting, the reality of raising a child on your own in a world where couple-hood has been hammered into our psyche, having to explain to friends and family that you can love and care for a non-biological / non-blood relative ... and just simply raising a child on your own by choice). Honestly, I found myself shedding tears while leafing through the book because the issues the others are facing are the EXACT SAME ISSUES I am facing now. And it was such a relief to realize that I am not alone and that I am not "crazy" to want to become a parent in the future, albeit single. I've read the book through, some chapters more than twice. It's a joy to read. If you have the slightest desire to adopt but still feel that you are at a 10% YES and 90% NO, I still strongly suggest that you give this book a try because it clarifies things and answers questions. If you decide that adoption is not for you, then the book gives you a better view of what

adoption is all about. Win-win :) by the way, i do hope to meet the author and some of her clients in the near future! That'll be the day!

I'm a single woman and was just about to begin attending adoption certification class when I picked up this book. IT was full of helpful thoughts and resources. I really enjoyed going through the exercises and still use the journal that I wrote things in from this book to encourage me as I move through the process. The book in general made me even more confident that adopting was truly not only just on my heart but that my life was ready to support such a hugh challenge and adventure! It also helped me get prepared for the negative comments from others, the ability to consider what my responses would be before those came, and helped me to see why people might share those hard things and not be fully supportive right away.HIGHLY RECOMMEND.

This book was excellent! Lee Varon provides a wealth of information in a clear, well-organized format. She guides the reader through a thoughtful decision-making process that helps you examine your own thoughts, needs, questions, readiness to be a single parent, etc., to determine whether adoption is right for you, and if so, how to go about starting the process. I found it to be just the right balance of practical detailed information, questions and issues to consider, brief stories and examples, and lots of ideas about how to gather further information and follow the path that's right for you. Highly recommended.

Very helpful.

Whether just beginning to consider adoption or in the midst of the process, this is a thoughtfully written and well organized book addressing the often confusing process of adopting as a single parent. With honest insight into some of the unspoken pitfalls and prejudices of single parent adoption, Lee Varon shares both her personal experience and those of many she has worked with who have successfully navigated these issues. The end of the book is stuffed with all type of resources.

I bought this book in order to research a report I was writing and presenting to a sociology class on the the topic of Single Parent Adoption. It was a fantastic source of information on many levels. When I was pregnant, I scoured the pages of every pregnancy and newborn book I could get my hands on. If one is looking to adopt a child, this book is much like those informative "what to expect"

baby books. With so many kids on this planet needing homes, this is a noble pursuit rather than spending countless thousands of dollars at infertility clinics. Reading this book helped me make an informed decision as well as writing a great report!

This book is wonderfully written and full of extremely valuable information. I loved reading it and will keep it for detailed reference as I go through the adoption process.

I have not read the entire book, but it is a book that has made me think at most is adoption really for me and at least I would have to really think about things.

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