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WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO BABY JAMES?: A True Story Of Abduction, Secrecy, Betrayal, And Discovery By A Victim Of Georgia Tann And The Tennessee Children's Home Society



Synopsis

"It's 3am on a hot September morning in 1949. A dark sedan pulls to the rear of a home known as an unwed mothers' birthing clinic in Jasper, Tennessee. The small, quiet package is slipped past the screen door and slipped away in the dead of night never to be seen again. It is a scenario replayed over and over in the 1940's by the infamous Tennessee Children's Home Society and Ms. Georgia Tann, its unholy matron. Stolen after birth, my mother was told I was dead. I was sold for \$5,000.00 to my adoptive parents in Southern California. Children ripped off the streets and playgrounds, or simply removed from their home under color of authority, the Tennessee Children's Home Society stretched their tentacles throughout Tennessee as the Black Market Baby scam grew to unimaginable proportions. Doctors, nurses, lawyers, judges, social workers, welfare workers, and others joined on Tann's payroll. Never daring to ask the question as to where all the children came from. Over 5,000 children were illegally placed for adoption during Georgia Tann's reign. My agency-assigned number was 7,702. This is the story of James Arnold Bowman, my birth name given by my mother Flossie, and my life as an adoptee. After being told I was adopted at age 7, it became a life of questions unanswered until I was 60 years old. My adoptive parents elected to keep the details of my adoption a secret, never admitting they knew who I was, and the names of my parents. An accidental discovery in 2008 would reveal the secrets kept for so long, and begin my search for my birth family. Search for my true families would take over 5 years of genealogical studies, correspondence, and ending with DNA testing to finally determine my true origin. The Reader will be the investigator, following the trail of evidence presented in the suspect's own words contained in personal and business letters, and state forms filed in California and Tennessee, from ill-documented birth in May 1949 through sanction of the California adoption in 1953. You will also receive an insight as to what it is like to be an adopted child and labeled as not being "blood relation". It's a journey you don't want to miss."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A fact-based, dispassionate telling of the story of one of the many children (more than 3,000) illegally adopted from Tennessee Children's Home Society in the 1940s and 1950s. I first heard of this clan of adoptees at a conference of American Adoption Congress in Denver in the 1980s. In the elevator and halls of the conference, there were people wearing tan t-shirts, greeting each other with hugs and sympathy. They were Georgia Tann babies, all grown up and just discovering their compadres. I hope the author, Don W. Boehner, will find other Georgia Tann Babies, for truly they are the only ones who know the variety of emotions that can erupt after discovering you belong to this unique group.

Hardships and love.

Excellent historical account of the terrible TN Children's Home Society in Memphis. Hard to believe this would happen in America. The Author.

This is a very interesting book. I live in Tennessee, even though it happened before I was born it's hard to know stuff like this happened in this area. I hope all of the children are able to find their birth families.

Heartbreaking but a great read! Keep on knocking those dominoes down till the entire truth is revealed! Great look into a very dark spot in American history

An extremely interesting story. Did n't realize children were treated that way that far into the century. I can see where the research was labor intensive and probably frustrating at times. Reading it on the kindle, it was a bit hard to relate all the documents to each other, but otherwise a very good read.

Very intriguing yet heartbreaking account of what went on in my city and surrounding area. It's a shame that the people responsible were never brought to justice. A very well written book.

Very good, very interesting book. I enjoyed reading it.

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