

Aimee

Illegal Adoption and Forced Reunion

Text: Aimee adopted from Taiwan at 4 months old

Hi everyone. My name is Aimee and I was born in Taiwan and raised in Australia, but my adoption is a little bit different in that the people who facilitated my adoption, well they were convicted of illegal adoption crimes such as falsifying paperwork, falsifying identities. So actually they receive lifelong sentences, when they were originally convicted.

The other thing that's a little bit different about me is that I'm an adoptee with multi-racial ancestry, including Asian and European, but after the adoption part I, for the most part have lived in Australia.

This is my boarding pass from when I left Taiwan and came to Australia. And it's a bit dishonest 'cause it says Cathay Pacific, but actually it's Qantas Airways. But I say that this is significant because well that little ticket changed my life. I left the place of my birth to live in a new country as a new person.

Another adoptee from Taiwan ah, a really great lady. Her name is Kartya. Her Australian parents supported her by returning to Taiwan. But because Kartya's adoption was also facilitated through the same people who facilitated mine, it literally was a huge media storm because of the whole conviction back then, and it literally reopened Pandora's box. Or shall I say Taiwan's box?

All these birth mothers came forward thinking Kartya might be their child. And back here in Australia, it made the news here of course, 'cause Kartya is Australian too. And amongst all those mothers coming forward, was a lady who thought Kartya was her daughter and it turned out Kartya wasn't her daughter. And she said to the journalist who was helping Kartya, "Would you please help me find mine?" And I was aware of some sort of huge media storm happening at the time, but I had explicitly said I don't want anything to do with it. So I didn't have anything to do with it.

But then one night I happened to pick up the phone and on the end of the phone was someone claiming that they had found my birth mother and that's how I got dragged into it.

I wasn't interested and I said I wasn't, but my (Australian) parents were very much for it, and they, and in their defence they stood up for my birth mother. They chose the humanitarian role, choice rather, they chose to give my mother what she wanted to let her have a meeting, to give her peace.

My Australian parents choosing what they did, supporting her, I will say it was a very humanitarian choice for her. It wasn't so humanitarian for me, but I can't deny the fact that it gave her you know, a wish.