

# Pregnant? Scared? Love your baby? Parenting is an option!

Considering adoption? Don't feel you have any other options? We're here to help!

## Information About Adoption

- [What is "The Adoption Option"?](#)
- [The myths about adoption](#)
- [The reality of adoption](#)
- The adoption industry:
  - [Consumer demand](#)
  - [The Motive is Money](#)
  - [Reproductive exploitation?](#)
  - [Reproductive "predators"?](#)
  - [Coercion: How they do it](#)
  - [Open adoption: how they knew it would work](#)
  - [Adoption: Comparing America and Australia](#)
- Considering "open adoption"?
- [What Mothers Have to Say](#)

## Scared of Young Motherhood?

- Don't be scared!
- [Confronting the Myths of Single Parenting](#)
- [The Research is In: Young Motherhood is not a Crisis!](#)
- Getting the [Resources](#) You Need
- A Support Forum for Young Moms
- [Your story of success](#)
- [Your rights as a mother](#)
- [Confronting the Myths of Single Parenting](#)

## Your baby needs you!

- [Bonding Before Birth](#)
- ["A Special Message to Baby's Grandma"](#)
- [What Adoptees Say about Adoption](#)

## About this Site

[Contact Us](#)

[Further Reading](#)

## Reproductive Exploitation -- Reproductive Predators?

### What is a "reproductive predator"?

Just like a [sexual predator](#) looks for vulnerable women and youth to exploit, *reproductive predators* hunt for a vulnerable expectant mother so they can persuade or pressure her to give up her baby. They can be adoption businesses [which often can charge customers \\$25,000](#) or more per baby from a "completed adoption," or "prospective adopters" looking for a vulnerable young mother. You'll see their smiling faces on websites such as [Adopting.com](#), [Birthparents.org](#) and [Dearbirthmother.com](#). Their "Dear Birthmother" letters are designed to entice you to trust them, to believe that they are perfect couple who can provide your baby with everything that you cannot. They might be your doctor's receptionist, your sister-in-law, your highschool counsellor, or the nice neighbours next door. What they have in common is that they want your baby.

But think about it: If a married 30-something woman with a six-figure income was pregnant, would anyone ask her if she had considered adoption for her baby? Would infertile couples and their lawyers invite her to dinner to "discuss the possibilities"? Would anyone call it a "crisis"? NO! This is because she is not considered to be vulnerable prey - she has a husband to "protect her" through his legally-recognized fatherhood.

Don't you deserve to be able to raise and love your baby as much as any other pregnant mother, whether or not you are married?

### These are some of the "lures" that reproductive predators use in order to get a baby:

1. **The Open Adoption Lure:** Promising you that you can see your baby as much as you want. You may be led to believe that you won't miss your baby at all. But after you sign the papers, your baby is now legally "as if born to" the adopters and you are a complete legal stranger (non-related) to your baby. The legal parents can choose to close the adoption or cease all contact at any time. See ["Open Adoption - They Knew It Would Work"](#).
2. **The Assistance Lure:** Adoption agency and adopters may exploit pregnant women who don't know how to access the social support and resources that are available to them. Adoption agencies or adopters may offer to pay for your medical or living expenses, thus making you feel that you "owe them" your baby in return.
3. **The Gift or Bribery Lure:** This is when they shower gifts on you or promise money or scholarships for you or your child. Examples are promising to put generous amounts of money into college education for your baby.
4. **The Love and Affection Lure:** The reproductive predator will try to gain your trust and affection, and pretend to be your best friend, especially if you aren't getting emotional support from your own parents. Adoption agencies may try to separate you from her family (and any doubts they might express about adoption) by offering you a residence at a "campus" or home for unwed mothers. One adoption agency in New York boasts of its low rate of mothers changing their minds after the birth, due to their counsellors becoming best friends with expectant mothers. Or, you may "fall in love with" the people waiting for your baby, finding later on that you are "trapped into adoption" because you cannot bear to hurt them by keeping your child.
5. **The Ego and Approval Lure:** "Birthmothers are special people." "You can be assured you are doing what's best for your baby." "You are a special mother to think of the needs of your baby before your own." These are used on scared mothers with low self-esteem. Reproductive predators will treat you like royalty while you are pregnant, making you feel wonderful to be doing what you are doing. Then after you surrender your baby, you may never see them again. Agency counselling may be offered, but often only a few visits, or at a substantial cost.
6. **The Better Job and Education Lure:** The promise of better education job training and scholarships if you surrender your baby. Agencies may use a misinterpretation of a study by Bachrach as "evidence" to try to support (But see ["Bachrach's Study: How Pro-Adoption Organizations Twist the Facts"](#)). They'll tell you that mothers who surrender their babies will become more financially successful than those who don't (false).
7. **The "Satisfaction" Lure:** Reproductive predators who want your baby will encourage you to make "an adoption plan." They will speak in terms of surrender being a "positive, satisfying conclusion to your pregnancy." You'll hear the term "failed adoption" when someone decides to keep her baby. If you 'choose adoption' during your pregnancy, and then have second thoughts after your child is born and you are directly experiencing motherhood as reality and not just a theoretical concept, adopters and adoption agencies will try to make you feel like you've failed.

**8. The Fear of Disappointment Threat.** Agencies or people wanting your baby may make you feel that you "owe" them your baby and that they'd be devastated if you don't surrender. They may spend money to fly-in from another state to attend the birth, decorate a nursery, drive you to doctor's appointments, or want to be there for the birth. As they get excited about the arrival of "their" baby, you will likely be scared to "hurt them" by "changing your mind."

#### **Other Techniques -- Fraud:**

What they **don't** tell you is that not only do these mothers suffer incredible emotional and psychological distress for many years if not their entire lives, but that all financial differences disappear with time. Raising a child is a temporary financial setback - NOT a permanent one. If you are not told this, then information is being withheld from you such that you cannot give informed consent. This is fraud.

#### **Taking Advantage of Naivety**

Besides lures, reproductive predators take advantage of the fact that, to a pregnancy mother, her baby is still a "theoretical concept" and she has not yet experienced the psychological, physiological, and emotional changes that labour, birth and post-partum will inevitably make to her, "programming" her for motherhood. She will fall in love with her baby and feel an incredible need to bond with her infant. If they can force her to emotionally commit to adoption while still pregnant, they can convince her that these feelings are unimportant and "an aberration" that she will "get over." OTHER NATIONS RECOGNIZE THIS AS EXPLOITATION - [see how Australia differs in protecting the new mother!](#)

Reproductive predators may also work to convince the young mother that she cannot trust her own parents. Melanie, who surrendered her baby in 2002, describes:

" I felt very strongly for the adoption. I protested my parent's involvement to a great degree. But I was used, manipulated and brainwashed against the agency. I was told that my parents were manipulating me. The womens rights activist in me was stroked when they let me know that I needed to stand up for my rights and not let my parents walk all over me. They made me feel powerful and ready to conquer the world.

" I would make this adoption plan and become a strong, successful birthmother role model. \*puke\* They convinced me to leave my "emotionally abusive" home. My parents and I were close before this. I trusted them, and my dad was my hero. They took all of that away by making me feel my parents were trying to control me and were being abusive. They lied by manipulating me. They shouldn't have that right."

Claudia, who surrendered her son 20 years ago, describes being manipulated by the adoption agency:

" They have a plan and we fall into them. They prey upon weakness so subtle we do not know they are there, while making us feel like we are these amazing strong creatures above the laws of nature willing to endure the unthinkable for our sacrifice. We are made into angels of birth...then they strip us of our children and our wings and we are left to plummet to the earth. Walking wounded crying WTF!"

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#### **Books that teach reproductive predators how to prey upon young pregnant mothers:**

"*Beating the Adoption Odds*" by Cynthia D. Martin, Dru Martin Groves. From a satisfied customer's review at [www.parent-to-be.com](http://www.parent-to-be.com): "Wow, if you want a baby by hook or by crook, read this book! The authors shrink from nothing, including suggesting looking on the black market and in high unemployment areas and sending out ten thousand cards with your phone number and the message that you will help someone who could help you find a baby. You get drilled on how to approach social workers and lawyers to the point of lying by omission. This book is seductive in that it is written in a sure-handed style and provides a great deal of useful information."

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#### **Websites that teach reproductive predators how to locate young pregnant mothers:**

**Advice to reproductive predators from Adopting.org :** "One person we know spent an afternoon on the phone, talking to college and university student health centers near her. Through this phoning, she heard about a possible birthmother contact, which she and her husband are pursuing. Other phone calls can be made to local high school counselors, hospital social workers, or social workers and/or family counselors, crisis counselors or psychologists. Other ideas for outreach might include a visit to a local clinic or health center, or planned parenthood center."

**Advice to reproductive predators from [Secrets.adoption.com](http://Secrets.adoption.com)** "Send your profile information to those who work with pregnant women. Mail your photos, profile information, and "Birth Mother" letter to crisis pregnancy clinics, county health clinics, local obstetricians and gynecologists with a letter asking that they refer birth mothers to you. Give your adoption "business" card to everyone. Distribute several of adoption networking cards (like business cards, but expressing that you want to adopt) to each of your friends, relatives, church members and coworkers, and tell them that you are hoping to adopt a baby. Ask them to refer any birthmother they may know to you. You'll be surprised at how willing people are to help."

