

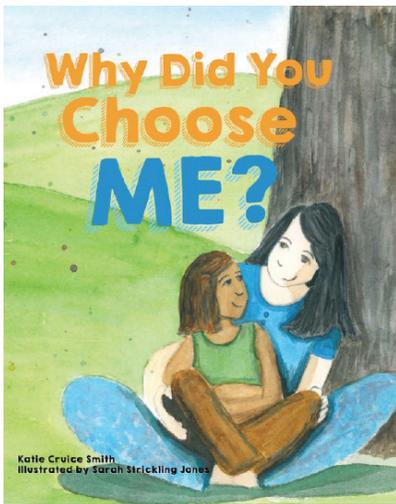


news release

AMBASSADOR INTERNATIONAL
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ILLUSTRATED BOOK LOVINGLY DEMONSTRATES THE UNIQUENESS THAT EVERY ADOPTED CHILD CAN BRING TO A FAMILY



For immediate release: Imagine how insecure an adopted or fostered child must feel at times, unsure why they were unwanted by their biological parents and wondering if there is ever the chance that their forever family will reject them as well. Every child needs to hear from their parents that they are loved and wanted, especially children from broken homes.

In *Why Did You Choose Me?* (Ambassador International; November 12, 2017, \$17.99) Katie Cruice Smith strives to answer that question in a way that young children can understand. Drawing from her own experience as an adoptive mom to three children, Katie uses the questions her own children have asked her and her husband in order to draw them to the response that there never really was a choice—she knew right away that they were hers.

After searching for adoption storybooks to read to her children, Katie realized that there weren't a lot of simple picture books targeted at that age group. She decided that there was a need for more adoption books that parents could read at bedtime to connect with their adopted/fostered children.

Why Did You Choose Me? is beautifully illustrated by artist Sarah Strickling Jones.

RELEASE DATE: November 12, 2017
TRADE Hardback
PRICE: \$17.99
ISBN: 9781620206034

About the Author:

Katie Cruice Smith is a freelance writer, journalist, and editor, and she resides in the Upstate of South Carolina with her husband and three adopted children. Katie is an adoption and foster care advocate, and she and husband are licensed foster parents and the founders of their church's orphan ministry. She is currently working on a devotional book to accompany *Why Did You Choose Me?*

About the Illustrator:

Sarah Strickling Jones enjoys working with oils, acrylics, ceramics, and printmaking. She creates her artwork and teaches students of all ages from her country home. She lives in Greer, South Carolina, with her husband Darren and four children: Trevor, Peyton, Blake, and Renea. *Why Did You Choose Me?* is Sarah Strickling Jones' first illustrated children's book in watercolor. You can see more of her work at www.facebook.com/strickling.jones.studio.

To connect with the author or request a review copy of *Why Did You Choose Me?*, please contact Keli Garrett at media@emeraldhouse.com.

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER: Ambassador International was founded in 1980 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and expanded to Greenville, South Carolina in 1995. Ambassador International's books and materials have been distributed in dozens of countries and are sold worldwide. For more information visit www.ambassador-international.com. You can also follow @AmbassadorIntl on Twitter or check out Facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl.

Suggested Interview Questions for the Author:

1. Tell us more about your children: Hannah, Ephraim, and Harmony.
2. When did your children start asking you about their adoption?
3. What ultimately inspired you to write this book?
4. How did your children respond to *Why Did You Choose Me?*
5. When did you know that adoption was the right choice for you and your husband?
6. How do you hope your book will touch other families?
7. Do you plan on writing anything else about adoption?

Endorsements:

Why Did You Choose Me? explores a familiar adoption theme, but is pleasantly unpredictable. The illustrations are sure to put a smile on your child's face, and your own. Though the book is written in rhyme, the verse is not sing-songy and the book has just enough sophistication to be enjoyed by everyone.

Dr. Daniel Nehrbass

President of Nightlight Christian Adoptions

Why Did You Choose Me? is a perfectly simple way to make any adopted child feel like they are exactly where they need to be! When our daughter asks why we chose her to be a part of our family, even though she looks different than us, this book will be invaluable to communicate our love for her. I am always thankful for books that help to aid us in communicating with our child about adoption.

Shannon Patterson

Adoptive mom and President of Bethany Christian Services Board in Greenville, SC

As a foster parent myself, I believe *Why Did You Choose Me?* is the perfect emotional journey to answering the very sensitive question all foster/adoptive children want to know and would recommend families add it to their library.

Robert Whitney

Thornwell Foster Care Recruiter

As one who has served adoptive families for a decade, I've had countless parents ask me, "How do I talk to my children about adoption?" Now, after all these years, I finally have a go-to answer: "Read Katie Cruice Smith's *Why Did You Choose Me?* to them, over and over."

Dan Cruver

Co-founder of Together for Adoption

Author of *Reclaiming Adoption*

As any adoptive parent will tell you, our adopted children do ask many times, "Why did you choose me?" Now my clients who adopt have a fun and colorful resource to touch on and answer this all-important question. Katie Cruice Smith and Sarah Strickling Jones have prepared a learning tool adaptable to a child's early years, which allows an adopted child and her parents to connect on different levels with the topic of adoption. Your child will laugh and smile while learning about adoption, love, and acceptance. I will be buying *Why Did You Choose Me?* for all my adoptive couples!

Raymond W. Godwin

Father of two adopted daughters and adoption lawyer in Greenville, SC

Co-author of *The Complete Adoption Book*

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Additional Endorsements:

Why Did You Choose Me? is tender, genuine, and refreshing, and it does this adoptive mom's heart and soul some good. Our daughter, from India, is now asking this very same question proposed in the book. This thoughtfully written and charmingly illustrated book is a great reminder to her of how special and unique she is, and it is a great reminder to her mom (me) of the beautiful gift of adoption. Any family, adopting or not, will be blessed by this sweet story.

Kelly McCorkle Parkison

Adoptive mom and co-founder of Loft 218

Author of *He Knows Her Name*

Why me? is a question we all have asked at one time or another. In *Why Did You Choose Me?*, Katie delightfully and whimsically answers the questions an adoptive child often holds in their heart. When a child goes from a "me" to a "we," an explosion of emotions may happen. Be prepared to share this book and lots of giggles and tears as the words on the pages jumpstart questions of all kinds! Well said, Katie!

Lenna Fox Smith

CEO of Piedmont Women's Center in Greenville, SC



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KATIE CRUICE SMITH AND SARAH STRICKLING JONES

Author and Illustrator of "Why Did You Choose Me?"



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Connect with the Author

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 www.facebook.com/katiecruicesmith

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