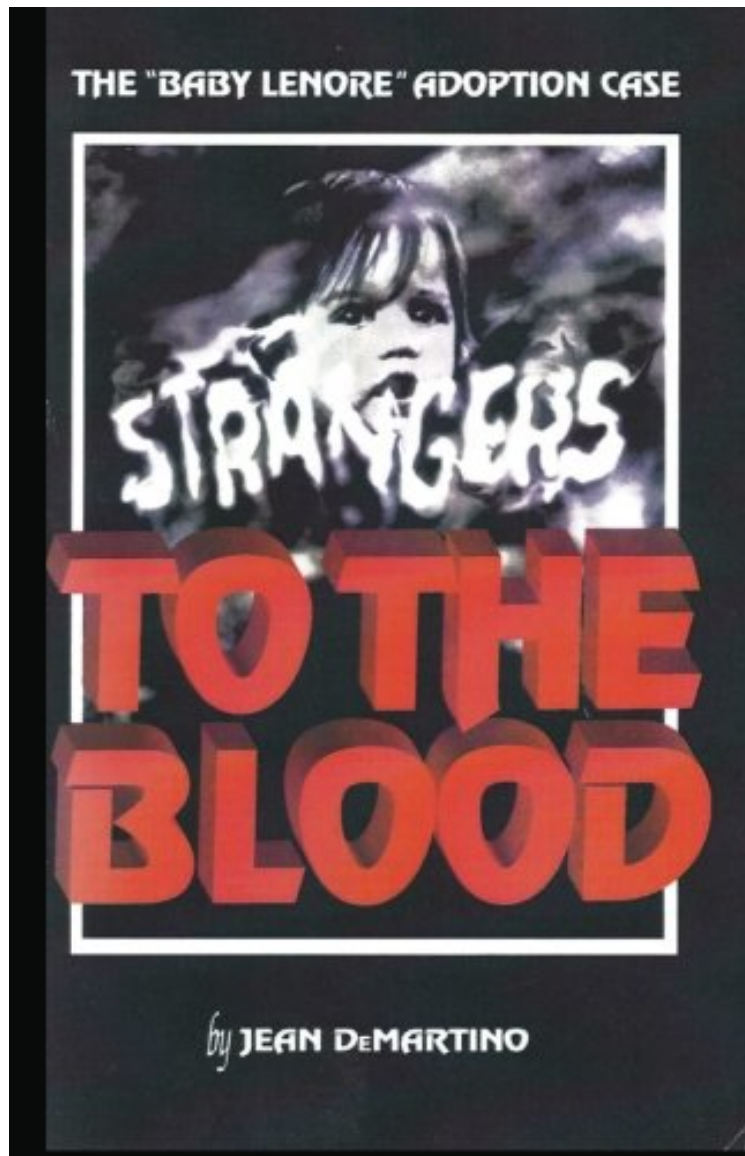


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## Strangers to the Blood

*Jean DeMartino*

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#7226501 in Books Jean DeMartino 2012-10-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .79 x 5.50l, .89  
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**Jean DeMartino : Strangers to the Blood** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Strangers to the Blood:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Adoption custody dispute with justice delayedBy ImageMDInfant adoption is commonplace thanks to the many social and legal services which have found ways to make it go smoothly. Young couples cross international borders seeking to complete their families with the addition of children. But what

happens when the ownership rights of a mother for her child confronts the rights of the adoptive parents? What happens when the birth mother changes her mind and wants her child returned? What happens when various levels of judicial review fail to resolve a concept at the core of adoption, the transfer of ownership of a human being? This highly controversial and publicized custody case begins 45 years ago on May 18, 1970 when Olga gives birth to Lenore in New York City. Jean DeMartino and her lawyer husband Nick adopt baby Lenore with the assistance of a prominent adoption agency. The adoption goes smoothly until Olga changes her mind after the Lenore has been living with Jean and Nick for several weeks. When the adoption agency refuses Olga's request to have her baby returned, Olga seeks judicial relief. The court decides to return Lenore to Olga, beginning a legal struggle that traversed the New York and Florida courts and, finally, the United States Supreme Court. How does a court decide what is in "the best interests of the child"? What is the role of the adoptive parents in the adversary legal proceedings? Jean DeMartino, writes a compelling autobiography which is both informative and a good read with lots of courtroom repartee. The lead counsels for each side, Charles Colson and Stanley Rosenblatt, were Miami lawyers with national reputations. Although the author could have chosen an easier title such as "Jean, Nick, Lenore and Olga", she chose a title which references a legal case, Roy vs. Holmes, which argues that "Parents are by no means required to face strangers to their blood on equal terms in contention for the parental right to their children". The book has two epilogues: one written by Lenore and the other written by Nick. Lenore is married and living in northern Florida. Both Olga and Jean are deceased and Nick has remarried. This book should be read by prospective adoptive parents, social workers and the many professional who are trusted to administer family law.

In a highly controversial and publicized custody case, Jean DeMartino and her husband Nick battled a birth mother who revoked her legal surrender to a prominent New York adoption agency. After personally delivering the child to foster care, the mother changed her mind after the infant girl was already with adoptive parents in a loving home. The birth mother apologized to the court for any trouble her flip-flop caused. The court's decision to return that baby began a legal struggle that traversed the New York then Florida courts and finally the United States Supreme Court. Jean DeMartino, Lenore's adoptive mother, relates heartaches and emotional upheavals a family endures when judges overlook the best interests of the child.