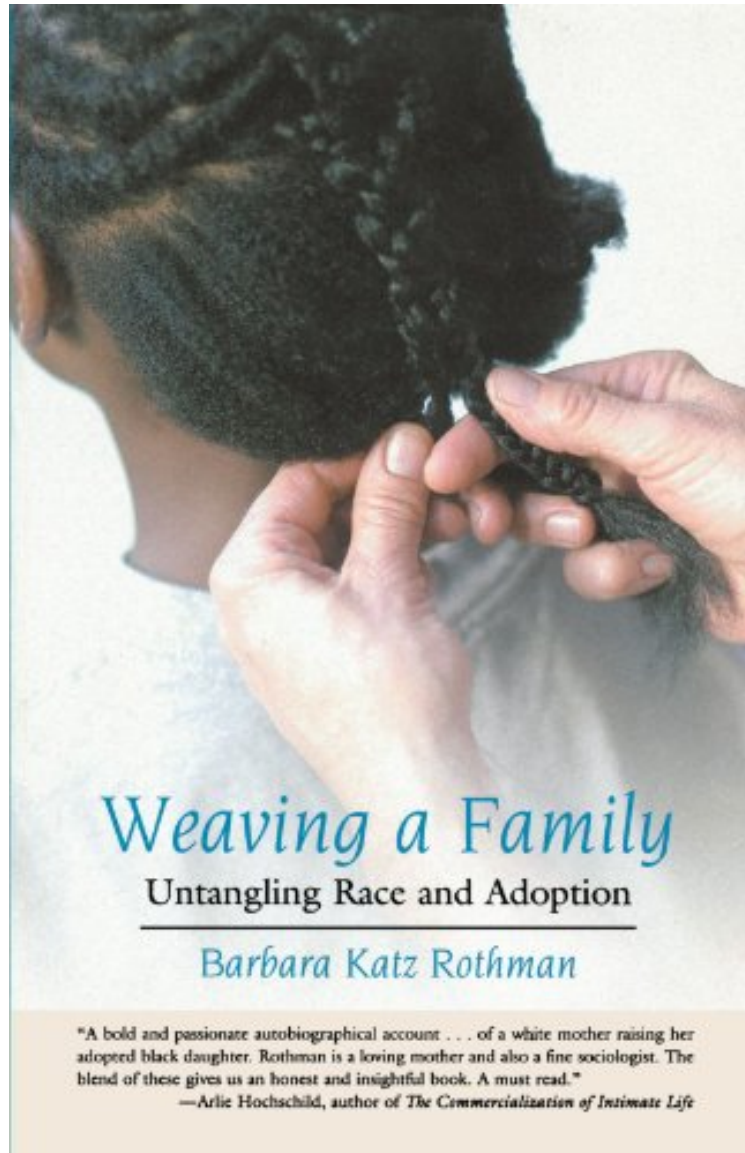


[Free read ebook] Weaving a Family: Untangling Race and Adoption

## Weaving a Family: Untangling Race and Adoption

Barbara Katz Rothman

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**Barbara Katz Rothman : Weaving a Family: Untangling Race and Adoption** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Weaving a Family: Untangling Race and Adoption:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. worth a read, but not very helpfulBy MensaMomThis book is well worth a read, but I had hoped for something different/ something more. As a foster parent (hopefully adoptive parent) of a black child, I was looking for practical advice through a sociology perspective. Instead, I got a slice of history

about interracial adoption and some sociological commentary. There was, however, a bit of advice. It was implied and not explicit. But it really wasn't all that helpful. For example, it could be boiled down to these simple things: a) make friends with black people and get your kid involved in the black community b) learn how to do hair or find someone who does c) racism exists so prepare your child for it. Again, the book is worth a read because of the sociological perspective, but it probably won't make you much of a better parent. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great! By Ricardo A. Lombardini Excellent Product. I used it and it was everything I expected. I would buy more of this type of product when needed. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not for prospective Adoptive parents (fathers?) By Customer To be honest, I'm not sure who this is for. I am roughly half-way through the book and I need to put it down. Perhaps I missed the point of this book. My wife and I are considering transracial adoption and have no preference as to the child's race. However, on further review we want to make sure that we can provide a home that an African-American child can grow up, thrive and succeed in. I was hoping that this book would answer some of these questions, maybe even offer suggestions. Don't get me wrong, they might be in there, I guess I'll never know. To get to anything of use, be prepared to slog through anecdotes and observations from every single one of her interests/hobbies. You'll get some genetics and economics, followed by blurbs describing African American people from the 18th century and their relationships to their benefactors (I have no idea why these were included because at the end of a disjointed narrative she just posts a question like "Hmmm, I wonder how the benefactor felt about that person"). The problem is, that most of these tangents are at best mildly interesting and not at all instructive. So long story short, if you are looking for a rambling exploration of all of the various factors that may or may not have shaped transracial adoption through the centuries, this might be for you. If you are like myself and want a book that gets right to the point of what are the major issues that you will encounter in transracial adoption and some strategies to deal with those issues, keep looking. This book is not for you. Or maybe all of that info is crammed into the last half of the book :/

Weaving together the sociological, the historical, and the personal, Barbara Katz Rothman looks at the contemporary American family through the lens of race, race through the lens of adoption, and all-race, family, and adoption-within the context of the changing meanings of motherhood.

From Publishers Weekly Rothman's caveat that she'll "slide back and forth between memoir and sociology" is disarming, even inviting. The author, a sociologist at the City University of New York, distinguishes between personal memoir, where "the driving force is the story: you want to tell your life," and the sociologist's autoethnography, where "your life is your data." Her work, she explains, is "closer to the latter, but not quite." But for readers, sticking with Rothman's stream-of-consciousness approach is trying as the white adoptive parent of a black child creates a sprawling mosaic of professional expertise and personal experience. The byways, to name a few, include home birthing, international adoption, genetics, slavery, consumerism in birthing and parenting, whiteness studies, biomedics and Jewish-black relations. The social scientist in Rothman develops a typology of black children raised by white parents "Protgs, Pets, and Trophies" and plunges into genomic detail. The memoirist in her surfaces to recall handling her daughter's hair ("I developed a bit of an eye, an aesthetic sense for black hair"). Comforted as readers may be by the author's general avoidance of jargon and impressed by her interdisciplinary breadth, this occasionally absorbing book too often seems an idiosyncratic grab bag. By the end, we know a little about a lot of sociological concepts and a little about the personal experience that was the book's catalyst. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. What a fine and complex book this is! Barbara Katz Rothman takes us, with lucidity and (often brave) good humor, through the tangle of pains and satisfactions that come with her family's challenge to the racial status quo.--Rosellen Brown, author of *Half a Heart* and *Before and After* "Is it right for white parents to adopt African-American children? How does a white parent expose her black daughter to two cultures? Protect the child from insensitive remarks? Sociologist Barbara Katz Rothman . . . doesn't just describe what it's like to be the white mother of a black girl. Rothman skillfully debates adoption ethics, the commodification of children, and the politics of inequality in America."--Anne E. Stein, *Chicago Tribune* "In *Weaving a Family*, the sociologist and white mother of an African American girl provides an accessible, sensitive portrayal of the inherent sociological complexities of mixed-race adoption and parenting."--Melissa Chianta, *Mothering* "A bold and passionate autobiographical account . . . of a white mother raising her adopted black daughter. Rothman is a loving mother and also a fine sociologist. The blend of these gives us an honest and insightful book. A must read."--Arlie Hochschild, author of *The Commercialization of Intimate Life* "A revealing personal account which combines sound sociological knowledge and current data with a firsthand, intimate portrayal of multiracial family life. For families contemplating transracial adoption, or interracial adoptive families, this book should be read."--Professor Howard Altstein, University of Maryland School of Social Work "Weaving a Family makes a remarkably original contribution to the literature on race and adoption. Writing as a mother and a sociologist, Barbara Katz Rothman provides insightful, urgent lessons on mothering children in a racist world . . . Weaving a Family is ultimately hopeful about the possibility of building just and loving relationships across racial borders."--Dorothy Roberts, author of *Shattered Bonds: The*

Color of Child Welfare  
About the Author  
Barbara Katz Rothman is a professor of sociology at the City University of New York. Her previous books include *The Book of Life*, *Recreating Motherhood*, *The Tentative Pregnancy*, and *In Labor*. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband and the youngest of their three children.