

My husband is an adoptee

This story was first published in Branching Out. Names have been changed to protect privacy.

My name is Lisa and my husband Shane is an adoptee. I was asked to write this article to talk about how Shane's search for his birth family has affected me.

Shane's adoption has never been an issue in our house, and I must admit I hadn't given it much thought until I became pregnant with our son. I started thinking about Shane's birth mother and how hard it must have been for her to surrender her child for adoption. We also hit a few hurdles along the way in regard to medical history during my pregnancy.

From the time our son was born, not a day went by that I didn't think of Shane's birth mother. My heart went out to her every time I looked at our son. Shane's decision to search for his birth family, I feel, was set in stone from the time our son was born.

He was getting ready for work one day, and out of the blue he said, "I want to find my birth family, find out how I go about it". And so I did.

Our search was a fairly quick one. It began in March 1999 and by July, we had made contact by letter with his birth mother. This was followed by more letters, phone conversations and finally a meeting. We now have regular contact with her, her husband and her other two sons. This has been a very happy outcome.

I'm a stay at home mum, so during the time of our search I was the one person in our street who was glad to see the postman. I used to lay awake at night thinking of Shane's birth mother and wondering if she would be receptive towards us.

With each new bit of information, I cried. I have never felt so strongly towards a person I didn't even know. I put it down to my own maternal feelings. Being the mother of this lady's grandchild, I didn't want her to miss out anymore than she already had on his growing up.

During this exciting time, I also felt very scared, scared of her rejecting us and the impact it would have on Shane. Even though our search was fairly quick, to me, it seemed to take forever. It really takes over your life; nothing else seems to matter. You think about it all day and all night.

The day I met Shane's birth mother it took all I had not to cry. I suppose you are hoping all will turn out well, and luckily for us it did. Our next step is to make contact with his birth father - we have located him and will be making contact soon.

So, to all the other partners of adoptees, my thoughts are with you and I wish you all the very best of luck. Hang in there, because I know how hard it is emotionally on you when your partner is searching for the unknown.

