



# **Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born**

*Jamie Lee Curtis , Laura Cornell (Illustrator)*

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Jamie Lee Curtis and Laura Cornell, the *New York Times* bestselling team behind *Today I Feel Silly* and *I'm Gonna Like Me*, bring us a tender and funny picture book for every parent and child. *Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born* is a special celebration of the love and joy an adopted child creates for a family.

In asking her parents to tell her again about the night of her birth, a young girl relives a cherished tale she knows by heart. Focusing on the significance of family and love, this a unique and beautiful story about adoption and the importance of a loving family.

A beautiful adoption story, *Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born* also speaks to the universal childhood desire to know more about the excitement, awe, love, and sleeplessness that a new baby brings to a family.

*Tell me again about the night I was born.*

*Tell me again how you would adopt me and be my parents.*

*Tell me again about the first time you held me in your arms.*

## Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born Details

Date : Published August 29th 2000 by HarperCollins (first published July 19th 1996)

ISBN : 9780064435819

Author : Jamie Lee Curtis , Laura Cornell (Illustrator)

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# **From Reader Review Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born for online ebook**

## **Eric McLean says**

As a father of an adopted child, this book makes me weepy. Every. Single. Time. It is really a lovely account from a little girl of the night she was born and adopted by her parents and really does capture what it is like. One of my favorite books to read to my daughter.

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## **Jeniece Goellner says**

Part of my homework for our adoption process, but I love it anyway. First off, yes there is major feels because it will be like our situation. But there were some very sweet drawings, with some fun humor thrown in for the adult reading to the child. I know whenever we welcome our future child in our life, this will be a well loved book to read to them.

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## **shanamadele says**

A lovely story book for small children about adoption. Great pictures of tired parents and a house strewn with baby bottles.

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## **Samantha Hale says**

Awards: None

Grade Level: Preschool through Third Grade

Original Summary: The little girl in this story asks her parents to tell her about the tale of when they adopted her as a baby. She asks them to tell her about their feelings, and about the things they went through to go get her, and bring her back home. She is interested to know exactly how the adoption took place and what happened when they returned home with her.

Original Review: I think that this book is so cute and informative to children about the adoption process! It allows children to learn about adoption in a positive and fun way. The child genuinely is excited about hearing of how she was adopted, and I think that a lot of children who are adopted can read this book, and feel better about being adopted.

In Class Uses: (1) The children can do a writing/story assignment after reading this book and talk about memories with their families. (2) The children could write a poem about their families. (3) Children could bring in pictures of their families to share with the class.

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## **Ben Truong says**

*Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born* is a children's picture book written by Jamie Lee Curtis and illustrated by Laura Cornell is an adoption story, where a little girl asks her parents about the night she was born again.

Curtis' text is simplistic and extremely adorable. I like the fact that this is a story that was told so often that the child practically memorized the story. It's like their child's adoption isn't a big secret that should stay that way. Cornell's illustrations are beautiful, colorful, and reminiscent of watercolor paintings. It gives a rather wistful and lovely atmosphere of the story.

The premise of the book is simply adorable and precious. A young girl asks her parents about the night she was born, but before they can answer, she continues to ask more questions about the story. Tell me about this and then tell me about that, and so on until she related the entire story on her own. Yet in the end, she still insists that her parents tell her about the night she was born.

All in all, *Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born* is a wonderful adorable children's book about adoption and about the story of the night that a child was born, given up, and found a forever home.

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## **Esther says**

A young girl asks her parents to tell the story of her birth which is obviously much-loved and much-requested but ends up telling the story herself. It starts with the telephone call to the adoptive parents, their plane ride, the hospital and their first night together as a family changing diapers, watching baseball and singing lullabies and ends with them being a loving family. Each page gives fun specific details such as "dad was snoring" or "you carried me like a china doll."

The witty and loving text is matched perfectly with the whimsical illustrations. The text is straightforward about adoption but not overwhelming or didactic. This book highlights the need children, especially children who have been adopted, have to hear their birth stories with as many details as possible. Many children have heard their adoption story but not their birth story. The book is reassuring and normalizing but also acknowledges some negative feelings. I love there is an illustration of the little girl's family tree including mostly the adoptive family but also some of the birth family. This could be reassuring to a child who has been adopted since creating a family tree is commonly stressful and anxiety-provoking. And show way to integrate the two families and history.

There is an acknowledgement of the birth parents but not very much information or history given. Also there were not any feelings, positive or negative, expressed associated with the birth parents. Potentially this might give the impression that the adoptive parents or child shouldn't have any feelings or thoughts about their birth parents, which would be more atypical of an adoptive family's experience. The book being concise is positive mostly but here an aware parent may want to discuss a little further about their adopted child's personal history, birth parents and feelings. There does seem to be a little stereotyping in the roles of dad and mom (Dad teaches about baseball, albeit to a baby girl and Mom is caring for the baby in the illustrations and singing the lullabies).

This is a good book to use with lifebooks. It was written by actress Jamie Lee Curtis who has adopted two

children and although I am a little leery of celebrity books...I love this one and is another top personal favorite. Aurora loves it too already (probably because of the illustrations) and we read it often.

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### **Amber Cook says**

Tell Me Again About the Night I was Born is a realistic fiction, funny, yet heart warming book for both parents and child. This book is a celebration for the love and joy that a child, whether adopted or not, creates for a family. The story is about an adopted little girl who wants her parents to tell the story about the night she was born, but she is so excited to hear it that she tells the story herself. The illustrations used were very colorful, with some fun humor thrown in to keep adults entertained as well. But overall the illustrations added just the right amount of detail needed for the story. However, I believe this book should be read to older students because some of the illustrations become confusing if not paying attention. I would certainly provide this book for parents to use if they need help explaining if their child was adopted. I love that it sheds light on an issue that can be a hard topic to talk about. However, there were no cultural aspects to the picture. When adopting a child, one may assume that they are from a different cultural background. Overall, I enjoyed this book.

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### **Melissa says**

This is a fictional book. To be honest i did not enjoy this book that much. After awhile i lost interest in it. The story and characters are realistic but some of the terms used can confuse students. The message this book was trying to tell was great but i think it would have been better if the plot was thick or maybe the girl had a problem and later found a resolution. I think i would have gave this book another star if the illustrations were better. Many of the pictures looked half drawn and were not very detailed at all. I think they do match the words but it is also hard to tell because of the way it was illustrated. I think the students would loose interest in the pictures after the first few pages. There was no cultural aspect in this book and i wonder why. when adopting a child they may be from a different cultural group from you and i think her background should have been said. Even though she is their child now you should have talked about how you celebrated her cultural difference so she wont find herself forgetting who she is. I also did not like how the book said that her birth mom was too young to have a kid. This makes it seem that if your adopted than your mom was too young to take care of you and that is not the case. I think adoption is a wonderful thing and instead of saying her mom was young just say that some families can not have kids so people give them the gifts of kids. Overall i just thought this good could have been better.

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### **Katie Parrish says**

SUMMARY: "Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born" is about a young girl who was adopted. This story depicts the journey that a couple went on to receive their new baby by flying to the city where the birth mom gave birth and the challenges they faced just to meet their new baby. Since the little girl does not have a typical birth story, she likes for her parents to tell the story over and over again.

THEME: The theme of the story is family and life stories.

PERSONAL RESPONSE/RECOMMENDATION: I loved this story as a child because I related to the main

character by constantly asking what happened on the night I was born. Although I was not adopted, I always was curious to hear the story over and over again. I would recommend this story to 4-8 year olds and especially to those who went through the adoption process whether they were adopted at birth or later on in life. Everyone has their beginning story and this book perfectly describes the differences in families.

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### **Meleofa says**

We read this tonight before bed and I loved it. It made me weepy. hahahaha. But I tell my girls all the time about the night they were born and how much we wanted them in our lives. I really liked the story.

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### **Angela says**

Taken separately, I would give the text 4 stars and the illustrations 2 stars. The story is pretty sweet and straightforward - the "voice" of the book is a child who had obviously been adopted, reminiscing with her parents about the stories they've told her about the night she was born. The voice didn't sound much like a child, though, which was distracted me a little.

Not remotely as distracting as the illustrations, however. I am firmly convinced that they were put in to keep the parent who is reading the book entertained, rather than the child. They were certainly colorful, but not very well drawn. Also, there were "jokes" thrown in all over the place (a book with the title "Slim Thighs in 30 Days!" appears on a regular basis; when mom sings a lullaby the baby is looking at her with an "I can't stand this" expression on her face, etc.), which kept me rolling my eyes rather than smiling.

My overall recommendation: go ahead and read it, if the topic is relevant to your family... but, borrow it from the library.

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### **J-Lynn says**

A precocious adopted little girl wants her parents to tell her the story about the night she was born, but she is so excited to hear it that she tells the entire story herself. The story tells of the adoption from the moment the baby was born and shows the parents rushing to the airport and flying to see their new baby girl. It also tells about how the daddy taught her about baseball and the mommy sang her a lullaby and they spent their first night together as a family.

The illustrations are watercolor and black line and show a whole other world from the text. They are filled with details and people never mentioned in the story; observant readers will love the quirky additions. My two favorite spreads are the two-page vertical of an actual size baby and the two-page family tree that incorporates the little girl's birth parents and adopted parents.

A good companion read with *God Found us You* by Lisa Tawn Bergren

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## **Laura Gibbs says**

This book is way cute! It's different than I thought it would be—I was expecting it to be about how a baby was made pretty much and in some ways it was but in many ways it wasn't. This is the book about an adoption—a girl who was adopted asks her mom to tell her about the night she was born, and it goes through the whole process. The adoptive parents got the phone call in the middle of the night, jumped on a plane, called their grandparents, and then explains that the adoptive mother couldn't grow a baby in her tummy so another woman who was too young to take care of the girl was growing her and she would be the birth mother but not the adoptive mother. It shows them arriving at the hospital and seeing their baby for the first time, the baby (in actual size) for the first time and the first time that each held the baby and their first night with her. Towards the end the girl says "Tell me about our first night as a family."

I thought this book was very sweet to read—I loved it! Though it was different than I thought, it was a good different and I liked what I was reading. I thought the point of the book was really good and it would definitely be good to read when you're adopting a child or you've adopted one. I liked the pictures as well! This could be used in your classroom when you're talking about families, or adoption, but I feel like it might be better used on a one-by-one basis instead of reading it to your whole class. I still loved it though!

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## **Chester Dean says**

Estaba en el trabajo y está super cute ♥

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## **Elizabeth says**

2. The book *Tell Me Again the Night I Was Born* by Jamie Lee Curtis was published in 2000 and was a New York Times bestselling. This book would be more for 4th and 5th graders because I feel as though it's an age where children understand more clearly about different types of families. This book is about a little girl who asked her adopted parents on their experience on the night she was born. They tell her all about what happened during the plane ride, hospital, people they saw and their experience on taking her home for the first time. I rated this a 5 star because this book is so great to children who are adopted and is curious about their story between them and the adopted parents. This book is filled with colors and such detail illustration on every page. It gives the reader excitement and loving feeling about families. Children who are adopted definitely would appeal to this book more than children who are not, but even if you are not adopted, this book has a lot of creativity and humor to it.

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