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One of Hundreds Sold Out the Back Door of a Clinic, Jane Blasio Searches for Her Birth Mother, Finds "Home" and Forgiveness



From the 1940s through the 1960s, young pregnant women entered the front door of a clinic in a small North Georgia town. Sometimes their babies exited out the back, sold to northern couples who were desperate to hold a newborn in their arms. But these weren't adoptions--they were transactions with cash and no birth records. It is called human trafficking.

In her book, **Taken at Birth: Stolen Babies, Hidden Lies, and my Journey to Finding Home,** author and investigator, Jane Blasio, takes readers with her as she uncovers hundreds of babies that were sold to couples from the Hicks Clinic for cash. She takes you on her journey to find out who gave her up at birth, the deception and the smalltown doctor who was responsible for the human trafficking scheme.

After the story broke in the paper in 1997, hundreds of people with the Hicks Clinic on

their birth certificates came forward. Blasio has spent the past 20 years personally investigating her own origin, and helping other victims identify and reunite with their biological families. Along the way she became an expert in illicit adoptions, serving as an investigator and telling her story on every major news network. She was the investigative lead on the recent <u>TLC docuseries, *Taken at Birth*</u>.

"Jane takes you on the ride of her life, weaving, in emotional detail, the search for her birth family, the shocking circumstances surrounding her adoption, and the dark secrets as deep as the small southern town where it all began," said Lisa Joyner, host of the TLC docuseries Taken at Birth and adoptee and adoptive mom. "Through thoughtful investigative work, she effortlessly puts the reader front and center as this real-life story of deceit, trauma, and ultimately redemption unfolds. Regardless of our start in life, Jane reminds us, we all have the ability to find humanity if we know where to look."

Blasio also shares the impact the search has had on her life – from finding her roots, to forgiving the past, and being at peace with who she is.

In her search she says she found more than a birth mother.

"I found what was more important than a birth mother and more satisfying than all the answers I sought," writes Blasio. "I found where I belonged. It took the journey of searching, not the actual DNA, to find who I am."

Taken at Birth: Stolen Babies, Hidden Lies, and My Journey to Finding Home by Jane Blasio

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About the Author



Jane Blasio is a Hicks Baby, sold at birth and passed through the back door of a clinic in North Georgia. She has served for more than 18 years in federal law enforcement. An expert in illegal adoption, she helped unravel the mystery of the Hicks Clinic, breaking the story in 1997. She has appeared on CNN, ABC *Primetime, Good Morning America, Fox News, Inside Edition,* and *Entertainment Tonight,* as well as in the *New York Times, People,* and *Reader's Digest.* Jane currently lives in Akron, Ohio, and spends as much time as she can with family and friends.

Suggested Interview Questions

- 1. Let's start with when you began to question who your parents were and what happened as a result.
- 2. Many adopted children search for their birth parents, they hire investigators, but you did all the work yourself. Why is that?
- 3. You have invested decades into this investigation. What keeps you motivated to continue to help other Hicks babies after all these years?
- 4. As you began learning more about Dr. Hicks was there a time when it was too hard to comprehend what had transpired? How did you deal with it emotionally?
- 5. You write that many people ask you how you feel about the doctor. How do you feel and why?
- 6. Tell us about how your discoveries throughout the investigation have affected who you are and what you have become?
- 7. Looking back on your journey to finding your birth mother, what lessons stand out the most to you?
- 8. You say you found something more important than a birth mother, what is it?
- 9. Along the way, you have helped so many others find their families. Can you share about a couple people that you have helped?
- 10. Why was it important for you to write this book?
- 11. What do you want people to walk away with after reading your book?

Praise for Taken at Birth

"In this gripping story that unfolds like a puzzle with no lid to provide the finished picture, Jane Blasio encounters numerous questions and too many missing pieces of information regarding her origins. Jane's search for answers, meaning, and belonging will take the reader to the darkest places in the human soul, ultimately unveiling the hardest truths to bear and then revealing the beauty found among the scattered pieces of the puzzle."

Anna LeBaron, author of The Polygamist's Daughter

"People like to say it takes a lot of courage to do a book like this: I think it takes a sight more than that. Jane Blasio lived a story that most of us could only imagine--from being sold as an infant by a small-town doctor to years of searching for her birth mother. A gut-wrenching ordeal. But she not only lived it, she wrote about it, bringing it all to life for the reader as it poured out of her. Sometimes you have to remind yourself that this was a life lived, not one just crafted."

Rick Bragg, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and professor of writing at University of Alabama

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