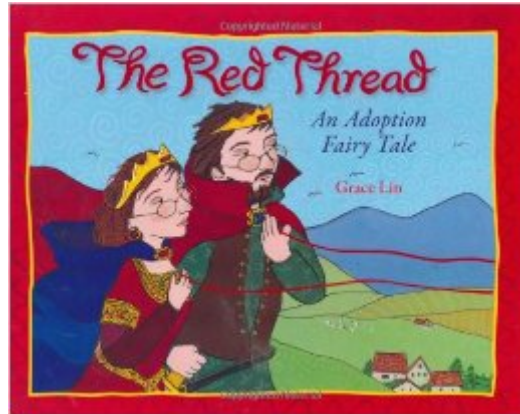


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# The Red Thread: An Adoption Fairy Tale



## Synopsis

A king and queen should be full of joy and contentment, but they both feel a strange pain that worsens every day. Then a peddler's magic spectacles reveal a red thread pulling at each of their hearts. The king and queen know they must follow the thread.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 720L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Company; Reprint edition (January 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807569224

ISBN-13: 978-0807569221

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 11 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (37 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #125,344 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption](#) #1861 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths](#)

Age Range: 3 - 6 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

I am a mother of a 4 year old boy adopted through the foster care system at two years. We have read many books about adoption together. Very few books relate to his story and he's never "loved" any of them. This story is beautifully written and poetic. The visual of the red thread was so powerful that we talk about "our threads" now. While this book is about a girl adopted from China, it is a fairytale with Kings and Queens and captures attention from the beginning of the story. It also touches the one thing that most books miss; the parents and child are meant to be together regardless of how. The look on my son's face when I explained how I felt before and after we found each other, was priceless. By the way, this is the first book I've ever felt the need to review.

This is the best adoption children's book I have yet found. I agree with the quibbles that it focusses too much on the parent's story, rather than the child's. And yet this is part of the story. I wanted and needed to know my parent's story as a child, regardless of my situation. It is part of a child's roots.

And this book does an excellent job at what it does. What it doesn't do is tell an adopted child's story from the child's perspective. Unfortunately, I have not yet seen a *The Red Thread from the Baby's Perspective* book. I wish they would write that one and do as well on it. As for the quibbles that the whole idea of adoption being fate isn't something we should teach our children, I simply don't agree. I am not saying that we should teach our children that their lives are controlled by some great fate that they can do nothing about or that God wanted their birth parent's to suffer and blablabla... I am saying that those conversations happen when children are older than preschool age and should be more complex than, "We were fated to be together." But at preschool age a child needs the security and sense of entitlement to family that this book gives. It makes a good stab at providing adopted children with the sense of family belonging and "tribe" that was a such a comfort and saving grace to me as a child.

I'm a children's therapist and bought a number of books on foster care and adoption - this one was the biggest hit. I find that kids relate more to metaphorical stories rather than the didactic ones.

Like one of the other reviewers, we first found this book at the library. My daughter loved it so much that we checked it out twice, and now it's time to buy it. As a parent, I especially like the framing story of the parents telling the daughter the transparently allegorical fairy tale, and it was obvious from the first reading that my daughter identified with both the girl who's hearing the story and the baby who gets adopted by the "king and queen." There aren't many kids' books that can moisten this crusty old dad's eyes, but this one did as it brought back memories of waiting for, and then finally meeting our amazing daughter. Reading this story to her now is a wonderful privilege (as is listening to her read it to me), and I highly recommend it for any family touched by adoption--or better, for any family at all.

My daughter Gracie joined us from China when she was ten months old, and she is now 4. Her favorite author is Grace Lin, she loves all of her books and her decorative swirls! The first night we read this, Gracie asked me to read it five times. The beautiful story is lyrically told in classic fairy tale fashion. Not at all heavy-handed like some adoption stories tend to be, but subtle and metaphorical. Gracie was very moved by the part where sharp rocks poke through the King and Queen's shoes, their clothes rip, and it snows, but still they go on. This book and "A Mother for Choco" are our two favorite adoption stories, probably because both focus on the feelings of love involved in adoption rather than more mundane matters. A true find!

This is a beautiful simple tale of two people who are lucky and know they have a lot but feel an emptiness inside. The red thread, a lovely symbol of one's heart, love, and yearning, connect them to their baby. Their dream is realized and they live happily ever after. A great book to introduce the subject of adoption to 2-9 year olds.

I'm an adoption social worker. My focus has been in foster care adoption, and this book more directly relates to international adoption than to foster care adoption, but its message works well for both -- adoptive parents feel a pull on their hearts which leads them to the child they adopt. This well-written book would fit well in an adoptive family's library as a way for the parents to remind the children, "we really, really wanted to be with you."

This book does a good job explaining in a very loving way how an adoptive couple comes to find their child. The story is told as a fairy tale but the message is real and very relatable to real life. A very young child will surely only see it as another fairytale story, but the more it is read, and the more the reader initiates conversation around the story each time it is read, any child could clearly see the meaning. It does a beautiful job of explaining how loved and wanted the child is

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