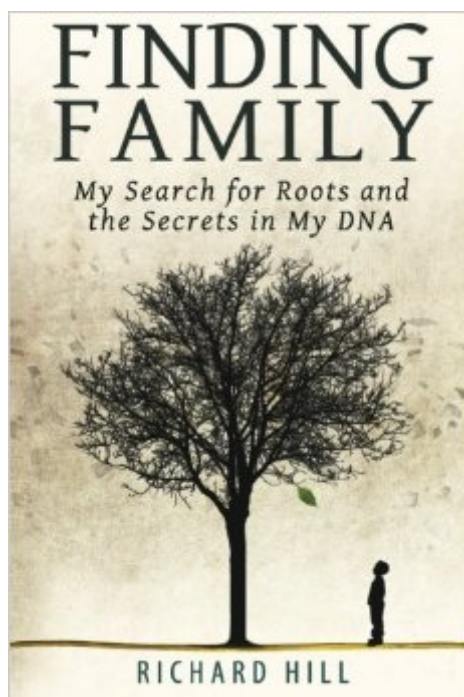


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Finding Family: My Search For Roots And The Secrets In My DNA



Synopsis

Finding Family: My Search for Roots and the Secrets in My DNA was a Global Ebook Awards gold medal winner and a Next Generation Indie Book Awards Finalist. It is Richard Hill's true and intensely personal story of how he pieced together the long-kept secret of his own origins. This highly suspenseful book is a page-turning saga of personal detective work that will appeal to anyone who loves a good mystery. But this isn't fiction. It's an engrossing account of an adoptee trying to reclaim the biological family denied him by sealed birth records. This fascinating quest, including the author's landmark use of DNA testing, takes readers on an exhilarating roller-coaster ride and concludes with a twist that rivals anything Hollywood has to offer. Easy to read and hard to put down, Finding Family is the first book to chronicle the paradigm-shifting application of genetic genealogy to adoption search. Whether you're searching for your own roots or just craving a darn good read, Finding Family is a book you will likely devour in one sitting...and wholeheartedly recommend to others. In the vein of a classic mystery, Hill gathers the seemingly scant evidence surrounding the circumstances of his birth. At his adoptive father's deathbed, he discovers shocking information that leads him to methodically chase down leads, which sometimes yield poignant glimpses of his birth parents, sometimes garner resistance, and as frequently flat-line in disappointment. As his resolve shores up, the author also avails of new friends, genealogists, the Internet, and the latest DNA tests in the new field of genetic genealogy. As he closes in on the truth of his ancestry, he is able to construct a living, breathing portrait of the young woman who was faced with the decision to forsake her rights to her child, and ultimately the man whose identity had remained hidden for decades. During the course of Hill's mission, Finding Family offers guidance, insight, and motivation for anyone engaged in a similar mission, from ways to obtain information to the many networks that can facilitate adoption searches. Best of all, the author demystifies how DNA and genetic genealogy can produce irrefutable results in determining genetic connections. In an intimate, personal voice, Hill sheds light on this new science that is helping adoptees bypass sealed records and similar stumbling blocks. It is certain to inspire those who are in search of their birth parents as well as others who are uncertain of their biological ancestry. Richard Hill's groundbreaking use of DNA testing in adoption search was featured on the front page of The Wall Street Journal. His DNA Testing Adviser web site makes genetic genealogy understandable to all.

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Customer Reviews

So well written. I ordered this book August 26, received it August 28 and finished August 29. I could not put it down. I read the entire thing from 8am to 2:45pm. Although this book will appeal to a large audience it is grippingly personal. Richard's story of how he found out he was adopted and then his thirty plus year search for his birthparents and the history of their ancestry will keep you on the edge of your seat. With so many twists and turns along the road of Richards's journey you will be cheering him on and possibly crying for his loss. The overall feeling I was left with was joy for Richard in finding out so much on his road but also that he finds ways to find answers where others have not. It's easy to see how this book has the possibility of helping so many others with their own searches. I had to know what he found out and just could not put it down. As an active member of the genetic genealogy community and a genealogist I can say that although of course this book will appeal to other adoptees it also should not be overlooked by anyone interested in learning more about how to use good old fashioned logic, methodology and genetic testing to further their family research. Thank you Richard Hill for sharing your journey with us.

I started reading "Finding Family: My Search for Roots and the Secrets in My DNA" before I went to sleep one night and before I knew it I was on page 88! You just have to keep reading to find out what happens next. Hill was a professional writer before authoring this book, and it shows: the guy knows how to tell a story. There were times I felt like I was sitting in the back seat as he and his wife Pat drove to yet another destination seeking answers about his biological family. Your heart breaks for him as he tells of disappointments in going down blind alleys and soars with him for his victories. And he tempers it all with a wry sense of humor, like this line, after receiving a photo from Mike, his half brother and the very first blood relative he found: "Excitedly, I looked at the enclosed picture

and was shocked to see a guy with curly brown hair. My hair is totally straight. Anticipating my surprise, Mike had thoughtfully written the following note on the card: "The hair is not naturally curly. I get a perm every three months." End of chapter. I'm not adopted and not into genealogy, but I love memoirs and biographies and this was one of the best; I was hooked from start to finish. And what a finish it was--a classic surprise ending, with as many twists and turns along the way as a DNA molecule. Divorces, affairs, family secrets, mystery, history--Hill's journey has it all, with a cast of characters straight from a TV reality show. I kept thinking the whole time, "This would make a great movie!" I would highly recommend "Finding Family: My Search for Roots and the Secrets in My DNA" to anyone who likes a good read, because at its core, it's really a book about people. And who doesn't love reading about people?

"Finding Family: My Search for Roots and the Secrets in my DNA" by Richard Hill should be required reading for anyone about to embark on an adoptee quest in finding their birth family. Not only will the reader learn successful and innovative methods that are invaluable gems of knowledge in searching for biological parents, but also included are several "what not to do's" as well. Hill opens the journey with the shocking story of how he discovered he was adopted. From this point on, the reader will be riveted to a fascinating true life soap opera tale that will cause you to alternate between crying and cheering for the protagonist! Hill may have made a few "mistakes" in his adoption search, but one thing is for certain; he handles every person and situation along the way in a uniquely sensitive manner and this clearly produces an end result of success that every adoptee searching for their roots should emulate. To share any more of Hill's story in this review would be a "spoiler" - so just buy this book to spend several hours with some of the most fascinating non-fiction you will ever read. -Katherine Hope Borges Director, International Society of Genetic Genealogy[...]

Finding Family by Richard Hill is a fascinating book. Even for someone coming from a family with nothing to be discovered, no need to climb the family tree in search of unknown branches, this is still a good read. And by all means, if you ever find yourself with a desire to track down family ties...or know anyone who has ever expressed a desire to check out their ancestry, do recommend this book to them. Full to bursting with tips and excellent pointers on how to go about this sometimes daunting task, this story of one man's travels as he digs back through buried roots to find his biological family, is inspiring and loaded with helpful information on how to do exactly that. You will find yourself discouraged by his occasional disappointments and thrilled to be sharing his successes. By the end of the last page, you will be glad you journeyed along with him through the

years it took to solve unexpected puzzles, mysteries that finally allowed him to develop family ties he never envisioned he would have.

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