

## Citation metadata

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## Main content

Article Preview :

Lemon Sherbet and Dolly Blue: The story of an accidental family

Lynn Knight Atlantic Books 2011

377 pages 17.99 [pounds sterling]

This delightful, enjoyable book offers a picture of a community as seen through the eyes of four generations spanning more than 145 years; unusually, three of the most influential members of this extended family were adopted. The family is working class, deeply rooted in a village near Chesterfield in the East Midlands, and they run the corner shop, which survives two world wars and dispenses solace as well as food to the villagers who make up the large cast of colourful characters in the story.

On July 20th 1865, Richard is unceremoniously handed over by his parents to Joseph--a barber whom they barely know--and his wife, Mary. As the author says, 'with two such names, how could they possible refuse?' (p 18). There is a letter from the mother, reproduced in the book, giving permission to Joseph and Mary to keep the child. That is all....

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Xvi, 377 p. : 24 cm. "150 Station Road, Wheeldon Mill, a short stride across the Chesterfield Canal in the heart of Derbyshire, was home to the Nash family and their corner shop, which served a small mining community with everything from Brasso and Dolly Blue to cheap dress rings and bright sugary sweets. But just as this was no ordinary home, theirs was no ordinary family. Lynn Knight tells the remarkable story of the three adoptions within it: of her great-grandfather, a fairground boy given away when his parents left for America

in 1865; of her great-aunt, rescued from an Industrial Sc In any family, an adoption has resonances that echo down the generations. Lynn Knight has not one but three adoptions in her ancestry and her memoir paints a vivid picture of life in and around the Derbyshire market town of Chesterfield during a century of dramatic change. Her story begins on July 20, 1865. Among the crowds at the Chesterfield Races that day were a young family: Thomas and Sarah Walker, and their three-year-old son, Richard Dorance. The Walkers were show people who had decided to seek their fortune in America. Cora on her second birthday. How three unwanted babies added up to 100 years of happiness: LEMON SHERBERT AND DOLLY BLUE: THE STORY OF AN ACCIDENTAL FAMILY BY LYNN KNIGHT. However this is no ordinary family. It's a story about how three lost children of different generations found love and a home with people who had big hearts. The story starts with her great-grandfather, a fairground boy, given away when his parents left for America in 1865, then how her g Lemon Sherbet and Dolly Blue The Story of an Accidental Family by Lynn Knight. Set in a part of Derbyshire (Chesterfield), the home to the Nash family and their corner shop, which served a small mining community. Through the delightful story we learn from a social history point of view our changing attitudes to adoption, poverty, and what it is to be of a certain class. We learn about the tales of how the miners lived, the poverty, how they treated their wives and how the families survived. Lynn Knight's memoir tells the story of her accidental family. It was also the place where the story of three adoptions across three generations unfolded. Today, it is 1930 and Lynn Knight's mother, Cora, after much anticipation is warmly welcomed into the family. The reader is Barbara Flynn. Abridged by Julian Wilkinson. Previous. Episode 2—Lemon Sherbet and Dolly Blue. Next. Episode 4—Lemon Sherbet and Dolly Blue. See all episodes from Book of the Week. Broadcasts. Wed 3 Aug 2011 09:45.