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Sara Jones is our next guest. Yes, she's one of those people who can say, you might have seen my Ted Talk. More than 2 million people have, like many of us, Jones isn't really sure of her age, but she does know one thing. Her Korean father had not wanted her to be adopted, and she's got the mark to prove it. Here's Sara.

Sara Jones:

So I'm Sara Jones, and I was adopted to Utah in 1977. So raised here my entire life. My had most of my career here. and my pronouns are she, her, hers, and, you know, legally I'm <laugh>. I think I'm 48, but funny enough, age has been kind of an interesting thing the past few years since I found my birth family, I found out my real birthday. And so it's been a little bit of a mind warp there because I'm actually eight months older than I thought I was. And so there's some pretty funny stories there. it's not fun to find out that you're older in middle age than you thought you were, but it explains a lot of things, I think. And so I'm probably closer to 49 than I thought I was. So thanks for having me,

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<laugh>. And where do you live?

Sara Jones:

I'm in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Okay. so Sara, what, you know, as you mentioned and there's been a, you've been on TED about this. Can you tell us about how you reunited with your family? And you could give us k just kind of the quick blurb?

Sara Jones:

Yeah. I mean, obviously people can go watch my Ted Talk for more details, but, you know, generally I I finally was at that phase of my life where I felt ready to find my birth family. And I was one of the lucky few that had, you know, a unique marker on my body that you know, was pretty obviously put there when I was adopted. And I always had a hunch that it was there for me to sort of identify, you know, who I was. So it was a large tattoo on my left arm, on my left forearm. and my, my adoptive parents had it removed because I was three years old and they didn't want me having a life in America with, you know, this tattoo. It was in the seventies. And that just would have just been a difficult thing to overcome as a young child. and just trying to assimilate into the culture that they wanted me as to assimilate into. And so I, I feel very fortunate I was able to find part of my birth family through that tattoo. And, you know, the, still haven't found all of my birth family. And I think, you know, we can talk more about that and some of the journeys that, you know, the realities that we live with of just not knowing, right. Everything about where we came from or what happened to us.

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Well, yeah, that's really intriguing. So you still had part of your birthmark?

Sara Jones:

I did. It was, it was removed by plastic surgery. So, you know, back then that was the only way they could remove tattoos. and so it left a little light scar on my arm and I spent, I have pictures of, when I was young, they would cover it right to keep the sun from darkening the scar. And so it was really, really light. You would only notice it if you, like, were sitting really close to me looking at it. you know, and for most of my life, it was more of like one of those dinner conversation things, tell, tell if something unique about you, right? And I'd be like, oh, well, I have a tattoo. And, you know, being raised as, you know, in the eldest religion and, you know, with that kind of being taboo, it was that thing that got people to raise their eyebrows. But for the most part, I just, it wasn't really something I obsessed over growing up. but you could still see it. So when I was ready to find my birth family, I actually drew over the scar with a permanent marker and then was so that you could see it more visibly and started sharing photos of it.

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And was it a cross?

Sara Jones:

Well, we didn't know what the symbol was, but yes, you could describe it as a cross or an X and then there was four dots underneath. So, you know, my parents didn't have any idea. The, my birth records did reference it. They just described it, but they didn't know what it meant. or well, they claim to not know what it meant <laugh>. And and, you know, so when we would meet Asian people and, you know, back, back in the day in, in the seventies and eighties and Utah, I mean, there was only like 1.5% or 1% Asian people in Utah. Now it's, it's more like two and a half percent across the entire state, but that tends to be concentrated in the more urban areas, right? So Salt Lake has more like, you know, six or 7% Asian. so it's a lot higher than people think. but when we would run into Asian people and we, we felt like we could get into a conversation with them, we would sometimes ask them, we would point to my tattoo and be like, have you ever seen this symbol? Do you know what it is? It is a, is it a Chinese symbol? Is it a Buddhist symbol? Is it a so we did ask and, and try to find out, but you know, it's there, there are only guesses. They were only guesses at that point.

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And so how did you, can you just go through some of the nuts and bolts? How did you actually find them with that symbol?

Sara Jones:

Yeah, so that's the challenge, right? Of being adopted and not really knowing the Korean <laugh> community. So you gotta get this information in front of Koreans. I knew my birth city, you know, what they [adoption file] said was my birth city. and then, you know is it KAS? Korean Adoption Services had a database right? Where you could put in your information identifying things about you. and so I put my information in there and if you, I think, you know, at the time they had like 8,000 records of adoptees who were searching for their birth families. And if you do a keyword search, mine's the only one that has the keyword tattoo in it, you know? So it's pretty unique to be able to have an identifier like that. and yeah, just started sharing it on Facebook anywhere I could, those Facebook groups that started to be created in Korea, people were very, very helpful.

So I'm very grateful. But there ended up being one group who was kind of scouring the Korean adoption services database for stories that they thought, okay, you know, this has a piece of information that could be really useful to help somebody find their birth family. So they had their own Facebook page, and they really focused on children who are lost trafficked stolen, and, and they really had that kind of you know, so, so thank thankfully because of them, they had a lot of Koreans that followed their Facebook group, and I think I was like the 49th story that they had posted. And my brother's friend saw the tattoo and he'd seen the tattoo before.

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And so it was actually your brother your brother's friend that contacted your brother to say, look, I saw this. And the friend must have also seen your brother had the same tattoo, right? Or the same marking.

Sara Jones:

Yeah, both of my, so I found out I had two brothers and two older brothers, and yeah, they all had the same tattoo because when my father sent us to children welfare services, so really he only intended to kind of place us in foster care. That's, that's really all he was hoping to do. But I think back then they had to relinquish their rights or there were certain things, or just they didn't, they lost control, right? Once they make that decision. And so my father gave us all the same tattoos so we could find each other because it was in the 1970s. So by then, you know, international adoption had already been established. So he very well knew that there was a possibility that we could be separated.

My, my brothers ended up staying at the welfare center for about eight years, I believe. so they didn't end up being adopted out of the country. They stayed together, and then they eventually were able to go back and live with my birth family. So my father again, and unfortunately because of the stigmas in Korea that also existed around tattoos, they did experience bullying because they didn't have the money to go get a plastic surgeon to remove their tattoos, right? And so they have that kind of their own story, if you will, of this whole experience and how it impacted their lives. But the brother's friend saw the tattoo he remembered my brother telling him like, yeah, the tattoo, it, you know, it really reminds me of my sister who was sent out of the country, my baby sister. and he was really sad about it. Like, my brothers were very angry. I'm sure my father got the brunt of that anger <laugh>, unfortunately. But they were very angry that I had been adopted out of the country and separated from the family.

Wow. And did this kind of, all the being reunited take place really rather quickly? Were you, were you prepared for it?

Well, I'm, I'm not sure we're ever prepared necessarily. Yes, the reunification happened very quickly. you know, and there were a few, a few things where, you know, there's always, i, I would say little bu little bumps in the road, or maybe big bumps in the road as you go through this experience, because number one, you're dealing with a massive language barrier, right? So you're not always translating things correctly. You're not always right, but, but, but I could tell in every communication that they were just, they were very excited to found me. So I, I never had a moment where I wondered, gosh, you know, maybe they're regretting that they found me. So unfortunately, you know, and that does happen. And so I felt very good about making the trip to meet them. All of the data points kind of lined up the DNA test didn't really turn out how we expected, but everything else did.

And so I, I'm, I'm, I did, I scheduled the meeting pretty quickly to meet them, and I would say that I thought I was prepared. And then, you know, that moment happens and then there's just a whole other set of emotions that happen, and it's just, it's a lot. It's, it really is a lot. It's exhausting. And of course, when I overhear in America the question I actually got asked more than anything was, how do your adoptive parents feel about this? Right? It was like, Ugh. Every single time. And that truly, truly gets exhausting. And so people would say, I wanna, you know, I wanna go to lunch, I wanna hear about your story. And I was like, no, no. Like, do you know what I mean? Like, go telling it over and over, over again. Especially when it's really raw. You're still processing emotions. People think, you know, oh, it's this, you know happy ending story and I wanna hear all about it. And I'm like, oh my gosh, this, it just, it's so exhausting. And so, you know, and, and, and how to handle those kind of things that happen on the American side. It, it's a lot. So people think it's, oh, it's just about some event that happens in, in Korea where you hug and like, oh my gosh. But no, it's, it's just so much more and heavier than I think people understand.

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Yeah. The trauma of family separation. you know, whether your father knew he was, he had signed away the rights for you to be adopted, you know, all of that trafficking, potentially trafficking, I mean, it's, it's not the happy ending story.

Sara Jones:

Yeah. And I, you know, and I'm really glad the concepts grief have, have really surfaced because it's not just, you know, the grief of what the adoptee feels, but like, if you think about my father, you know, I often think, you know, the way he found out cuz he was injured, so he couldn't really come visit us a lot at the welfare center. So my grandmother ended up visiting a lot, right? And so when she went to visit, and she's expecting to see all three of the grandkids, you know, and the youngest girl has been sent to a different orphanage for adoption. You know, they're finding out in a pretty horrible way, you know, and I, you know, I just wonder, you know, there, there probably was a whole set of grief that my father went through because at, at that point, there's nothing they can do, but they've, you know, your child has died basically <laugh>, right?

And, and that's why I tell people when when a little child is adopted into a different country, their entire family has died, literally. Right? There's no going back, there's no right. And then they're forced to kind of either suppress those memories or whatever, and it really is a death of people that they loved and cared about. And I think that's, you know, one of my big motivators for doing my talk, and it wasn't originally a Ted talk, it was actually a TEDx Salt Lake City talk. And I was actually really surprised that the Ted curators picked up my talk and was like, we'd love to feature this. So, you know, I think it's that kind of stuff that feels very obvious to international adoptees, but like a lot of people never, ever think about this.

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Well, you've mentioned something interesting that you hear quite a bit is that when people, non adoptees primarily, ask about, you know, being reunited and all of that, you know, the question that you get is, well, 'what did your parent, what did your adoptive parents think?' Can you talk a little bit about that, why that's so triggering that, you know, it's sort of like we have to get their approval.

Sara Jones:

Yeah, it's it, and I don't know that it's necessarily even the approval part, per se, but I think people don't realize when they ask that single question, which feels like such a simple question to people when they're asking about it, what, what actually happens? Well, it happens to me personally. So I'm not, I'm not gonna assume that this happens to all adoptees, but what happens to me personally is it recalls all of the experiences that I've had with my adoptive parents, which is by then almost 45 years of experiences. Right? Some good, some bad. And it's not even just the permission from your adoptive parents, but it's the fact that I have to explain to someone my answer. I have to justify my answer to someone. And that also is equally frustrating to me. Right? And so, you know, I just kind of boil it down to, well, you know, my adoption journey is mine alone. I I'm 40. I mean, I guess this was what, five years ago? 43 ish, 44 ish. I forget, you know, age isn't a thing to me anymore. Now that I

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A grown a grown woman,

Sara Jones:

I'm a grown woman, you know, this is my journey, and I'm not asking for permission of anyone, not even my husband. This is not I have to ask anyone permission thing, you know? And so, you know, does it impact people? Absolutely. but do I need anyone's permission? Not at all. And I think it is that adoptees are placed in this, this position of having to justify the reasons that they're doing something in a way that makes sense for other people to understand, you know? so I think that's probably more the frustration is that people just, they think it's a simple question that they're asking, but it's not, you know, and also, they're not entitled to an explanation on why or why not.

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Well, and also, it, it, it touches that knee-jerk response that society expects from us that we, we should be grateful, you know, and are we being ungrateful? You know, it's that sort of like, oh, did they, are you hurting them or are they okay? You know, it's like their feelings once again become prioritized.

Sara Jones:

Yeah. And when you spent a lifetime really focusing on other people's feelings and emotions rather than your own, right, it's yet another, you know, reminder of, of, of sort of that, that invalidation that has been kind of an underlying theme of your entire life, <laugh> and those poor, poor people, right? They have no idea when they're asking these questions. And so I think that's why it's really good to talk about this so that there's more thoughtfulness that goes into these conversations when you learn that somebody has been internationally adopted. Right? There's different levels right there. There's the level of, of the good friend that yes, I'm gonna, I'm gonna tell you everything, but then there's also kind of the, the innocent question that is actually quite invasive and they don't even realize it. Right? And I think, I think most people are good at heart, and I think most people would like to know if something wasn't sensitive.

But it's a, it's a little bit of that, you know, when, when ever it comes to a microaggression, right? It's really hard to know, are you the type of person that can receive this feedback or not, you know? Or do I just kind of give you a little answer and then move on? So we're always kind of in that sort of like, Ooh, I've gotta judge this situation, and how, how capable are you <laugh> hearing? Do you know what I mean? So and, and I think that's just a burden that I don't know, is it's unfair, but it's a reality.

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Yeah. Sara, I wanted to ask, you know, what it was like that first meeting in Korea, and if you don't mind sharing just some of thoughts and emotions that we're going through, you know, for a lot of us who may never get that experience.

Sara Jones:

Well, I'll tell a funny story that I, I really haven't shared publicly, <laugh>, that maybe sh there's just a lot of emotions anticipation, right? So you're just like, sort of on the virgin, on the edge, you know, the plane ride, everything, everything's exhausting. And I also had a layer of, of, of some filming and things like that, so been filming in the United States before I came over. So I was completely exhausted. And we, we come out of the you know, we come outta customs, all that fun stuff. I'm getting these messages from the producer. We're at this gate, gate A let's say Gate A, I, I forget the gate. I'm like, okay, easy. So we're literally going out gate A, which is an easy, clear path for us to go out. And one of the Korean airport, I guess personnel, we'll just call him that, he's like, no, you need to go to gate B.

Literally, I'm standing right in front of Gate A, the doors. And he's like, I'm like, no, there's, and my husband can speak a little Korean. So, and we're trying, between that and the app to, to speak Korean, we're like, no, we've got people waiting for us outside of Gate A. Nope, you need to go to gate B. And we're like, there have been people going through gate A from literally this customs desk out gate we've been watching. We know this is possible, so we cannot understand why he's asking us to go to this side of the thing. But no way in hell am I gonna ask the producers, my brothers, everybody who's been waiting for hours for us to go move to another gate. So I lose it, and I'm gonna put a stereotype. I got Korean crazy on this guy, and I'm just like, we are going out of this gate.

"You aren't gonna stop us. There are people waiting, and no, we are going outta this gate." And I just kind of freaked out at him and the guy say, okay. And so we got at the gate, and so what you see on the video is me smiling, happy, but I had just literally lost it on someone right before that. And there was just a lot going on <laugh> just to even get out of that darn gate in Korea, <laugh>, my brothers even have no idea about this story. I just was like, oh, seriously? It, you know, why does everything have to be so hard, <laugh>? and my, but my, I mean, I guess my husband and kids are maybe used to me flaring up occasionally. So they were just like okay, don't mess with mom right now, <laugh>, you know? but you know, it's, I I think there obviously was so much joy in meeting them for the first time, even though we'd messaged quite a bit the, just having the, the, the, the mirrors, right?

You, you see, you're, you're assessing so much, usually optically at first, right? You're assessing so much of, like, I'm hugging them and I'm like, wait a minute, I'm about the same size as them. Like, you know, and in America, you're, I'm short, right? I'm the shortest ev in, you know, most groups. And so I'm just like, oh my gosh. We're like kind of the same size. Like, oh my gosh, my brother and I have the same shape head. Oh, well, you know? And so there's just so many things that you're processing and noticing and observing for, and just, it's, it's, and, and, and, and, you know, just, just the happiness of having found each other after decades and decades and decades of just wondering, you know? And the wondering I think is a little bit different for my brothers because they remembered me. For them it was grief, right?

We lost our little sister. Is she still alive? Does she end up in a home that could care for her? Right? So they're, they have kind of a separate wondering. I think mine was like, wow, I had never, I, I had kind of put the thought of who my family might be out of my head, right? I didn't even try to imagine, I didn't try except for the rag to Rich's Annie story that we all grew up with, right? I really just, the, the processing of having, you know, this, this family and these brothers that I never knew, and I had been raised with sisters, and so now my, you know, this expansion of a family that I never realized was possible. And so the wondering is a little bit different because I'm absorbing this for the first time, really. Right? And they're bringing in those decades of sadness, you know, resentment and now additional sadness because my father had passed away, right? And couldn't be there to witness us together again. So, so their, I think their emotions and, and you know, what they were processing was, was different than mine, but I think we were all just, just really happy that we finally found each other.

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You know, the natural progression for grief is anger. And I wondered you mentioned that your brothers maybe had dealt with some anger over the years. They had time to really deal with anger. Anger at your father, anger at the system, anger at Korea, whatever. did you feel anger or did you get to that stage?

Sara Jones:

Oh, yeah, I felt lots of anger even before I met my birth family, you know? And I think, you know, like a lot of adoptees, you know, I just hadn't focused on it enough or wouldn't allow myself to focus on it, on it enough. But when I finally did allow myself to focus on it enough, you realize kind of the underlying resentments that have been sitting there, un, un you know, unaddressed, for lack of a better word, right? And you, you know, now with the Truth and Reconciliation committee, you know, we can more formally call them lies. But the fact that, you know, when I reached out to the adoption agency when I was doing my search, I just said, Hey, do you remember anyone that lived in Genji, like in the seventies that was working here, that, that may remember?

Because, you know, again, the tattoo, I could be like, do you remember a girl with a tattoo? Right? and then they sent me an email, didn't even ask for it. They're like, hi, young, young, your birthday is this, da da da da da. That's all the information we have, and I'm all my birthday. So you've been, you had this information my whole, my whole life, right? You had my real birthday, and then my uncle corroborated it. He said, yeah, your lunar birthday is very close to my lunar birthday. And so yeah, we're only like, years apart is different, but, but the date is, is, you know, one or two days. And so I just, you know, it's those moments where you're like, wait, you had this information for like over 40 years, and it was just sitting there in a database and, you know, and then, and then other resentments, like when you learn more about, you know, how they have to claim that you're abandoned, right?

And I've got a letter in my file, which I think is pretty unusual. I have got a letter from a social worker that's like, yeah, she has a tattoo on her arm. It's likely her family wants to reclaim her, but she's been abandoned, so she's okay to send out of the country. And you're just like, okay. But I mean, it's pretty clear, like, you know what I mean? In the, in the welfare center, we came together, we all have the same tattoo. I'm sure it was local, so people knew who we were, and just this desire to send children out and separate them from their families, right? And just like, just the entitlement of a social worker, just making this statement that's come completely untrue. And the fact that they have to say that you're abandoned to legally send you out of the country, and it's just this legal thing.

And, you know, and, and then this is, you know, and I feel this with, with gender as well, you start to take the weight on of like all the injustice of how many hundreds of thousands of children have been internationally adopted with this label abandoned in their record. And how that must have influenced their, you know, personal worth growing up. I mean, I'm certainly not the only one, but I'm just like, no, I wasn't abandoned. You know? And so I think those are the things and the stories that we're told, you know, just start to kind of add up. And I, I, I think, you know, yeah, the natural response is anger. Like for me, basically it comes down to I didn't have to be adopted out of the country that there was actually no real reason for it, right? There was resources would've been horrible to up in the welfare center, abso freaking lutely, right?

It was horrible for my brother. So I'm not saying it would've been perfect. What I am saying is I didn't have to be adopted out of the country, and yet I was so, you know, it's, it's that, it's that hard you know, fighting against the, the messages of, yeah, but it's better for you. Aren't you so grateful? Look at, you're educated now, all of these opportunities, da da da da, da, fighting against, you know, seeing my brothers return back with my family and being like, no, I could have gone back to my family. I wouldn't have been a prostitute. I wouldn't have been destitute. And it's not my family saying that necessarily, but it, it, but, you know, those, those messages of everybody telling you how horrible it would be to be an orphan in Korea. So you know, and, and all the things that you, you lose and miss and, and it, it just, you know, you can't take it back. You can't relive it. But I think you have to process it somehow.

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You know, I, that just must be so profound because, you know, a lot of us do that thing where, you know, even if we go back to Korea, we kind of inner mind what would my life have been like? And you do this kind of the plus and minus column. And you know, a lot of us received, you know, we're able to have an education. You've, you're like, miss Salt Lake City or Miss Salt Lake City, like Tech Utah. I mean, you're so out there and giving talks and your expertise in your field, and you know, and your your husband's a professional too, and you have two, two boys. I mean, it's, I mean, on the outside, someone might think they're living the American dream, you know? But what thoughts did you have processing whether, you know, also when you reunite, sometimes there is that kind of socioeconomic difference, maybe your family in Korea, you know, didn't have the educational opportunities, that kind of thing. how did you process all of that and, and think about, you know, you have kind of a, a kind of a blue a blueprint of what your life would've been like. You really had some answers.

Sara Jones:

Yeah. let, let's start with a positive gosh, you know, meeting my family and just kind of seeing how they were able to kind of go from the circumstances of where they were at to where they are now. There, there's just so much scrappiness. And, you know, you know, when people think about my father, they're like, wow, that was really strategic of him. He really took a risk. I feel like I got part of that dna. Like my career is, I mean, obviously I've had lots of opportunities given to me, but I've had all had to be really scrappy <laugh>, like, you know so, you know, I I, I appreciate that. I'm able to see that in a, a few different ways. that, that's the family I would have been raised in is scrappy, innovative, let, let's go, you know, you know, just work hard and, and, and try to figure this out.

And I so I do appreciate that those are the sort of the d n a roots that I come from. so my brothers are taxi drivers, and you know, it's one of those things where I, I have to process like, is that really the worst thing in the world? Is it the worst thing in the world? Like, people think like, oh gosh, you know, it would've been so horrible. And I'm like, is it the worst thing in the world to work in a restaurant? Is it the worst thing in the world? Right? And we have this thing in America where we definitely have some cast ideas, I think in Korea too, as well, right? Where we judge the, the decisions that adults made for us based on where we ended up in the caste system. But, you know, the reality is, is there's a lot of people, and, and you know, this might bridge, you know, to some future conversations about the adoptee citizenship Act that, you know, I am very well aware that I represent the model adoptee.

And, and that's a burden because people look at me and they say, see, adoption worked. Look how well adjusted you are. Look how educated, look how many opportunities adoption worked. And I would love for that to go away because it didn't work for so many people. And because I happen to be a little bit more highly visible as well, some other adoptees that, that we know are more highly visible unfortunately that continues to feed the perception that adoption is an amazing solution. and instead of looking deeper and saying like, Hey, there's actually a lot of problems with the adoption system, lots of problems. and I wish that were more the conversation rather than just the easy, you know, you're living the American dream. Lucky you, you have no reason to complain. And that's why I really loved the the quote my talk, that that is it, I, it's been years since I've remembered my talk, but it goes along the lines of like, it's really easy to think that you haven't lost anything when it seems like you haven't lost or seems like you have everything.

So I guess I'm very conscious of the privilege that I have now. I think that is, I think, part of what really helps me make sure that I'm looking at some of the other problems in the adoption system and finding ways to give back and solve that. Because it's like, look, if I, if I do have privilege, then let me use that in a way that other people can't. That's, that's, that's the least that I can do to help solve, you know, sort of the issues that surround adoption. So yeah, I, I, I think it's complex and I, you know, you've pro you've interviewed so many adoptees that, that haven't had my experience. but I think for people who have thought deeply about it you know, you just can't look on the surface and just assume that someone's not struggling with their adoption or not. Y you know what I mean? don't use success factors as the thing that you judge someone's i, I guess, acceptance of their adoption or not.

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Yeah, good point. And, you know I think, you know, the way the popular adoption or, you know, common adoption narratives are that, you know, in reunion it's an ad reunion. You get something you didn't have before. You get new family, or you get, you know, but people don't look at it as that also is a, a period to acknowledge loss. You know, like, cuz you think of it as, oh, you found your birth family, you, you get more family. But at that moment, people don't understand that it's also you lost them,

Sara Jones:

You know, Kaomi, I'm so glad you said that because yeah, the way I talked about the reunion event, right, was very much along those lines. And, and even I am still sort of working on the, the proper language. It's not even a restoration if you think about that. So you could say your brothers were restored to you, your uncle, your aunt, they were restored to you. They were not restored to me. And I think what people don't understand is when there's a, that language barrier, like, I'm very jealous of the people who find their birth family and they speak the same language. Like, I am so jealous because it, you do not immediately go into that deep bonding for me. Like, I just went and visited my birth family again in September, so it was after four years of Covid, right? But for me, it was like a second date.

It wasn't like, you know, it's, I'm still getting to know them little by little, and it feels like a snell's pace, and it is so frustrating. And I've tried learning Korean and I, it just, you know, you, it, it's hard to learn Korean when, when you've got, you know, busy career and family and all that stuff. you've gotta really be immersed in the language to learn it and, and even understanding it at the level in depth that I would need to, to really understand their life experiences. and so you do not have a full restoration by any means, you know? And the fact that my father's passed away, so all of that time lost, right? and then the guilt of, oh, oh, if I would've known it would be this not easy, but if I would've known that it would've been really possible, highly possible if I, my birth family, I should have started 20 years ago.

So there's also that guilt of on my side waiting. But then you're also like, wait, but why didn't they search? Why didn't they, you know what I mean? Like, does the adopt, you have to do everything? So, and, and it's not a judgment on them, but these are just kind of the thoughts, <laugh> like, wait, why am I feeling guilty? So, so everything is as really complex, like dialogue with self of like <laugh>, you know, like just, just processing all of it. And so you're right, it is much more of a restoration than a reunification or an expansion event, but it's never a full restoration. And that's, I think the, the, the deep loss that, that you're speaking of.

Adapted Podcast:

Let's talk about the work you said that you wanted in a way to, to give back for folks who didn't, you know, maybe don't have the same privilege you do right now. and that is the citizenship movement. Yeah. Can you talk about that?

Sara Jones:

Yeah, I I got very frustrated in, is it the 116th legislative session <laugh> when it didn't pass. And I just thought, that is so stupid. Like, come on now. And it really made me mad. And I, so I have a really great legislator state senator in, in my district. She actually was the first Asian woman to hold a public office in the state of Utah. and had practiced law in California, moved to Utah, built her career here. So she and I were chatting and I was just telling her about adoptee citizenship and ju just, you know some of the things of being internationally adopted. And she just said, let's pass a resolution, let's do that. And I was like, oh, well, you know, citizenship is federal law. So, so I didn't completely understand how a state resolution could actually help.

So she kind of talked me through it, and, you know, and it, it made a lot of sense. I have spent a lot of time working with our state economic leaders, including policy leaders, and I'd done a resolution before. and so I thought, okay, well this is one way that I can just a, a little part that I can play. And I knew that other states and cities were doing resolutions for the Adoptee Citizenship Act, but I hadn't been officially part of Adoptees For Justice yet. So I reached out to them, I said, Hey, I just wanna align. I would love to run a resolution. They're like, what? There's adoptees in Utah that actually wanna help? And I said, yeah. And so the, the thing about Utah, which is interesting is all of our congressional delegate is Republican.

So when you're looking to pass a bipartisan piece of legislation, it really helps to have enough Republicans so you can pull in the, the Democrats are easy to pull in, right? And, and so it actually became a really interesting way to strategically help the movement of the act. And you know, luckily I've got, you know, a se a senator and a congressperson who are on the judiciary committee in both of their chambers. So and just so people know, I'm a former lawyer, recovering lawyer, so I know just enough to be dangerous <laugh>. but so I, you know, I just thought it's a way that I could be useful, helpful. I think the publicity was very helpful to create the movement and showing a f a, a whole country impact of, of this. And, you know, the fact that we're the only country that is still not automatically given citizenship to all international adoptees is just kind of embarrassing, really.

no, no other country has this problem, right? And so I think that you know, I really hope it's, I think we're in year nine now, so they, adoptees for justice has been trying for almost 10 years to fix this little technical oversight that's sitting there in our law. and so I hope this we can do it this year. And, you know, through this process, ironically, I actually didn't know anybody who did not have citizenship. But, you know, it was a good learning lesson for me that these folks are living here under their radar, not wanting to get, you know, they're, they're not wanting attention because of deportation worries. You know, immigration has become a very politicized topic. They're not dumb. They know like one wrong, wrong move, and they could be sent back to the country that they were adopted from, right?

And this isn't just Koreans, that's, it's been like 26 different countries I think that adoptees have been deported back to, right? So it's not just a Korea issue. and so through this, I was able to actually meet and talk to people who have been living their entire lives in Utah almost as long as I have, you know, and just the different experiences and how much we take our citizenship for granted. and, and to use the knowledge that I have of Utah, our policy, how we message things here, to be able to find ways to get our, our policy leaders on board. and so I think, you know, I, you know, if there's a call to action that I would recommend to folks is I think it's a lot easier to get involved than people think. And I think there's people like me that are happy to mentor other people if they're wanting to know how to work with their legislators. Adoptees For Justice, NAKASEC has been at this for a very long time. They have lots of expertise in this, and they've done an amazing job working across the country on this. And I have been highly impressed their organization their strategy. Like it is a very I've seen lots of nonprofits in my time, <laugh>, and they're very well organized. and so no one will it's definitely not gonna be a waste of anyone's time if they wanna come in and, and work on this project.

Adapted Podcast:

Well, can you, can you give us kind of the quick boiler plate about this? Like how many adoptees are we thinking that are in this country right now without citizenship, international adoptees, and, and how does this happen?

Sara Jones:

Yeah, great. question. So the estimate is that there's about about 25,000 to 50,000 international adoptees that do not have US citizenship. And the thing is, is a lot of people, a lot of them don't actually know. So there's usually a trigger event where they're going to get a passport, get a federal, you know, apply for a federal program. Just imagine what's gonna happen when they start applying for their social security, right? And their medical benefits that they're gonna need once they retire. A lot of these paying people are paying taxes because they came in through visas and they have social security numbers. So if they didn't know that their parents or did not naturalize them, cuz a lot of parents got misinformation there might be technical issues. Some kids ended up in foster care adoption system or were re adopted, right?

And so there's many, many, many reasons, and it's never the fault of the kid, right? It's, it's never their fault that they didn't get citizenship. So in 2000, there was a law that was passed to make it easier. So there'd never actually been a citizenship law up until that time. And some adoptive parents really encouraged Congress to say, Hey, we're going through all of this work to do an international adoption. Can't that count for automatic citizenship for our kids? Right? Because, you know, I wasn't nationalized until I was like 14, but I was adopted at age three. And so Congress allowed for you know, this to happen, the automatic citizenship upon legal adoption, but there's no clear reason why they put in a date. They said, this is gonna apply to anyone who's an adult as of the date sorry, a minor as of the date, the enactment.

But there's no clear legislative reason why, right? And so this is kind of what happens when you leave <laugh> adoptees, you know, the people impacted out of the conversation. There wasn't really a adoptees. So this is why I love working with Adoptees for Justice, because it's adoptee led. You know, we're all educated now, right? We're we, we, you know, we can have influence now. And and so yeah, the, we, we have to fix this little technicality. The challenge is, is that was in 2000. So what happened 2001, Sept 11? So now immigration is the hot topic, right? Over the past 10 years. And then, and then a President who really made, you know immigration very difficult for, for people. And so we are caught essentially in a family issue that has an immigration technicality, right? So if you think about equal you know, equal status, you can have a biological sibling with citizenship and adopt a sibling without citizenship, that's just a fundamental violation of equal rights, you know, because of, of their parentage should establish those equal rights, but they don't.

and so, you know, we've gotta fix this, this issue, but it keeps getting stuck as an immigration issue because of the politics that are currently happening. And so that's unfortunate that they, I, I'm sure they didn't know everything that was gonna happen when they passed the law in 2000. But, but all of the stuff has happened. Life has happened. People don't live life perfectly. So if they end up in the criminal justice system, find out they don't have citizenship, they, they serve their time and then they're deported, which is cruel and unusual punishment, we don't do that to our biological kids, right? Why would we do that to our adopted children? So anyway, you, you can tell I get really angry <laugh>, like really, like it just makes no logical sense to me. And I think that's why I get so annoyed that it's taking so long for it to get fixed.

And I, you know, I have ways that I can help solve this problem. And so but I I, I certainly don't think you need to have sort of the, the, the business experience or, or connections that I do. the thing that matters to legislators let's just make this really clear, is that you are one of their constituents. They will listen to a constituent before they'll listen to me. And so if you're living in a state, you absolutely have the right to reach out to your co your Congressional district representative and your senators, and they should listen to you. Now, do they always know? But you know you still have a voice for, for these folks. And so Adoptees for Justice is happy to, if anyone wants to, to they have they'll, they'll partner with you. They'll give you the talking points. You do not need to be the expert on this. I've learned a lot going through this. I was a patent attorney, by the way, so I'm very useless when it comes to like immigration law, but I've learned a lot, and I think it's a really great learning experience for anybody who wants to, to participate.

Adapted Podcast:

Sara, you know, as you mentioned Utah's a red state, right? It's pretty Republican.

Sara Jones:

Yeah. Very conservative.

Adapted Podcast:

Yes. How do you approach your, your lawmakers, your Congressional people and, and have they and have they

Sara Jones:

Come on board? Oh yeah, they have, they have. And it's really I think, you know, when you really have the conversation, we actually all want the same thing. So Utah is actually very family friendly. So take what you know about your state and, and work it and use it, right? Utah has a history of being very welcoming to refugees. Back in the seventies, like my family actually had many southeast refugee, I had a lot of foster brothers, a lot of foster families. We've always been very welcoming to refugees, very well. we're a family first, right? We love family. We love children. We, we have one of the highest youth population in the state. And we also, this something kind of interesting about Utah, where we're a really small community, so you can actually make things happen pretty quickly. may not be the case in like California, right?

But, but in Utah. So if you kind of know where, where the starting point is and you sit down with someone and you say, you know, these are the things we care about in Utah, right? Family first, what's in the best interest of children? You know, we've always been welcoming for refugees. Did you know that there's a, did you know, there's a technicality in the law where, where children who've been adopted by Utah families actually didn't get citizenship. And they're like, what? I never knew this. So most of the issue is simply that people don't know, right? But then when you say, yeah, isn't it weird that you could be in the same family with a biological sibling and an adopted kid and the adopted child doesn't have citizenship? Isn't that weird? Don't you feel like that's wrong? They will always say yes, a hundred percent yes.

Because it is a family issue. If we believe in families and that if we believe that adoption is a viable way to bring children into a family, then you absolutely have to agree that that's wrong right now, how to get the law change is a little bit of a different situation. So once they understand the issue and they realize, oh my gosh, there's people living, oh my gosh, they don't even know, and they don't even know that, you know, they're basically having to live as a non-resident, a non, well, I guess they'd be residents, but they have to work with the immigration system as if they were immigrating to the United States, even though everyone around them is, you know, white US citizens. You know what I mean? It's a really weird, bizarre identity crisis that, that puts adoptees in, right?

Plus the immigration system's incredibly complex, and they usually don't have the money to hire a lawyer to get them through the situation. So the issue isn't, there are some adoptees that can pay a lawyer, right? So we're really talking about those who don't have the socioeconomic resources to navigate through our incredibly complex immigration system. And then even if you get that far, there's very few attorneys that actually these issues, there's very few immigration agents that actually understand this issue. So you get tossed around, right? So people don't understand these complexities of what it's, what the reality is to live in this particular situation. So getting people on board and understanding the issue is actually the really, really easy part. Once you get 'em there, then it's just a matter of partnering with them to k to kind of align it with the issues that they're, they're, they're politically that, that they believe are politically important, right?

Because anytime you're working with a politician, they're always thinking about their constituent base and what their constituent base cares about. So if your politician, if your congressperson cares about families, that's great. If they care about adoptions, there's an adoption coalition that's great. If they care about military issues, that's great, because guess what? The military was a huge source of children being adopted to the United States, right? So, so there's usually an issue that, that your congressperson has flagged as a priority that you can usually tie their support to, right? And it's really about kind of aligning those things to get them to support. Now in Utah, I mean, it is, it's not difficult. Our senators are, you know, verbally supporting. Nobody can officially support yet, right? Until they see the language of the bills that that pass. But all of my, all fork of my Congress people on the in the house have committed to support this year. So and a lot of it is that they just don't, didn't know. And you've gotta keep those communications lines open with them. So it's really mostly that they're not usually resistant. They're not, they're not fighting me on this, if that makes sense, right? But they're just, they just have to acknowledge the realities of, of how bills actually get passed in Congress. And that's where the complexities are.

Adapted Podcast:

What is the stumbling block, however, about adoptees who end up committing a crime or being convicted? you know, I hear that that is where a lot of the reluctance comes in to support the bill, is that, you know, they don't wanna be seen as, you know, giving citizenship to someone who has been convicted of a crime deported mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Yeah.

Sara Jones:

Yeah. That's, that's a great point of frustration. I think it is, again, informing legislators of the real reality. First of all, they came over as children by approval of the US Congress, Congress, the one that made it possible for them to be adopted. Okay? So this issue is a actually Congress's issue, not these adopted people's issue, right? Secondly, people are, they're, they're doing their time right? So they are, you know, with any, we believe in the United States in, you know, just punishments, is it just to have someone serve their time and then send them to a country where they have no money, no resources, no language, no culture, no family. I mean, it is just patently unjust. So I think they don't understand that that's actually what's happening. And for very, very few of these people, is it a major crime? Very few of these people, we don't send our worst serial killers in America to another country.

We, maybe we should, but I'm just <laugh> No, I'm just kidding. We stop this practice. Remember, remember we stopped this practice hundreds of years ago. The UK used to send their worst criminals to Australia. Remember, we stopped this practice hundreds of years ago, and yet we allow it for international adoptees because of the politics around immigration. That makes me super sad that we as Americans are not aligning what we, what we fundamentally believe is different about our country, and that we have fallen into you know, unfortunately political culture wars that are actually against our American principles. And I think that congressional leaders, you know, they either need to be principled <laugh>, right? But a lot of them get sucked into the cultural war. And it's nice to find the ones that do understand and want, want to really act based on the foundations of what our country was based on. But it takes a really strong leader, a really confident leader to be able to do that

Adapted Podcast:

Well. One person that comes to mind from Utah, Senator [Mitt] Romney, who is someone that has shown that he will act on principle versus party line. What has been his stance on this?

Sara Jones:

We've had really positive conversations with his office. One of the, I, I wish he was on the Judiciary committee because the way that laws get passed is really based, is really committee based, and you have to kind of really work through that the, the leadership of the particular committees. So Romney, I believe if we're able to get you know, the language that, that they can stand behind, I do believe that he'll sponsor, I, you know, I think it would be amazing to have a unanimous sponsorship by, by both senators and all four Congress and, and I mean, that would be amazing. They've done it before. They did it on the marriage respecting marriage act, right? That ha that passed this last Congress so unanimous by all congressional leaders. So they've done it before and I absolutely believe that they can do it again. They've all spoken very positively about this. and so yeah, I am, I fully expect that to happen. I do think that if other congressional leaders saw Romney sponsoring it makes a big statement for sure. And so just know that that definitely is part of my strategy. <laugh>.

Adapted Podcast:

Well, if I had a legal issue I'd want you in my corner. Sara, you're you, you'd really articulate...

Oh, you know, I'll tell you, I would want NAKASEC in my corner and here's why. and I know there's, there's always drama in the adoptee community, but I have watched how they've approached this issue and the fact that they're fighting so hard for Deportee when it's so easy to cut them out of legislation. Right? So easy. It'd be, we could have passed this years and years and years ago if we didn't care so much about the people who have been deported. And I so, so appreciate that they're always thinking about the most marginalized, and if I ever end up in that situation, I want them in my quarter. And so I've just seen that consistently over the years that I've, I've, I've been able to work with them and I really, really appreciate that, that commitment and consistency that they just don't, you know, and I, I think that's another, I think, important reason why being adoptee led is so, so critical. Cuz there's other groups working on the same issue. They're not the only one, but the other groups will, are much more easily fall into the you know what it'll, what will it take just to get it passed kind of thing, right? And adoptees for justice is like, yeah. That, that, that's not gonna work, right? Because, you know, the intent is for everyone to have a pathway not the same pathway necessarily, but for everyone to have a pathway, right? And so gosh, I don't want, I want them in my corner. So,

<laugh>, You have a husband your kids, are they in college now?

Sara Jones:

I have a 20 year old and a 16 year old kid.

Adapted Podcast:

The question I had is how did, how has your reuniting with your family and getting closer to your Korean roots and identity, how has that impacted your family and, and their identities? And I don't know if that's something you wanna go into.

Sara Jones:

Yeah, I can definitely speak to that. so one of the reasons that motivated me for really getting serious about finding my birth family was my, my kid, you know, started asking questions about my Korean side of the family. And you know, I, I, you know, every adoptee's gonna kind of follow a little bit differently on this, and I don't expect anyone to, to agree or say that I made the right decision. But for me personally, I felt a responsibility, like my, my adoption doesn't just impact me, it impacts my kids as well, right? They're also, you know, having to grow up in a state with very few racial success mirrors you know, schools that are predominantly white and dealing with their own race, right? and so I, I really felt like it could be good for, for all of us to have an experience where if I was successful in finding my birth family they could have some of those questions answered.

Amd so I felt overall it would be positive for my family. I actually didn't expect to find my birth family that quickly. I mean, you know, camie, it takes sometimes years and years and years for people. So, I mean, I am as surprised as anyone that it happened as quickly as it did. but I think it's been really good because my kids can look at, they can feel better connected to a ethnic group that before they might have just thought like, well, you know, I'm Asian, but so what? And I actually, you know, many of us grew up without pride in that, right? We felt shame, we felt discomfort. We wanted to alienate and and distance ourselves, right? My kids, I've, I've, as I've seen them over the last five years since we found my birth family, they have, you know, embraced it to whatever their comfort level is. they, they both embrace it differently, by the way. So that's been fun to see is, is how each kind of, you know, embraces their, their Korean roots. And it, I think it's been really positive. I I can grow up you know, I can sort of <laugh> see my kids growing up more confident in who they are, and that makes me really, really happy. there's probably many ways for that to happen, but that's been one really positive, I think, outcome of, of the reunification.

Adapted Podcast:

And you know, not to speak for your husband, but do you have a sense that he, he, you know, before maybe he, he had married an Asian American woman and now he had, now he's married a Korean woman. I mean, is it, is it, is it, has that kind of shifted in a way, like your own identity and

Sara Jones:

Well, so my husband actually has lived in Korea longer than I have, so he, yeah. Oh, really? My husband served in LDS [Latter Day Saints] mission in Korea in Jeonju in that, that area where I was born back in 1993 to 95. So he already spoke the language fluently and still speaks. he, you know, it, it's one of the <laugh> international cuisines that he's absolutely happy to eat. and so And

Adapted Podcast:

He's white. He he's

Sara Jones:

White, yes. Yes. My husband is white. And you know, it's, it's ironic because he was where I was born and then we ended up meeting and he ended up, you know, I was like, well, I don't know what family members you may have bumped into, who knows? But I think by then my, my father and brother had moved to Seoul. but so it's, he came back from <laugh>, his LDS mission being like, I, I cannot marry a Korean woman now. Lucky for him, I'm not actually ethnically Korean, I'm ethnically white--- culturally you know, white. And so that, that we didn't have the cultural issues. and I haven't become more Korean necessarily. I mean, we, you know, it, we will watch K dramas and I'll be jealous because he can actually understand them <laugh>, you know? And so, so we have these weird kind of nuances to our relationship because of his previous life experiences.

And so I guess he's maybe a little bit more Korean than I am who <laugh>, whatever that means. like he's the one that we were watching the Amazing Attorney Woo, and he's like, yeah, every time she does an intro, she always does a palindrome. And I was like, what? Like, I did not pick up on that. And I was like, it was like episode five before I realized like, oh my gosh, now I know the writers, I know whoever translated did their best to try to find words that were pallidromes. I get it. But I just didn't really get it. And he's like, oh yeah, all those words are pallidromes in Korean. I'm just like, I'm kind of jealous that you can pick up on those things, you know what I mean? Those nuances. And I can't, so

Adapted Podcast:

What's a palindrome?

Sara Jones:

It's where the word it, it, it starts and ends as a mirror to each other. So race car is a palindrome, R A C E C A R, cuz it, because if you spell it backwards, okay, it still spells racecar <laugh>, okay. Oh yeah, yeah, right. <laugh>. But she says in Korean pand drums. And that's, that's what I'm saying is if I listened to a, I would never have picked up that they were Korean pal drums. Right. And the fact that he understands Korean well enough that he's like, oh, those are Korean pal drums. I'm like so jealous.

Adapted Podcast:

That must have been so bizarre when you're fi you know, you're going back to your birth country for the first time or,

Sara Jones:

You know, going back to, well, I was there in 1999 for a couple months and I was doing a clerkship at a law firm, and then my then fiance, now husband came over for a week towards the end of my two year internship, or two month internship, excuse me. And that was my first time going back to Korea. and you know, it's, we'd walk around and we'd kind of notice people would talk to me in Korean and then I'd look at him, what are they saying? And then he translate and then they'd talk to me back, and then I'd look to him like, what are they saying? You know? And it was this triangle and it took like three cycles for the person to be like, wait a minute, you don't speak Korean. I'm like, yeah. Like, you know, he speaks Korean. Yeah, he's been actually talking to you in Korean. Like they, they've are like, ah, but you know, fun story. I remember going, we went shopping in, in Seong and he, we go in, of course they don't think he speaks Korean and the, he heard the shopkeeper say, charge them more because he's an American. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>

Adapted Podcast:

<laugh>.

Sara Jones:

Yep. So then we get to the checkout and he goes, yeah, I can understand what you're saying in Korean. And they were so, so embarrassed <laugh>. So it's a little bit of like a

Adapted Podcast:

Did you get a discount? Or did they charge you more?

Sara Jones:

Well, I think they had to not charge me more because they got caught. But yeah, you know, I'm, I'm kinda careful with this is again, sort of the language barrier in re reunifying with my family because I think people would assume that he's communicating with all them all the time. It's not a burden I wanna put on him. And so I've taken on like, you know, finding translators things like that. Cause that's really his job, right? And and so just trying to be mindful of, you know, not putting too much on, on him in terms of, of figuring out my relationship with my birth family. And so it's, you know, those are just the complexities of, of what it means to, to find your birth family, right? But yeah, just don't assume that he's always, you know, talking to my family in Korean. But, but they do love him and he talks to them way more than I do whenever we get together. And again, I'm jealous and it's <laugh>, you know, I'm like, oh, I wish I could really understand what they're saying.

Adapted Podcast:

No. And what, what is your preferred method? If, if somebody wanted to reach out?

Sara Jones:

Yeah. I'm always happy to chat with folks. You know, I'm not, I'm not an expert in finding birth family, so I do get some questions about, you know, that sort of thing. Rem remember I got incredibly lucky. and so I am not the expert when it comes to how to find birth family, but I'm, I'm always happy to connect with folks. It was kind of interesting, Camie, when my talk came out with TEDx Salt Lake City, lots of people commented and reached out, and then when Ted featured it, there's some weird psychological thing where people like, oh, you're on big Ted. And then it's like crickets. Like no, like I didn't get people reaching. Not that I want to be inundated, I'm just saying that there's something about, I think people may be feeling like I'm not as approachable. and so I've had like, you know I, I'm happy to just, you know, I guess be helpful.

I, I would say that probably the most useful way that I can be helpful is if people do wanna get involved with the Adoptee Citizenship Act. I think there's lots of other communities, resources where if you want to share and connect and share your experiences with other people, there's lots of of great groups that do that. and I tend to be a little bit more <laugh>, like practical minded of like, okay, how can I help you? What do you need? You know? And, and that's probably the best way I could be useful, but I'm absolutely not a therapist. I am not equipped to help anyone through their emotional traumas anything like that. I recognize I've ha I've had to get my own therapist. So I recognize that there are certain people that are trained and equipped to, to help with those journeys. So gosh, did that just make me sound not approachable, <laugh>, I am a very, I am not

Adapted Podcast:

<laugh>. What is your preferred method? If, if somebody wanted to

Sara Jones:

They can just reach me at sara@inclusionpro.com, Sara with no h and then Inclusion Pro is just all one word. That's probably just the easiest.

Adapted Podcast:

And I think this would be a a good time to also just kind of mention, because I also get reached, you know, people reach out to me for questions about birth search and you know, the truth and Reconciliation Commission and, and, and all of that. And so I think it's good to sort of just say out loud that while we are all wanting to help other adoptees, you know, sort of out of the goodness of our hearts, right? and I've certainly benefited from folks giving me advice and help, but, you know, it's good to remember that we, you know, there is a labor involved, you know, when you are helping other people. And I had, I called someone back who had contacted my work to ask, you know, they, they, they heard me on NPR and they wanted to talk about adoption and how it worked and what was wrong with the system and all of that. And it ended up being a two hour call. And while I feel for people, cuz there's a lot of people who are isolated, and it may have been the first time they heard from another adoptee talking about issues. I just think it's really important that, you know, we all do respect each other's time and, and, and labor too when we're

Sara Jones:

Asking for help. Yeah. And on that point, you know, if there's anyone that really wants to understand deeply about Adoptees for Justice or the Adoptee Citizenship Act, or if you are living without citizenship Naka Sak Adoptees for Justice are a great resource. I am not a social justice expert, if that makes sense. The folks at Adoptees for Justice have been working on this for decades, so they ha they know where to point you for resources. and, and so basically if you come to me and you don't have citizenship, I'm gonna send you right to them anyway. And maybe on that point, if they do wanna reach out to adoptees for Justice the website is adoptees for justice.org and you know, there's contact ways to contact them and things like that. And I know that they would love to hear from you if you wanna get involved in helping the legislation or if you are a impacted adoptee living without citizenship.

Adapted Podcast:

Okay. Thank you so much, Sara. I'm glad we got

Sara Jones:

So great. And I'm glad your work continues.