

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787833403321
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Titolo	The market in babies : stories of Australian adoption // Marian Quartly [and four others]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Clayton, Victoria : , : Monash University Publishing, , 2013 ©2013
ISBN	1-925377-95-4 1-921867-87-6
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (179 p.)
Collana	Australian Studies
Disciplina	362.7340994
Soggetti	Adoption - Australia - History Intercountry adoption - Australia - History Interracial adoption - Australia - History Wrongful adoption - Australia - History Australia Social conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	List of abbreviations and acronyms vi; List of illustrations vii; A note on the authors ix; A note on the use of termsx; Acknowledgementsxi Introduction1PART I: EXPERIENCE5; Chapter 1: Being adopted7; Chapter 2: The pain of mothering25; PART II: PROCESS45; Chapter 3: Making adoption safe and respectable47 Chapter 4: Speaking truth to power 74Chapter 5: The rise and fall of intercountry adoption 102; Chapter 6: New frontiers 128; Conclusion

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Sommario/riassunto

The Market in Babies tells the history of adoption in Australia from its beginnings in the 19th century to its decline at the beginning of the 21st. In the early years, supply outstripped demand; needy children were hard to place. In the mid-20th century, demand and supply grew together with adoption presented as the perfect solution to two social problems - infertility and illegitimacy. Supply declined in the 1970s, and demand turned to new global markets. Now these markets are closing, but technology provides new opportunities, and Australians are acquiring babies through the surrogacy marke