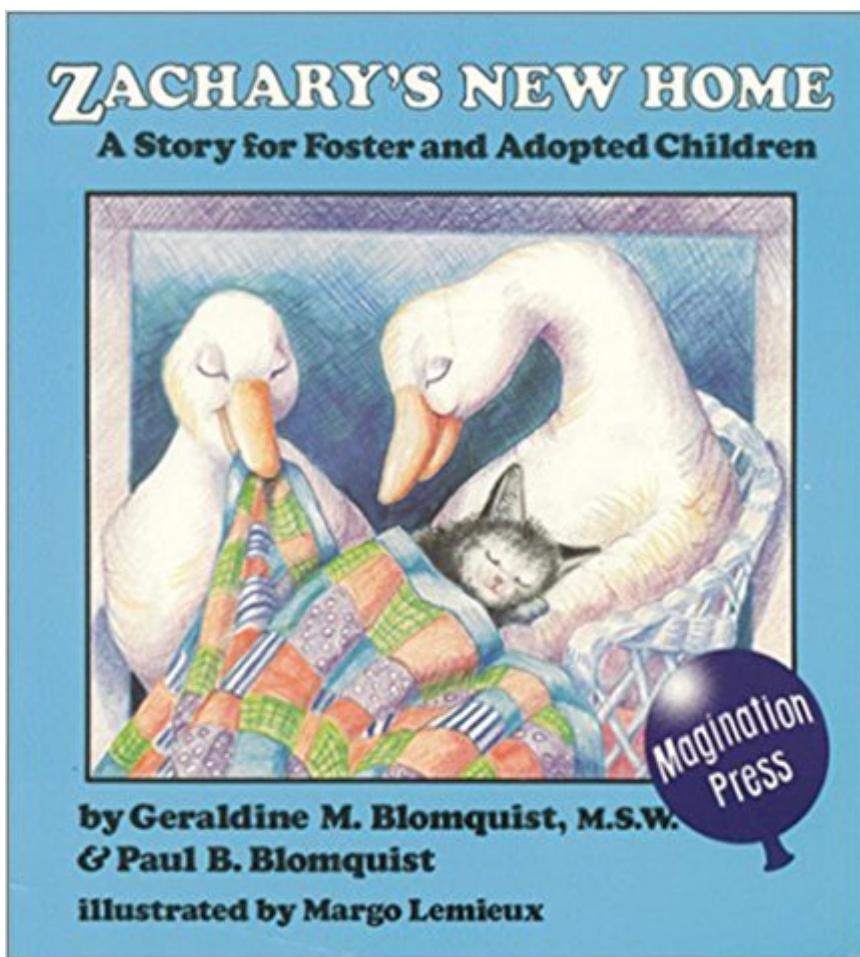


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# Zachary's New Home: A Story For Foster And Adopted Children



## **Synopsis**

This story for adopted and foster children describes the adventures of Zachary the kitten, who is taken from his mother's house when she is unable to take care of him. It follows Zachary as he goes into foster care, his adoption by a family of geese and his feelings of shame, anger and hurt.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Magination Pr; 1 edition (May 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0945354274

ISBN-13: 978-0945354277

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 7.8 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 47 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #287,153 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #126 in Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption #34800 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Special and touching...would make children going through such experiences know they are not alone and there are people who understand. -- Priority Parenting The illustrations are beautifully pencilled...the authors do a credible job of portraying the anguish and self-doubt and testing that go on when a child is...placed in a new setting. -- The Gifted Child Today

As a foster parent, I was looking for books to help explain the process for my foster kiddos. My kids are so excited to hear me read this book to them. It talks about why little Zachary was placed in foster care and how scary it is. He goes on to meet his foster parents but is not really crazy about them. The inside illustrations are all black and white. I wish they were in color, that's my only complaint. The book keeps our 3 and 7 year old's attention and I think it somehow brings them comfort.

To be honest I couldn't really connect to the story well. The illustrations weren't as interesting as

they could have been and the story is a little harsh at times (albeit realistic). We bought this with a few other foster care / adoption related books to plump up our library when we became foster parents and have realized there are a few better options out there. Maybe shop around some more before settling on this one.

This is a great book for young foster kids. I recently had a six year old placed with me temporarily. He absolutely loved this book, and asked me to read it to him every night. In fact, he identified so strongly with Zachary that I let him take the book with him when he left. So now I'm buying another copy to read to my next kiddo. My one complaint is about halfway through the book Zachary wonders what he did wrong to have to leave his home. I always add "he didn't know that it's never the child's fault that they're in foster care." I wish the author had said this more explicitly.

We are in the process of adopting our 5 year old foster. This is currently his favorite book. Well written and easy for kids to understand. The whole book is beautifully illustrated, but the owl judge I personally find kind of creepy.

This book does help talk about feelings. BUT Zachary was in one foster home, and then adopted a few months later. The intro to the book doesn't even mention the possibility of reunification and Zachary never had visitation. Seems like a great book for adoption, but an OK book for foster kids who will likely go back to biological parents.

I got this because of the good reviews, but should have read it to myself before I sat down with the kids. This book if not for a child that is young, or isn't struggling in their placement. It refers over and over to his "real" parents, he runs away, and nothing really resolves at the end! Maybe it would be fine if there was a resolution, or he at least seemed happy. And it would have been nice to address foster/adoptive situations, not just group home to new parents. I don't think that's reality for most kids. Very disappointed. Luckily we have another book that we will get at the same time that is much better.

This book has a good story and attempts to relate a very horrible experience to children. I give it 5 stars for that. I don't like how it uses the term, "real parents" in referring to Zachary's birth parents. However, I understand that as a child, that is exactly what is thought. Reading it to my adopted son and our other children as we prepare to foster in the hope of adopting again, I cringe at the term.

Our son only knows us as his parents. How do I explain "real" to him when we've been saying "first" since we started talking about it? Other than that, I think it is an okay book. Both of my older children ask to read it often. They both tend to feel sorry for "poor Zachary" -- not sure it that's a good thing or not.

Finally an adoption book for children who have experienced abuse/neglect and were adopted from the foster care system at older ages. I have worked with this population for 15 years and this is one of the children's favorite books that they ask to be read for over and over. It introduces, but doesn't go into depth or judge, topics that these children struggle with such as parental abuse/neglect and domestic violence, missing birth parents, fear/grief and adoptive parents' own feelings. After reading this book, often this leads to questions and sharing their own feelings and experiences. This along with Little Bunnies Say Goodbye to Birth Mom by Sherri Malloy PhD are two must have books for therapists working with children adopted from foster care.

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