Members of families formed through international and/or transracial adoption face regular explicit and implicit challenges to their identity as a family—“How much did you pay for the baby? or Why didn’t your real mother want you?” Adoptive mothers especially assume the discursive work of defending their relationships, defining their family as "real," and stabilizing their children’s sense of security. Mothers' stories about the exceptional and unlikely circumstances through which a child became part of the family invoke a mysterious rightness to their belonging together that trumps divisive human definitions through blood or appearance.