



THE *Infant-Parent*
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For Immediate Release

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CHAMPAIGN, IL, March 1, 2005 – The Infant-Parent Institute announces the release of *The Jonathon Letters*, a book that brings hope for parents of children with reactive attachment disorder.

“This disorder occurs in children who have suffered profound loss or abandonment, and whose brains have changed in such a way that it is difficult for them to form loving and lasting relationships,” Michael Trout explains.

“While incidence data are inconclusive, it seems clear that the population of children in foster care is shifting toward greater pathology.” Trout says. “In part, this is due to permanency planning and the push toward adoption, leaving the more disturbed, difficult-to-place children at the core of the foster care population. It is also true that the huge growth in international adoptions has increased the proportion of adoptees with traumatic histories and profound attachment disturbances.”

Trout, the director of The Infant-Parent Institute, coauthored the book with Lori Thomas, a foster/adoptive mom in Virginia. Lori and her family had cared for many children in foster care, and had adopted two, but they had never met a child like Jonathon. The story of Jonathon, and the impact of his disorder on his new family, unfolds in this exchange of letters between a determined mom and a specialist in early development who could not turn away a family so bent on breaking through to the heart of a deeply wounded boy.

“Foster and adoptive care for a child with an attachment disorder is not for every family,” Trout says.

But it was for the Thomas family. Through *The Jonathon Letters*, the reader is privy to the tremendous psychological struggles of a little boy determined not to love—or to be loved. A family that initially agreed merely to look after a little boy in temporary placement find themselves caught up in his fierce determination to take them apart, emotionally. But they begin to see hope, and refuse to let him go, eventually deciding that he belongs with them forever. Through it all, Trout, who has extensive experience working with foster and adoptive families and with attachment disorders, advises and encourages the Thomas family from halfway across the country.

“The book offers no simple solutions to those whose lives are affected by reactive attachment disorder,” Trout says. “It simply tells the tale of one family’s struggle and perseverance in digging in and holding on, of not giving up. It is a testament to this family, and a testament to hope for all families in this situation. And it is a testament to the still-surviving soul of a little boy, who slowly allowed a family to hold him.”

Continued

Parents and professionals alike can learn about the external and internal resources needed to do the things that just aren't natural—but that are necessary to help children with this disorder, Trout says.

The Jonathon Letters is available through The Infant-Parent Institute and will also be on Amazon. An audio book is also available. Editors interested in doing related articles, author interviews, or book reviews can access media resources such as author photos, book cover graphics, quotes, FAQ's, and excerpts at www.infant-parent.com/jonathon.

Title: The Jonathon Letters
By: Michael Trout and Lori Thomas
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About The Infant-Parent Institute

Founded in 1986 by Michael Trout, The Infant-Parent Institute is a private clinical practice and research and training facility dedicated to understanding the relationship between early social experiences and how our lives turn out. Nationally recognized for its training programs in clinical infant mental health, the institute has trained hundreds of clinicians from all over America in a specific method of assessment and intervention with troubled families and their babies.

Michael Trout has produced numerous book chapters and journal articles as well as 15 clinical training videos that are used by universities and clinics around the world—including four that focus on the unique perspective of babies on divorce, adoption, loss, and domestic violence.

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