

My birthday today. The best day of my life.

I haven't always enjoyed birthdays. As a child, I loved birthdays and the indulgence that came with them. Ditto most of my adult life. When I began my adoption search, the birthdays became less 'happy' and more fraught with fully realizing that my day of birth was the same day I left my birthmother. I eventually recovered from that phase and managed to regain a wholesome sense of birthday happiness. But, too soon, that happiness was followed by the feeling of advancing age and wanting to reject birthdays altogether. At that point, some birthdays were happier than others.

But today is different. Today I have received the Best Birthday Gift in the World! Today I will go to the Calais Town Clerk's office to have my good friend, the Assistant TC, notarize my application to receive my Original Birth Certificate from the State of New York!! "I have waited all my life for this day!" That's what I wrote in the 'comments' section of the application so the clerk would understand the enormity of the task they were performing.

It will take me a while to realize how this one action on this one day of my life will affect my life. A Life Event like this seeps in slowly until it pervades your entire being. I can already see signs of how positively it will affect me. A renewed sense of entitlement to just living on the planet. An enhanced sense of 'belonging' to the human race. A replay of that same feeling of connectedness I achieved in my reunion with my birthparents. I feel REAL!! I am crying with joy. Maybe ALL my birthdays from now on will be happier ones – just knowing I have my own passport to Humanity.

Marge Garfield  
E. Calais