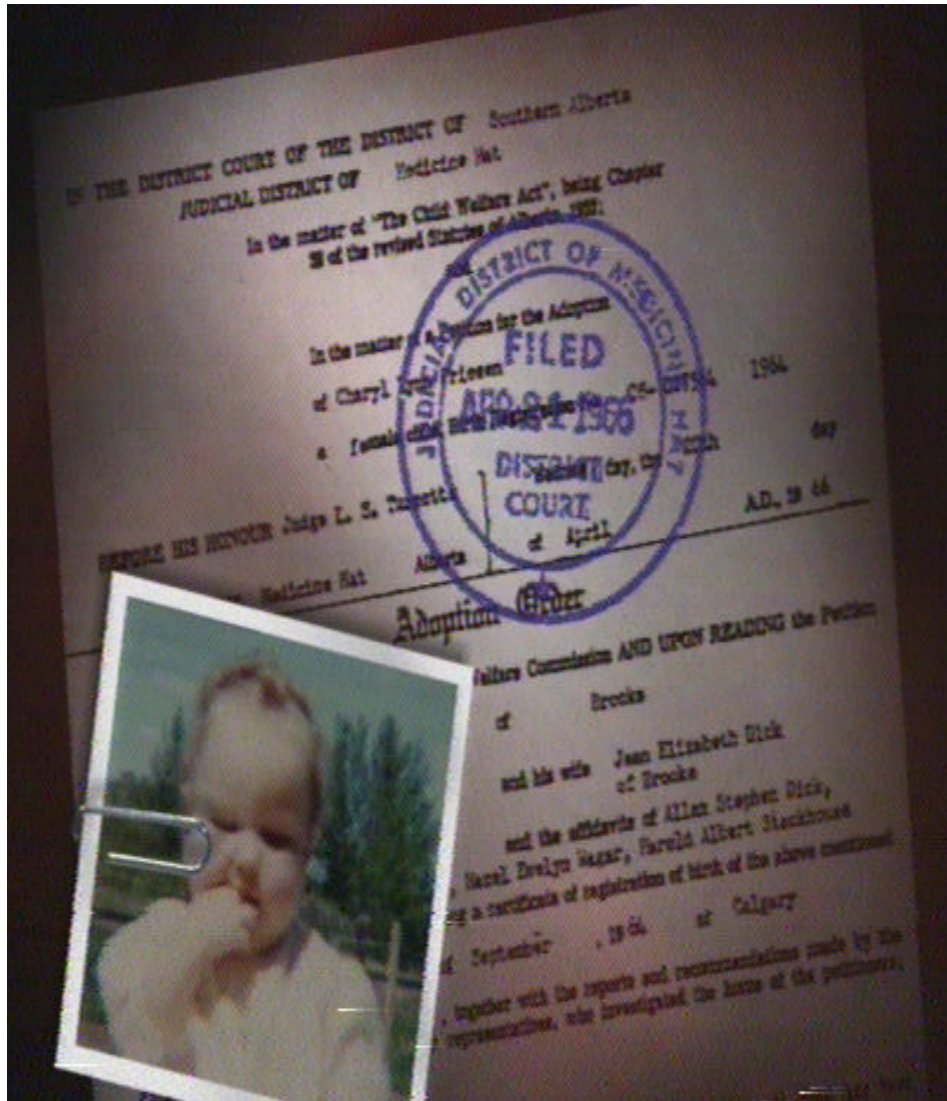


FIFTH ESTATE: DYING TO KNOW

FACTUAL



An urgent search to find out, “exactly who am I?”

SYNOPSIS

Since the days when adoption was a family secret, adoptees have struggled to discover their ancestry. But, as the FIFTH ESTATE shows, when the family inheritance includes a genetic disease, official secrecy can be downright dangerous.

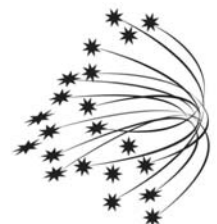
Leah Hawman’s story of regret and longing is like many other young mothers who gave their babies up for adoption. But after discovering that she had an inherited and possibly fatal kidney condition, Leah’s years of effort to get a medical warning to her 24-year-old son became urgent.

Sally King passed through the adoption system 36 years ago. She was a four-month-old baby when she became a Crown ward and the door closed on her biological family. When her own baby began having seizures, Sally’s search for her medical past became desperate. She took on the registry. With each call to them, she got madder: “I now truly, truly know...what it feels like to want to kill someone....”

Kariann, surrendered at birth to the Children’s Aid society, was always a sickly child. After having children of her own,

she was finally diagnosed with an incurable kidney disease. When she finally got her medical history, it was more than she bargained for. Kariann is now taking the CAS to court and is fighting for adoption reform.

The frustration and anger of adoptees and their genetic parents is a gripping portrait of people caught in a system designed to both protect privacy and secure the health of the individual.



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