

This may be a letter you have never imagined you would receive and it contains some news that I believe will be quite surprising for you. I hope you will find it to be exciting news in the long run, although I expect you may feel a little bit of shock when you first hear it.

I am an adopted person, born Anne Marie Welch in 1958, and for many years, I have wanted to search out some roots to help complete a part of me that felt somewhat "empty".

Several years ago, I found my birth mother, Marie, and we have been communicating by telephone and letters. She is not keen on pursuing a relationship with me for her own personal reasons, and I have done my best to respect her privacy.

However, since she is unwilling to continue communicating with me, I am somewhat stumped with my needs to know more and to "fill in the blanks" of that emptiness inside me that seems to be from "not knowing" where I come from.

I understand that Marie had a son, Donald and I am hoping you are that Donald.

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If you are, then we share the same bloodline;  
in fact, we share the same mother.

You may need to stop and take a deep breath!

Donald, I am not entering into this communication lightly. I imagine your mother would be upset if she knew that I have told you this news. She has expressed concerns that letting the "secret" out would cause others to think badly of her. This is the main reason I have not contacted you until now. However, I must look after my own emotional needs. It has been so important for me to get in touch with my roots and I am at the point where I can no longer wait to communicate.

I am praying that this news will not affect your relationship with your mother in any negative way. I feel that the pain she has suffered as a result of having had me in the first place is more than enough for her to bear. It has been so hard for her to hold this information privately for so long - love and acceptance are what she needs now.

I have a wonderful family and I am not looking to replace them in any way. In fact I will be visiting them in Ontario this July. I just want to know more about my roots, history, resemblance, stuff that most people take for granted every day. It would be so wonderful to see someone who looks like me!

I hope you are willing to communicate with me by phone, letter or email. I will be out of town on a project during the 3rd week of June but will be back on the 24<sup>th</sup> and I would love to hear from you.  
Mary Rankin