

Biography

Joi R. Fisher-Griffin is an award-winning educator, author, adoption advocate, and a question-asking person who wants to help fix systems that are not working. She is an entrepreneur who founded MindThrive Publishers and self-published her memoir, *Finding Joi: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Love*. She has a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice, a Master's in Educational Administration, and is a Doctoral Candidate in Educational Administration. Joi's family life story has changed over the past four years as an adult adoptee in reunion with her birth parents and as a newlywed. Joi enjoys community service, singing, and dancing and aspires to be a voice-over artist. Family is at the heart of everything Joi does, not only in her personal life but also in changing the mindset around adoption.

As an educator for over 25 years, it was her experiences as a child in school being accused of cheating that taught Joi the differences educators make in the lives of children. Joi's journey as an author began when she took a performing arts class, which included creative writing. There, Joi learned that she was a better writer than she thought. Through that teacher's guidance, Joi was taught to reorganize her thoughts into cohesive pieces of writing. For Joi, writing is a release of all the things going on in her mind.

However, it was after taking part in a life-changing full group conversation with adoptees, adopted parents, and birth parents at the age of 46 that Joi knew that she wanted to become a strong advocate for adoptive and foster families and normalize the conversation about adoption.

Joi wants to bring awareness to the hidden impact of adoption, foster care, abandonment, and trauma. She is on a mission to heal hearts, bridge gaps, help people find their community, identify resources, and erase adoption shame.

To fulfill this goal, Joi created “The Belong Project”, an adoption awareness campaign that strives for every adoptee to reach their full potential, to be whole and healed, and to have pride in their adoption story.

This has also influenced her work with young people. Joi saw the need for stories that adopted children could relate to. She is the author of two best-selling children’s adoption books *Choosing Joi: An Adoptee’s Journey and Finding Belonging* and *Singing with Joi: There Are Lots of Different Ways to Be a Family*. These books are a part of normalizing conversations around adoption. Stop Whispering... Let's Talk Adoption. Joi’s aim is to create moments of connection for others and give a true voice to adoptees' experiences.