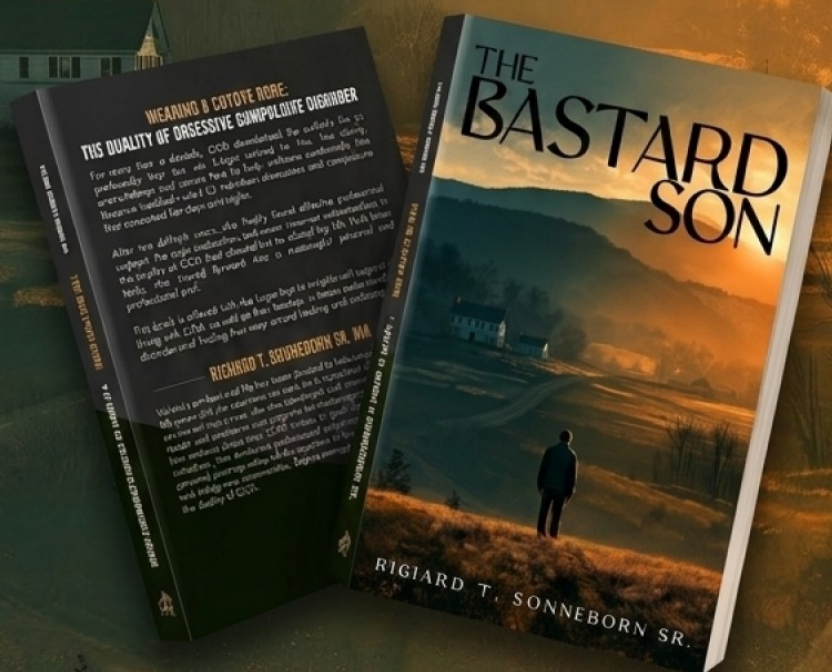


"The Bastard Son" Coming September 17, 2026: An Adopted Child's Lifelong Search for Identity, Family, and Truth

Richard T. Sonneborn Sr. Unveils Raw, Honest Autobiography About Growing Up Adopted, Military Service, Family Betrayal, and Finding Biological Mother—A Journey of Resilience, Identity, and Answers

“BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK. RAISED BY PARENTS WHO WEREN'T HIS OWN. SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH.”

The raw, unflinching memoir of Richard T. Sonneborn Sr.'s lifetime of feeling like an outsider, and the 87-year-old woman who finally confirmed the truth.



Discover a masterpiece in belonging.
Read Richard T. Sonneborn Sr.'s Powerful Memoir Today.



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Austin, Texas Sep 15, 2026 (IssueWire.com) - "[The Bastard Son](#)": Powerful Memoir of Adoption, Family Secrets, and the Search for Identity Coming September 17, 2026—A Candid, Moving Autobiography from Birth (April 1954) Through Discovery of Biological Family

Adopted child turned author transforms lifelong quest for answers into unflinching memoir revealing family secrets, identity struggles, and the profound moment of meeting biological mother after decades of searching

["The Bastard Son"](#) by Richard T. Sonneborn Sr. launches September 17, 2026, on Amazon in Kindle and paperback formats. This raw, honest autobiography chronicles 72 years of lived experience—from adoption and childhood through military service, marriages, family conflict, and the transformative discovery of biological family. Written with unflinching vulnerability, this is the story of a man searching for answers to fundamental questions of identity and belonging that haunt every adopted child.

At age 11, Richard Sonneborn's world changed forever when his adoptive parents revealed that he and his sister Linda had been adopted—a secret kept since infancy. This revelation opened an emotional chasm that would shape his entire life. Diane, his younger biological sister, became the obvious favorite, treated differently by parents who finally had a "biological" child after adopting two. Richard's autobiography doesn't shy away from the pain, confusion, and resentment that followed this discovery.

From small-town childhood in Long Island, New York, to military service and personal struggles with addiction, marriage, and loss, Sonneborn's memoir is an unvarnished account of growing up as an "adopted bastard" in an American family where bloodline mattered more than years of love and care. But this is not a story of victimhood. It is a story of resilience, of continued searching despite decades of unanswered questions, and ultimately, of the powerful moment when Richard finally met his biological mother—and found answers.

A Life Shaped by Family Secrets

[The Bastard Son](#) begins with deceptive normalcy. Richard Sonneborn had a mother, a father, siblings, and a comfortable middle-class life in 1950s Long Island. Yet beneath this veneer of American family life was a truth that would haunt him: he didn't belong. Not by blood. Not to the family that raised him.

His sister Linda struggled with drugs in her teenage years, ultimately joining the military to escape family dysfunction. His sister Diane, born in May 1960 after doctors said his parents couldn't conceive, became the golden child—the biological daughter who made their "real" family complete. Meanwhile, Richard and Linda existed in the shadows of parental favoritism and unspoken resentment.

As Sonneborn grew older, he noticed how Diane was consistently prioritized, protected, and celebrated in ways he and Linda were not. He understood—perhaps too well—what it meant to be the "bastard" in a family obsessed with bloodline. The adoption revelation at age 11 didn't clarify the confusion; it deepened it. His adoptive father provided satisfactory answers at the time, but childhood reassurance couldn't address the fundamental existential question: Who am I? Where do I come from? And why do I matter less than my biological sister?

From Military Service to Personal Reckoning

Following his sister Linda's footsteps into the military, Richard Sonneborn served his country while carrying the unresolved trauma of adoption and family rejection. Military life offered structure, discipline, and temporary escape from his emotional turmoil, but it couldn't address the underlying wound: the gnawing question of biological identity.

His marriage experiences reflected his internal chaos. Attempts at building family and belonging repeatedly failed, complicated by unprocessed trauma from his adoptive family and unmet psychological needs rooted in early abandonment. Loss followed—his adoptive parents' passing, his sister Diane's death—each loss crystallizing the urgency of finding his biological family before time ran out.

The Search: Decades of Seeking Answers

What makes [Sonneborn's autobiography](#) unique is its honest documentation of the adoption search itself. With support from his wife Karen and her sister Katrina—who conducted extensive web research—Richard began the painstaking process of uncovering his biological origins. This wasn't a quick, Hollywood-style reunion. It was years of searching, false leads, hope, disappointment, and relentless persistence.

The Bastard Son captures both the practical details of ancestry research and the emotional rollercoaster of seeking family you've never met. What happens when you finally find your biological mother? What does reunion feel like when you've spent 60+ years wondering if she thought about you, wanted you, or abandoned you by choice?

Finding "Mom": The Moment Everything Changed

After decades of searching, Richard finally located his biological mother—known as "AQ" in family terms—and met his biological family. This moment, described with raw emotion in the memoir, represents the culmination of his lifetime journey. But it also raises new questions: Can a reunion heal decades of abandonment? Can finding biological family answer the existential questions adoption creates? Does meeting your biological mother at 60+ years old fulfill the longing that began at birth?

Sonneborn's answer is complex and deeply human. The reunion provides answers, yes. It provides connection, family, and some peace. But it also demands a reckoning with the 60+ years lived as "the bastard son"—the child society deemed less valuable because he lacked biological connection to his adoptive family.

For Readers Seeking Truth About Adoption, Family, and Identity

The Bastard Son speaks to multiple audiences with distinct needs. For adopted children and adults seeking their biological families, this is validation that your search matters, your questions are legitimate, and your journey—however painful—is meaningful. For adoptive families, this is a candid examination of how adoption affects identity and belonging, written without bitterness but with unflinching honesty about the emotional complexity of being "chosen" versus "natural-born."

For anyone interested in American family dynamics, generational trauma, and personal resilience, Sonneborn's memoir provides a window into lived experience. His story spans 72 years of American history—from 1954 childhood through present day—documenting changing social attitudes toward adoption, marriage, military service, and what it means to belong.

This autobiography is essential for: Adopted individuals searching for biological family | Adult children reconsidering adoption narratives | Adoptive parents seeking to understand adopted children's perspectives | Readers interested in memoir, autobiography, and life stories | Those exploring family dynamics, identity, and belonging | Military families and veteran communities | Anyone interested in genealogy, ancestry research, and biological discovery | Book clubs seeking conversations about family structure and social belonging | Therapists and counselors working with adoption-related trauma

Published by [Div Books Publishers](#)

The Bastard Son is published by Div Books Publishers (divbooks.com), dedicated to bringing authentic voices and transformative personal stories to readers seeking truth, resilience, and human connection. The publisher's philosophy—"Your Story, Our Experience—The Perfect Recipe to Be the Next Bestseller"—reflects commitment to supporting authors whose lived experience offers genuine insight into the human condition.

Pre-Order Now: Available September 17, 2026

The Bastard Son launches September 17, 2026, on Amazon in Kindle (digital) and Paperback (print) formats. Readers can begin pre-orders immediately through Amazon, with delivery on release date. Position yourself now to receive this powerful memoir when it becomes available.

For readers searching for authentic adoption memoirs, family histories, identity narratives, and personal transformation stories, mark September 17, 2026, on your calendar. The Bastard Son is the story you've been waiting for—honest, powerful, and undeniably human.



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