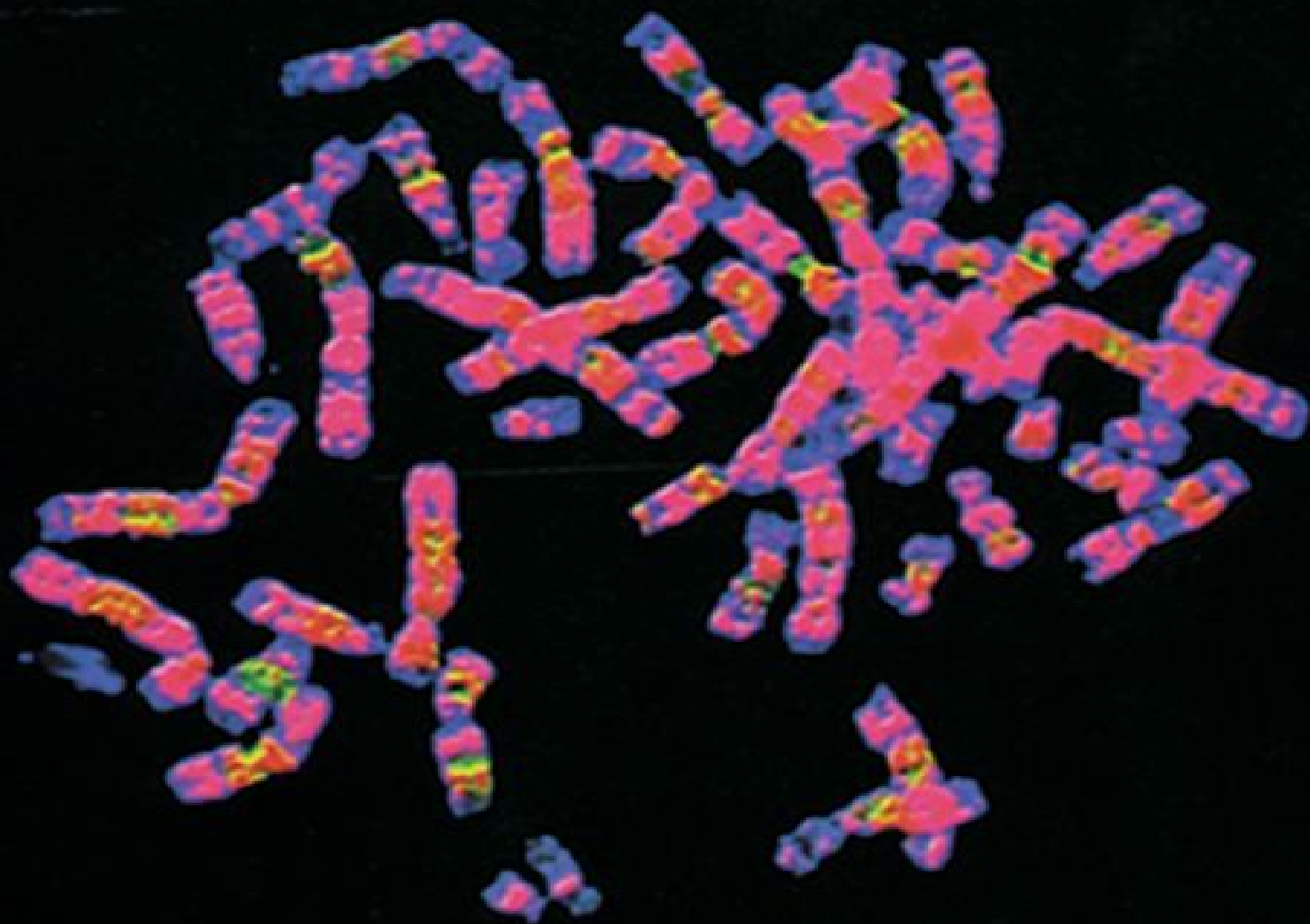


THE ADOPTION PAPERS



Jackie Kay

JACKIE KAY

THE ADOPTION PAPERS

Forward Prize for Best First Collection

‘Jackie Kay tells the story of a black girl’s adoption by a white Scottish couple – from three different viewpoints: the mother, the birth mother and the daughter. This unique and honest volume of poems has been adapted for radio. Also included in the book are new poems reflecting issues of sexuality, Scottishness and being working-class’ – *Spare Rib*

‘Jackie Kay has been gathering a reputation for a few years as an outstanding young talent in British poetry and playwriting... *The Adoption Papers* could well become a key work of feminism in action...a wonderfully spirited, tender and crafted contribution to Scottish writing, to black writing, and to the poetry of our time. It is a work of the utmost generosity and truth’

– ALASTAIR NIVEN, *Poetry Review*

‘These are brave, honest, unsentimental poems... Kay’s poetry can be loud with pain and rage, but sometimes it’s as though she whispers too, entering dreams, allowing herself a delicate imagery... This book is full of fresh, remarkable poetry; its rhythms sing from the page, demanding to be heard’

– ELIZABETH BURNS, *The Scotsman*

‘Warm, tough, painful and often very funny poems’

– FLEUR ADCOCK, *Sunday Times*

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For my mother, Helen Kay

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Acknowledgements

A dramatisation of *The Adoption Papers* was broadcast in BBC Radio 3's *Drama Now* series in August 1990. Poems from this book have also been broadcast on *The Bandung File* (Channel 4), *Wordworks* (Tyne Tees Television), *New Voices* (BBC Radio 3), *Kaleidoscope* and *Time for Verse* (BBC Radio 4), and on the Open University programme *Literature in the Modern World* (BBC 2). Some of these poems were included in a collection for which Jackie Kay won an Eric Gregory Award in 1991, and some in a pamphlet, *That Distance Apart* (Turret Books, 1991).

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