

Adopting America: Adoption as an Entrée to the Immigrant Experience in Anne Tyler *Digging to America* and Gish Jen's *Love Wife*

Martha Satz

Two very recent novels Anne Tyler's *Digging to America* and Gish Jen's *Love Wife* incorporate foreign adoption in an immigrant family as a means of exploring identity, multi-culturalism, and the American experience. These novels explode the binary of the adopted child representing "the other" as opposed to native or natural. often present in portrayals of foreign adoptions. In contrast, in these novels, the adopted child appears as a point on a continuum that ranges from native to foreign. However, in both novels the notions of foreign and native as well as biological and adopted become suspect. Identity politics, essentialism, American are all questioned and the notion of adoption is revealed like the others to be artifice.