



# This Woman Risked Her Life to Adopt a Child

She was trained to control deadly epidemics.  
They never taught her how to survive a civil war!

Interview this remarkable guest to learn about how she battled meningitis outbreaks, survived stray bullets, and braved opposing armies in Ethiopia to bring home her daughter. If you loved *Not Without My Daughter* or *A Long Way Home*, you will be captivated by this heartwarming true story.

## Story Ideas

- One Mother’s Inspiring Story of Adopting Against All Odds
- This Inspirational Adoption Story is Perfect for Valentine’s Day
- If You Had the Training, Would You Enter a War Zone to Rescue a Child Caught in the Cross Fire?
- How African American Doctors Have Changed the World
- Infectious Disease Doctor Skewers the Anti-Vaccine Movement
- Wander Often, Wonder Always – What Traveling to 97 Countries & Territories Taught Me
- What’s It Like to Work for the World Health Organization?
- Munitions Explosions, Rebel Militias and Motherhood — There is Never a “Right Time” to Become a Parent
- This African American Physician Helped Eradicate Smallpox in India

### DR. CORNELIA E. DAVIS,

known as Connie, is an author, speaker, renowned epidemiologist and disease detective. Sent by the World Health Organization (WHO) to Ethiopia in 1990, she was caught up in the civil war and stayed behind as Acting Director of the WHO EPR Centre when UN staff were evacuated. A series of events led her to a three-month-old infant found on the steps of St. George’s Cathedral. She described this exciting adventure and her adoption journey in her new memoir, *Three Years in Ethiopia*.

Connie was one of the first black women admitted to the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine in 1968. She earned her MPH degree from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. After working in the hugely successful Smallpox Eradication Program in India, which inspired her first book, *Searching for Sitala Mata*, she battled disease outbreaks in Africa and Asia for WHO and USAID for the next 30 years. An intrepid world traveler, she has worked in or traveled to 97 countries and territories. She lives near Guadalajara, Mexico.

“I was living in Ethiopia working with WHO the year before the rebels moved into Addis Ababa. Dr. Connie captures that slice of history through the lens of finding her daughter. **A story of courage, faith and destiny that I could not put down.**”

—CAROL LARIVÉE,  
Global Health Consultant



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