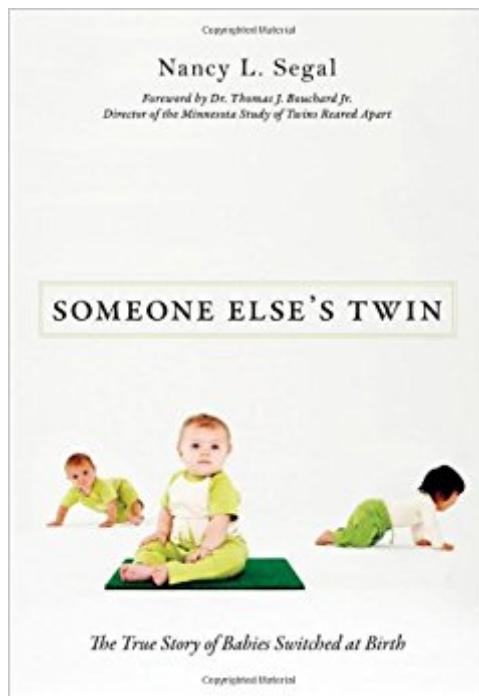


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# Someone Else's Twin: The True Story Of Babies Switched At Birth



## **Synopsis**

The combination of a riveting true story and cutting-edge twin research makes this book an irresistible page-turner. Identical twins Begoña and Delia were born thirty-eight years ago in Spain's Canary Islands. Due to chaotic conditions at the hospital or simple human error, the unthinkable happened: Delia was unintentionally switched with another infant in the baby nursery. This fascinating story describes in vivid detail the consequences of this unintentional separation of identical twin sisters. The author considers not only the effects on these particular sisters, but the important implications of this and similar cases for questions concerning identity, familial bonds, nature-nurture, and the law.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Insightful . . . with a solid mix of clinical observations . . . and compassionate reflections[,] Segal assesses complex legal, moral, and ethical questions." --Publishers Weekly "On its face Someone Else's Twin is a gifted researcher's exploration of the moral and legal crises that resulted when a hospital failed at a routine task and switched twins at birth, denying them each other. But the book is also a profound and heartbreaking mystery story that confronts the issue of personal identity and provides answers to questions that have stumped us all: Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going?" --John Ed Bradley, author of *Tupelo Nights* and *Restoration* "With the frequency of twinning almost doubling in the last thirty years, Segal's thorough yet affecting work serves as a modern window into nature versus nurture and the wrenching consequences of inadvertently

twisted family ties. In some cases, the black sheep of a family is not a black sheep at all, just a misplaced one." --Preston Williams, Washington Post staff writer "As an identical twin, Someone Else's Twin is a very personal story for me. I was struck by how Nancy Segal so poignantly portrayed the plight of twins switched at birth. It's beyond belief to me that the closeness I've come to share with my twin sister might never have been possible had this kind of switch happened to us. Truly a nightmare. Segal's attention to detail and professional and personal insight make this a fascinating read." --Nancy Stern Winters, Lookalike Productions "Nancy Segal introduces the reader to a thought-provoking examination of who we are as individuals, demonstrating how easily that can all change through the carelessness of another. As a parent of monozygotic twins, and as a volunteer dedicated to improving the lives of multiple-birth individuals and their families, it is heartbreaking and overwhelmingly sad to see the long-term impact a mistake at birth can have on the lives and relationships of everyone involved." --Kimberley Weatherall, Chair, International Council of Multiple Birth Organizations (ICOMBO); acting executive director, Multiple Births Canada (MBC)"Noted twin-study expert Segal... doubles the fascination with switched-at-birth twin research... Segal's study of switched-at-birth twins reveals much insight into the nature-vs.-nurture paradigm... An expert glimpse into the many-faceted world of genetics, family culture and identity." --Kirkus Reviews 'Segal writes clearly and passionately, and yet she rarely strays from the precise language of a social scientist. The result is an engaging narrative intertwined with a careful attempt to draw sound conclusions from the facts... The book has much to tell us about the ways in which genes, environments and their interactions shape who we are.' --Wall Street Journal (WSJ.com, Bookshelf) Sept 14, 2011

Nancy L. Segal, PhD, is a professor in the department of psychology at California State University, Fullerton, and the director of the Twin Studies Center, which she founded in 1991. She is the author of *Indivisible by Two: Lives of Extraordinary Twins*; *Entwined Lives: Twins and What They Tell Us about Human Behavior*; and *Born Togetherâ “Reared Apart: The Landmark Minnesota Twin Study*. She is also the senior editor of *Uniting Psychology and Biology: Integrative Perspectives on Human Development*.

As an adopted child, I'm extremely interested in the topic, yet Ms. Segal's dry style and repetitiveness of the information in the book bored me. In the hands of a more creative writer, the stories would've been more suspenseful and enjoyable to read. Ms. Segal spent too much time on the setup, on how she'd gotten to Canary Islands, on how wonderful her translator was, e.t.c. The

speech of the family members involved in the switch sounded as if they had a Ph.D. instead of being cooks and dishwashers; it lacked authenticity. If you're not an academic, skip this book. If you are, I can't give you advice.

I learned a lot.

I chose one star because zero stars was not an option. While the subject has internet this was so poorly written that one wonders why it was published and if there were any editors involved.

Top twins researcher, Nancy Segal, has, once again, managed to find the incredible drama and suspense in true twins stories. As an identical twin myself, and a journalist who recently explored the intensity and complexity of being born double, I found "Someone Else's Twin" riveting from start to finish. Segal simply has no peer when it comes to a command of multiple human beings in the world. I can't recommend it more highly. - Abigail Pogrebin, author of "One and the Same: My Life as an Identical Twin and What I've Learned about Everyone's Struggle to be Singular."

I am so disappointed in this book. I thought it was a story from the real life experiences of this tragic event. This is a very poorly written document that does not bridge the gap between a research paper and a non-fiction story. Not only would I not recommend reading it. I will be telling people what a waste of time and money it is to purchase.

Absolutely boring and very disappointing, roll not be finishing

This book is one of the worst I have ever read, you don't learn anything interesting about twins switched at birth ... save your money!!!

Author Segal, herself a twin and also an expert on twin research, covers the story of twins Begona and Delia. Delia was unintentionally switched with another infant at the hospital, and the error was not realized until 28 years later when one of the twins was confused for the other at a clothing store. This, per the author, is only the seventh time this is known to have happened, and makes for an interesting story and research situation. The 'bad news,' is that author Segal devotes large portions of the book to trivia of interest to no one - amazing since she is a PhD researcher and obviously knows better. Identical twins share 100% of their genes; however, errors in cell divisions make them

not totally identical, though as close as possible to human clones. Fraternal twins share half their genes, on average, the equivalent of 'normal' siblings. The Western nation twinning rate is about one in thirty, up from one in sixty in 1980. The increase is mostly due to the advent of artificial insemination. Studies show that the resemblance between identical twins raised apart (MTA) vs. those raised together (MTT) is quite similar and that twins treated alike are not more behaviorally alike than those treated differently. Segal reports the correlation in IQs for MTA twins is .73, vs. .86 for MTT twins, meaning environmental differences account for just 21% of the IQ variation in MTA pairs. (This is consistent with most other research and a major contradiction to those contending that improving environment/education would substantially improve society's children, while consistent with the failure of No Child Left Behind and countless other remedial education programs.) The bulk of 'Someone Else's Twin' is taken up with anecdotal accounts of various accidental twin separations and reunifications, including that of Begona and Delia, as well as the subsequent legal cases.

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