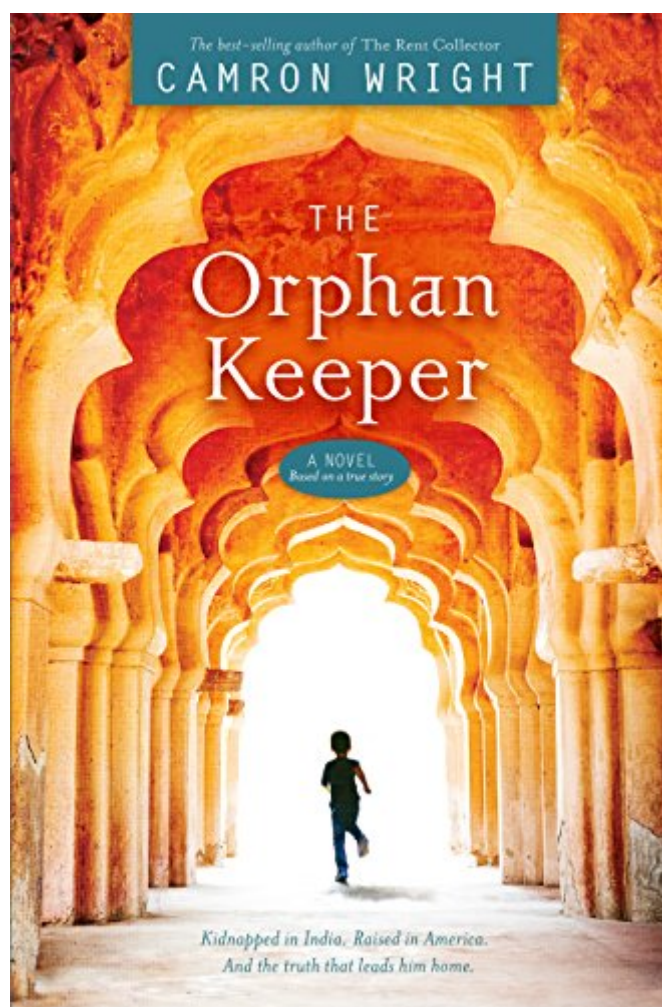


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# The Orphan Keeper



## Synopsis

Based on a remarkable true story of Taj Rowland. Seven-year-old Chellamuthu's life is forever changed when he is kidnapped from his village in India, sold to a Christian orphanage, and then adopted by an unsuspecting couple in the United States. It takes months before the boy can speak enough English to tell his parents that he already has a family back in India. Horrified, they try their best to track down his Indian family, but all avenues lead to dead ends. Meanwhile, they simply love him, change his name to Taj, enroll him in school, make him part of their family--and his story might have ended there had it not been for the pestering questions in his head: Who am I? Why was I taken? How do I get home? More than a decade later, Taj meets Priya, a girl from southern India with surprising ties to his past. Is she the key to unveil the secrets of his childhood or is it too late? And if he does make it back to India, how will he find his family with so few clues? From the best-selling author of *The Rent Collector*, this is a deeply moving and gripping journey of discovering one's self and the unbreakable family bonds that connect us forever.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Well, I cried. Can't I read a book without crying! It was a good cry at the end though. Chellamuthu

(Taj Khyber Rowland) was kidnapped as a child in India, taken to the Lincoln Home for Homeless Children and sold to people in America. The story starts out telling of Chellamuthu's life in India. The life he led with his family, the daily things he did, stealing and what not. He had a brother and a very kind mother, a father that was a drinker. He had friends. But one day when he was out with his father, he was taken. He ended up in the orphanage and we get to hear this story while he was there. He did escape once but came back with medicine for a sick child and I thought that was so brave of him. He made friends with other children in the orphanage and was so very sad to leave everyone and knowing he had a family out there. Chellamuthu was adopted/purchased by a loving family that had no idea he wasn't really an orphan until he was a little older. He had to learn to speak English and everything really. Linda and Fred Rowland were wonderful parents and did everything they could for all of their children. In the author's note at the end, he tells some things that had to get edited out of the book and it was interesting to learn those things as well. Chellamuthu's name was changed to Taj Khyber Rowland. He did really good in school and things with his mom's help. He was in wrestling and when he told his mom that he wanted to send the picture to his family in India, they realized he wasn't an orphan. It's really sad. When Taj gets older he meets a guy named Daniel who has a sister who would be Taj's future wife. Her name is Priya and it gave me chills because her father had some things to do with Taj's life at the orphanage.

• The Orphan Keeper •, written by Camron Wright is actually based on a true story. This book is set in Erode, India in 1978. Chellamuthu and his family live in a hut, a hovel really. His mother and father and siblings live in the one room. Kuppaswami, his father, is a hard man, given to drink, and not able to provide much for his family. Arayi, Chellamuthu's mother, works at a textile factory, which leaves the children home alone for most of the day. Chellamuthu is constantly getting into trouble, running with the wrong crowd, and being generally mischievous. He is only seven years old. One day, he goes with his father to the marketplace and is told to wait outside the building. Of course, he sees friends and decides to see what they are up to. His friends lure him to a waiting van, and throw him inside as the van speeds away. He is scared but notices other children in this van. He is taken to the Lincoln Home for Homeless Children, actually sold to the orphan home. Even though he tells those in charge that he has a family and was taken, they do not try to find them. What follows is the tale of Chellamuthu, his adoption by an American family and his struggle to fit in. His parents change his name to Taj, hoping this will help him adapt better. Meanwhile, his family in India searches every day until they exhaust all avenues and have to give

up. Taj wants to go home, but after ten years gives up. After he marries his Indian wife and meets an Indian family, they help him discover the truth of his past. It seems hopeless as they try to find the area from which he was taken and then to trace his actual home. When he actually does find his mother, father and siblings, it is an unbelievable reunion. Eventually both families meet and now Taj has two families.

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