



Linda Hoffman and Harriet Carter learned that they were siblings when they both signed up for Ancestry.com, and then they took DNA tests.

Nearly two years **in the making**, the first face-to-face encounter finally happened, and the two sisters have been talking on the phone nearly every day since they found out that they were related. The sisters later learned that their parents gave up Carter for adoption shortly after birth, when they were just 18 years old. Both parents died decades ago, taking the secret with them.

76-year-old Carter and 73-year-old Hoffman lived in different US states, and they weren't able to meet earlier due to the pandemic. Last week, they finally met when Carter arrived in Denver, Colorado, from Sacramento, California.

Even before leaving the airport, the two sisters looked at some of Hoffman's old photos, providing an idea of missed memories. However, it's not the time missed that they **dwell** on. Instead, the women choose to **cherish** the time that they have, saying that they found each other when they were supposed to.

Difficult words: **in the making** (in the process of developing or being made), **dwell** (to live or continue in a given condition or state), **cherish** (to protect and care for something deeply).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *in the making, dwell and cherish*
2. How did Linda Hoffman and Harriet Carter learn that they were siblings?
3. How long did the two sisters wait until they finally got to see each other since they knew they were related?
3. Why did it take long for the two sisters to have their first face-to-face encounter to happen?
4. Why was Harriet Carter given up for adoption by her parents?
5. Instead of dwelling on the missed time, what do the two women choose to do with the remaining time they have together as sisters?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Have you ever signed up for a website where you could find out about your long-lost relatives or learn more about your family?
2. What do you think of parents/couples who give up their children for adoption?
3. Do you know anyone who was adopted or anyone who adopted a child/children?
If yes, what kind of life do they have now?
4. If you learned that you were adopted, how would you feel and what would you do?