John le Carré Circus Jargon Rudy Owens Adoption Jargon January 20, 2024 / www.howluckyuare.com By Rudy Owens, MA, MPH, Adoptee and Author

Tradecraft Term	Definition	Adoption Term	Definition
Agent	An external, freelance person recruited to provide information and services; Circus staff are referred to as intelligence officers.	Adoptee	A person severed from their family, kin, and/or country and raised by parents and guardians biologically unrelated to them or raised outside of their immediate family by other relatives. They are recruited from early age to assume an identity that is not their own, for a life a service, navigating a world of deception and lies for decades, often without any parties aware of their dual identities and rival allegiances.
Burrowers	Circus researchers, usually academics recruited from universities.	Adoption Specialists, Adoption Experts	Academics or those with senior manager roles in agencies that facilitate and promote adoption; they often provide respectability to outsiders and the media. Occasional adoptees enter the profession, for career advancement and financial reasons, and some adoptees serve as board members of adoption agencies to promote "inclusion" and whitewash adoption agency practices.
Circus	The in-house name for MI6, the SIS (Secret Intelligence Service) which collects foreign intelligence. "Circus" refers to the SIS's London locale at Cambridge Circus.	State Health Agency	The agencies have different names state by state, but they provide public health respectability to family separation, the necessary paperwork, false identities, hidden records and records systems, and secrecy measures to withhold identities of the adoptees (eg, agents), forced into the service (eg, adoption system). Frequently they are simply called vital records.
The Competition	MI5, the internal UK counter-espionage and counter-terrorism	Adoption Agencies	These are the many entities, reportedly nonprofit but who operate openly in commerce, who do the actual dirty work of lining up buyers/acquirers of infants, from "orphanages" and adoption agencies

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	security service, whom the Circus often calls "The Security Mob."		overseas or domestically from vulnerable women, who serve on the front lines of the lucrative marketplace in persons.
The Cousins	The CIA in particular, and US intelligences services in general.	Foster System	This is a parallel and large state-level adoption system, promoted by states and a host of intermediaries, who transfer legal guardianship of older kids and teens to parents, who are subsidized by the state per child.
Ferrets	Technicians responsible for finding and removing hidden microphones, cameras and other surveillance devices.	Angry Adoptees (sometimes Bastards)	These are adoptees, who tend to be middle-age and older, who have taken on self-appointed roles of explaining publicly the tricks and lies of adoption tradecraft. They are frequently labeled as treasonous or traitors. Adoptees who take on this task resemble the moles who come out of hiding, and then expose the deception, secrecies, and lies they were enlisted to support when recruited as infants or young children.
Moles	A double agent who betrays their country while gathering intelligence for a foreign intelligence service.		Angry adoptees may also be adoptees who do not support other adoptee groups or "thought leaders" or who don't make public statements that align with trending adoptee advocacy ideas found in published writing and social media. They are often perceived as disloyal to the noble "rebellious cause," but still are not quite traitors.
Housekeepers	Internal auditors and disciplinary staff of the Circus.	Happy Adoptees	These are adoptees who are compelled, often by public pressure or family dynamics, to promote a positive PR brand for adoption. Some even turn this work into professional consulting work and PR work to attract media attention and become recognized "adoption specialists." The label is given by those who are not adopted.
Janitors	Operations staff	Adoptee Social Media	This is where the bulk of chattering takes place among adoptees that is both productive and therapeutic, but also a giant time waste and even negative place at times.
Lamplighters	Control surveillance and couriers.	Social Workers	State, government, and nonprofit workers, mostly women, who had larger roles in the boom adoption years of the 1940s through 1970s,

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Babysitters	Bodyguards		but who are key facilitators of adoption services supporting the needs of state health agencies and adoption agencies, "matching" the adoptee to adopters/families. They also work for government bodies to put kids "legally separated from their parents" into adoptive homes (the enforcers in the "child welfare system").
Mothers	Secretaries and trusted typists serving the head of the Circus.	Birth Mothers	The term is disputed. Some also say "natural mothers" or "biological mothers," but all are women who gave birth to a child separated from them by the adoption system.
Nuts and Bolts Shoemakers Wranglers	Engineers who develop and manufacture espionage devices. Circus forgers Radio signal analysts and cryptographers; the name derives from Wrangler maths students.	State Registrars	These state employees, usually within public health divisions in state health agencies, are legally empowered to formalize state and federal laws allowing for adoptees to undergo identity changes to enter the service of adoption with new families. The new papers resemble the original vital records, but are not true birth certificates.
Pavement Artists	Circus officers responsible for covert street surveillance.	Crisis Pregnancy Centers	Politically and religiously motivated facilities for at-risk women, supported by anti-adoption groups, that aggressively seek out vulnerable single and usually younger mothers who may not be able raise a child, usually because of poverty and the absence of support systems, and who do not want to have an abortion.
Scalphunters	Section responsible for assassinations, counter- espionage, burglaries,	Adoption Industrial Complex	This constellation of influential and politically connected power groups who work to shape laws, policies, funding, and national branding that ensures the supply of adoptees can meet market demand. This includes the National Council for Adoption that lobbies to boost adoption numbers at home and internationally, the ascending and predatory Safe Haven Baby Boxes organization promoting baby

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	kidnappings and other aggressive measures, that was sidelined after Control's dismissal.	Adoption Lawyers	dumpsters nationally, groups affiliated with the Catholic Church who lobby against adoption reform, and media actors who profit by selling the adoption myth in many media, stories, and films. Technically both major U.S. political parties are found within this big tent. Those who specialize in selling legal services that help to secure the severance of a child from its family, kin system, culture, and even country to the adoption system—all for profit, and lots of it. They play critical roles in greasing the skids with intercountry adoption in countries where laws have been documented globally as being skirted. Some practitioners in the USA boast of having facilitated hundreds of such transactions for human beings.