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Steve Jobs – The Movie (2015)

A Review by Ellen Singer

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Since Steve Jobs' death in 2011, an autobiography has been written and several motion pictures have been released, chronicling his life and his impact. Most recently, *Steve Jobs*, the movie, was released in October of 2015, and I was first in line to attend. While most people may be interested primarily in his life overall and the immeasurable impact his technological inventions have had on society worldwide, my interest lay in the impact that being an adopted person had on his life.

On that account, whether accurate or not, this recent movie suggests that Mr. Jobs' experience of adoption profoundly informed so much of his character. In particular, in the movie, Mr. Jobs reflects on the fact that placement for adoption (as a newborn) meant that key decisions were made about his life over which he had absolutely **no control**. As an adoption-competent therapist, I have worked with adopted persons around this theme. Regardless of age at placement, experiences with adoptive family, and other factors, this reality poses challenges for some adopted persons. The movie also depicts other challenges Mr. Jobs experienced around his adoption, including his bond with his adoptive parents, identity, and feelings about birthparents -- all of which are very common challenges that some adopted persons struggle with.

This movie is R rated because of language but Common Sense Media recommends it for teens ages 14 and up. Teens are likely to be interested in the movie, again, because Steve Jobs is the genius behind their beloved devices.

Movies can be a great vehicle for sparking family discussion around adoption. Whether your teen watches with friends or with you, we suggest you both see this movie. Then, [share](#) your family's response with us! We'd love to hear from you. Remember: even biopics are creations of art, and the value of viewing such a film is more about the impact of the movie on the viewer rather than on the "truth."

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