



*Alyssa + Sean*

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hello!

**IT'S SO NICE TO MEET YOU!**

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We cannot begin to thank you enough for taking the time to learn about us as you consider adoption and consider us as potential parents for your child. While we can never really understand this difficult time in your life, we have nothing but the most respect for you, your strength, your selflessness, your determination, and your unconditional love for your child. We hope this book will help you to better understand us as individuals and as a family. We have always dreamed about becoming parents and are excited to be on this journey.

Family is so important to us, and we have a strong support system, including Alyssa's birth family. Alyssa was adopted at 30 days old, and we know what a beautiful experience adoption can be. Your child will be so loved by so many, as both of us have large extended families and a large group of friends. We want you to know that we will do whatever we can to make your child's dreams come true.

*Thank you again for taking the time to read our book. We hope that you find peace in your decision whatever it may be. We admire you, your courage, and your bold love for your child.*

**LOVE, ALYSSA AND SEAN**



# *This is our story*

## HOW IT STARTED

Sean and I met when we were in kindergarten, and we were lucky enough to grow up together. I always knew that Sean was the guy for me, it just took Sean a little longer to figure that out.



## FALLING IN LOVE



We have always been friends and dated a little in high school, Sean was my date to my first high school homecoming dance. However, our love story really took off when we were freshmen in college. We started dating seriously the November of our freshman year in college and dated for 3 years before we got engaged.

## ENGAGEMENT AND WEDDING

Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year, so Sean planned the perfect proposal in a gazebo decked out in beautiful Christmas lights 4 days before Christmas. We got married a year and a half later, on a beautiful spring day with all our friends and family there to celebrate.



## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

This year we celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary! While we have known each other for 27 years, been together for almost 14 years, and married for 10 years, we still learn something new about each other and fall more in love every day.





## why adoption?

**WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD A HEART FOR ADOPTION,  
BEING THAT ALYSSA, HERSELF, IS ADOPTED.**

Before we even knew we would have infertility troubles, we had always talked about adopting and had planned to adopt at some point. We tried to conceive naturally for nearly ten years, and when we realized that it just wasn't going to happen, we both knew adoption was the way we would grow our family. Adoption has already played such a large role in our family both with Alyssa and other family members, that we feel we offer a unique opportunity in truly understanding what our future child and their birth family will go through, and how we can show love and support to both.



# Alyssa's adoption story

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I was adopted in 1990 when I was just 30 days old. My parents were fantastic with making sure that I always knew I was adopted, in fact I can't remember a time that I didn't know I was adopted! At the time that I was adopted open adoptions were not the norm, so I grew up having a closed adoption and always wanting to know my story. I love my family, my parents are amazing, but I still felt like a part of me was missing.

My parents supported my decision and promised they would help me find my birth family however they could. In January of 2019, my adoption case file was opened. I was searching the internet hoping to find my birth mother and was able to find her through my sister-in-law on Facebook. I found that my birth parents got married two years after I was born and have been together ever since. My birth parents, brothers, and their significant others all live in southern Indiana. Meeting my birth family, my first family, I started to heal inside and feel for the first time like I am whole. My birth family is so incredibly excited for us to be growing our family, one of my brother's has two children with a third on the way so they will have even more cousins to play with!

*Growing up not knowing my story has been a huge push for Sean and I to have an open adoption in which our future child will have access to his or her entire story. We hope to have a true relationship with our future child's birth family so that our child can see that they were loved from the start by both families. We want our future child to have what I didn't have growing up and never have to live with the frustration of not knowing and fantasizing over the unknown.*



# meet Alyssa

FROM SEAN'S EYES

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Alyssa is the best wife; she encourages and inspires me daily. I am so lucky to have her in my corner. Those hard, challenging days when nothing seems to be going right, are made better knowing that she is always there with a kind word, a selfless gesture, or a reassuring smile.

Alyssa was born and raised in central Indiana and was adopted as an infant. She grew up as an only child and loved dance and musicals. She works as a kindergarten teacher at an inner-city school. Alyssa is a kind person and even started a kindness club at her school. She is a forever optimist and is always looking at the brightside even when things get tough.

*Alyssa consistently puts others before herself and will be the kind of parent who stays up all night when our child tells us for the first time that they have a project due the next morning. She has a way with children in that she understands their viewpoints, fears, and worries, and knows how to calm, encourage, and inspire them. She's going to be a phenomenal mother and I can't wait to see her thrive as a mom!*





## meet Sean


### FROM ALYSSA'S EYES

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Sean is the most patient, caring, and supportive person I have ever known. Throughout our relationship no matter what I put my mind to he is always there to support me and offer help when needed. Sean is incredibly kind and goes out of his way to help everyone; something that has always been a part of his character, even when we were children.

Sean was born and raised in central Indiana. He's an only child and grew up playing soccer with his parents coaching alongside him for a few years. While he didn't have any siblings, he had several cousins who were like brothers to him. Sean works as a manager at a certified public accounting (CPA) firm.

*We both have big extended families, and a large friend group, with that I have been able to see how patient Sean is with our young cousins, "nieces" and nephews. He loves to get down on their level and play with them, teach them new games and tricks, and genuinely get to know them. Just seeing him with other children, I can see that he will make a devoted and loving dad to our future child.*



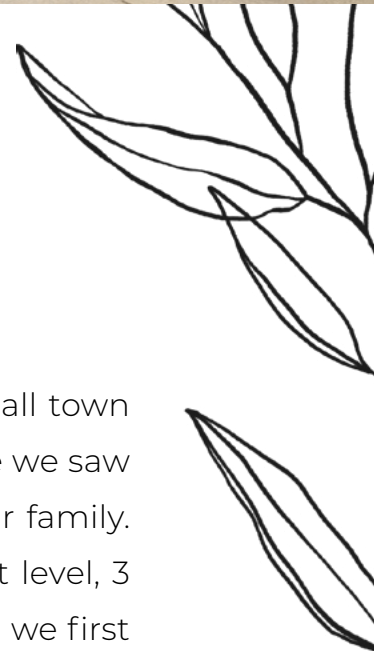


## *our home*

### **WE LIVE IN A BIG NEIGHBORHOOD IN A SMALL CITY.**

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We've lived in this area for most of our lives and love the quaint small town feel while still being close enough to enjoy the big city. The first time we saw our house we knew this would be where we were going to raise our family. Our home is a cozy two-story house with a large open concept first level, 3 bedrooms and a large game/hobby room on the second level. When we first moved into our house there was so much, we wanted to change to make it our own. Over the past 8 years we have completed a lot of DIY projects, including remodeling our kitchen. One of our favorite rooms in our house is our game/hobby room. We are both avid readers, Alyssa loves to craft, and Sean loves to write, and we often find ourselves spending a lot of time together here and doing what we love. We also think this will be a perfect place to make a playroom for our future child.





*We have recently started working on our nursery, which has a star theme based on the quote, "Twinkle twinkle little star. Do you know how loved you are?" This quote really resonated with us since our future child truly will be so loved and the star of our family. We are fortunate to have a large back yard, with a deck and an above ground pool. We love spending time outside playing with our dogs, gardening, spending time with family, and swimming during the summer. We are very lucky that our neighborhood offers plenty walking trails, a playground, and lots of young families with children for our future child to play with.*





# Our Pets

ZOEY + DAISY + ARCHIE + BINX

We are big animal lovers and have two dogs and two cats, who are all rescues. We have a 10-year-old chihuahua/pug mix named Zoey. Zoey is curious, snuggly, and quite a character. Daisy is an 8-year-old golden retriever/border collie mix. Daisy is playful, comforting, and sweet. We have a 5-year-old black cat named Binx, after Alyssa's favorite movie, *Hocus Pocus*. Binx is very playful, smart, and cuddly. Archie is our 4-year-old orange and white tabby cat who Alyssa saved from the middle of the road. Archie is lovey, friendly, and lazy.

**All of our pets love attention and do well with children! Daisy and Zoey both love playing with kids in our family and Daisy tends to be very loyal and protective of children.**







## meet our friends

*We are lucky to have a large and close friend base!*

*We have known many of our friends since elementary school and grew up together. To us, our friends are our family, especially since we didn't grow up with siblings. As our friends have welcomed children into their lives, we have enjoyed becoming an honorary aunt and uncle to their children. Your child will have many aunts, uncles, and cousins through our friends. We make it a point to try and get together with our friends often and enjoy hosting cookouts and pool parties in the summer and holiday parties in the winter. Our friends are so excited to welcome a new addition to our family!*







# our extended family

*Family is so important to us, and we love getting together with our family to celebrate holidays and everyday life. We both have large extended families with lots of aunts, uncles, and cousins! Everyone in our family is so excited to welcome a new addition to our family through adoption, and our future child will have lots of cousins to play with!*

**Sean's Family** - Most of my family lives within 40 minutes of us and we get to see them often. My dad is one of three kids, and my mom is one of four- so I grew up with lots of cousins! I grew up very close to my grandpa and cousins as well! My mom's family is from Pennsylvania, though most of her immediate family lives in Indiana now. We love being able to visit Pittsburgh and hear the stories and see the places from both sides of our family.



**Alyssa's Family** - My mom is one of four kids, and my dad is one of six, I was fortunate to have grown up with many grandparents – and great grandparents on my mom’s side, too! We love going to visit my mom’s side of the family in Pennsylvania, especially because I am very close to my cousins and grandma. As my cousins have grown up and started their own families they have moved throughout the country, and we now have family in Connecticut, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Ohio.







### SEAN LOVES:

Writing · Building things  
· Cooking · Reading ·  
Exercise · Soccer (played  
for 14 years) · Movies ·  
Spending time with our  
pets · Hiking · Helping  
others

## THINGS WE LOVE

### ALYSSA LOVES:

Reading · Baking ·  
Musicals · Dancing (took  
lessons for 15 years) · Being  
outside · Peony flowers ·  
Trying different local coffee  
shops · Movie nights ·  
Traveling · DIY projects



### TOGETHER WE LOVE:

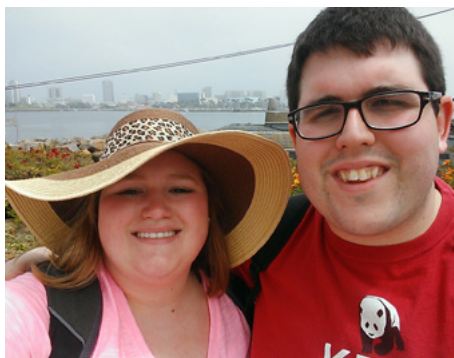
traveling · new foods · local  
markets & festivals · taking our  
dogs to the drive-in · local coffee  
shops & indie bookstores ·  
concerts, musicals & shows ·  
trying old family recipes · game  
nights with friends



# Our adventures

## TRAVELING IS ONE OF ALYSSA AND I'S MOST FAVORITE THINGS TO DO!

Since we've been married, we have been able to take several cruises and have gotten to island hop around the Bahamas and Caribbean, as well as visit the Pacific coast of Mexico. We also love a good road trip and have visited several cities. We love to go hiking in various state and national parks while on our trips. Our favorite hiking experience was in Texas where we got to hike a riverbed that had dinosaur footprints fossilized within. Alyssa and I are both naturally curious people and we think it's important to learn all we can about our world and its people. Because of this, we plan to continue to travel with your child so we can expose them to all different kinds of people and places.







**BORN NOT FROM OUR FLESH, BUT BORN INTO OUR HEARTS.**

**YOU WERE LONGED FOR, WANTED,  
*and loved from the start.***

**AUTHOR UNKNOWN**









# Ten fun facts

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**1** • All of our pets are rescues, Alyssa even saved our cat Archie from the middle of the road when he was just a kitten.

**2** • We love trying new food and have started visiting restaurants featured on *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives* when we travel.



**3** • Both of our mom's sides of the family are from Pennsylvania and we visit our family there often.

**4** • The Indianapolis Colts is our favorite football team but because of our Pennsylvania roots we also cheer for the Pittsburgh Steelers.



**5** • We love celebrating holidays and decorating our house. We really go all out for Halloween and Christmas!

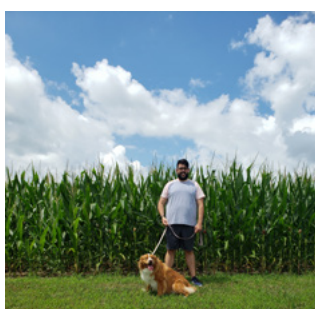
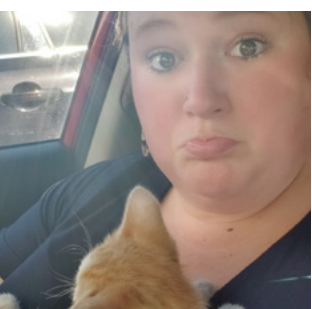
**6** • We met in kindergarten and have remained great friends with several others from our elementary school!



**7** • We both graduated from The University of Indianapolis, go Hounds!

**8** • Sunday dinner is something we do every week. We enjoy making old family recipes together and taking the time to recharge.

**9** • Every Saturday we celebrate the weekend by making a big breakfast at home or going to our favorite local café, a tradition passed down from Alyssa's family.



**10** • We both grew up as only children, but we both have large extended families and are extremely close to our cousins.



# *promises*

**IF YOU CHOOSE TO ENTRUST US WITH RAISING YOUR BABY, WE PROMISE THESE THINGS TO YOU:**

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**We promise to love** your child unconditionally, with all our hearts.

**We promise to speak** highly of you and your bold love for your child, so they always know how truly loved they are.

**We promise to create** a safe place where your child can grow up into the person they were meant to be and raise them to respect everyone and our planet.

**We promise to be open and honest** with your child in all things, but especially surrounding their history.

**We promise to instill** a love of learning and to support them throughout their educational journey.

**We promise to be** your child's biggest cheerleaders at their games, performances, and recitals.

**We promise to give** your child hugs and kisses every day and surround them with love.

**We promise to love you** and see you for who you are and are ready to welcome you whole-heartedly into our family. We hope to work together to find what works best for everyone in terms of openness. We envision sending weekly texts and photos for the first several months, then transitioning into monthly letters and photos. We would love to have 3 to 4 in person visits a year with you, and would love to include you in your child's future games, recitals, and performances.

*all our love,* **SEAN AND ALYSSA**



