



Brendan *and* Alyssa

The Lord bless you
and keep you.

Make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord turn
His face toward you
and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26







hello!

It's so nice to "meet" you!

We don't know your story or what brought you here, but what we do know is that your love for your baby is clear just by you holding this book. We won't pretend to understand what you're feeling right now—but whatever it is, it matters. It's real. It's heavy. And we want to honor that.

More than anything, we want you to feel seen and respected in this process.

This little book is just a glimpse into our lives—a few snapshots of who we are, how we love, and the kind of family we're building. But we know this isn't really about us. It's about you and your baby and the road ahead. Thank you for taking time to read this.

Thank you for the courage it takes just to be in this space. However this story unfolds, please know it begins with you—and that will always matter.

Brendan and Alyssa

our story

We met nearly 15 years ago in California—the day after Brendan returned home from a deployment to Afghanistan.

Sounds like a Hallmark movie, right? A Marine walks into a room, and a beach girl falls head over heels... Honestly, it's not far off. We clicked instantly and were engaged and married within six months. Our wedding was barefoot on the beach in Coronado—well, Alyssa was barefoot. Brendan wore his Marine Corps uniform—polished shoes and all! It was simple and sweet, just us and Alyssa's brother, Alex. A few months later, we had a bigger celebration with friends and family in Brendan's hometown in New York before moving to Japan.



Those early years were full of adventure, unfamiliar menus, and

figuring out marriage and military life together.

It was big and new, but one thing was certain: we were all in. *And now we're all in on our next adventure: to grow our family through adoption.*



Adoption has always been close to our hearts.

why adoption?

Alyssa was adopted from foster care, and that experience shaped how we see adoption—with empathy, openness, and lifelong support. She knows what it's like to grow up with both love and questions, connection and longing. We want to honor all of that in how we walk through this journey.

From the beginning of our marriage, we knew adoption would be part of our story—we just didn't know when. Now, with Brendan nearing the end of his military career and our family settled in Missouri, the time feels right. We're rooted here, surrounded by a strong community, and we have so much love to give—not just to a child, but to the people who love them, too.

For us, adoption isn't just about parenting. It's about connection. We want this story to include you—honored, valued, and never forgotten. There's always room for more love.

meet Brendan

as told by Alyssa



Brendan is the hardest-working person I know—
and somehow also the most tender.

That balance is what first made me fall for him. He's intentional in the way he shows love: leaving me notes, grabbing my favorite treat, or rallying the girls for a family dance party after a long day.

As a dad, he's fully in it—coaching, teaching, and listening. He can braid Barbies' hair, fix the broken drawer, and win the cannonball contest at the pool—all in one day. ***He's kind, present, and steady. People are drawn to him because he's real and warm. He's our rock.***



meet Alyssa

as told by Brendan

Alyssa is one of a kind.

She's walked through some hard things in life and come out the other side full of wisdom, strength, and light. She's deeply thoughtful, lives with purpose, and shows up fully for the things and people she loves. Her faith is the foundation of everything she does.

At home, she's the heart of our family. She homeschools the girls, fills our kitchen with the smell of fresh bread or soup, and turns everyday moments into memories. She's gentle but strong, creative and steady. *Whether she's reading aloud on the couch or chasing the girls at the pool, she leads with love—and it's beautiful to watch.*

our kids



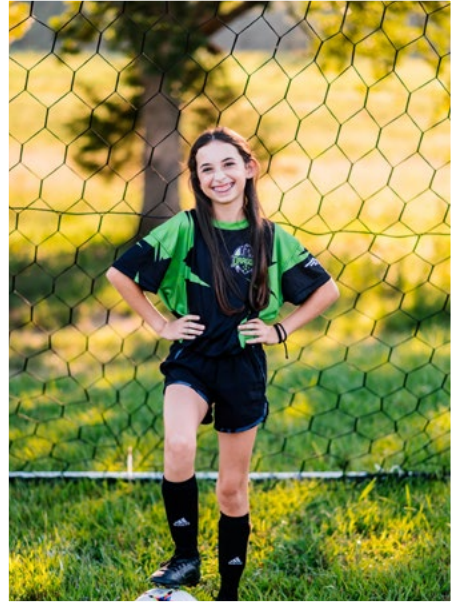
Maddox Magnolia is 8 and completely, confidently herself. From day one, she's marched to the beat of her own drum—and we love that about her. She's bold, joyful, rough-and-tumble, and almost always covered in dirt from her latest outdoor adventure.

She dreams of becoming a Marine like her dad and already helps with tools, rides four-wheelers, and wrestles for a local club. But she's also deeply nurturing. Her dolls are dressed in real baby clothes, their diaper bags packed with care. She's been saving for baby onesies and talks often about how she'll help when the baby comes. Her heart is both fierce and soft.

Brooklyn Grace is 13 and full of drive and heart. She knows who she is, sets big goals, and goes after them. She always has a book nearby—usually something adventurous—and has dressed as Katniss Everdeen for three Halloweens in a row! She's currently teaching herself Spanish, Greek, and Latin just for fun.

Brooklyn wants to be a pediatrician who travels the world helping kids—and honestly, we believe she'll do it. She's strong, smart, and deeply compassionate. She plays piano, does CrossFit, and helps in the church nursery, where she's known as the “baby whisperer.” She's excited to be a big sister again and is already dreaming up ways to help and love well.





things we love



Brendan loves:

- Traveling—I've been to 17 countries!
- Marine Corps—Joined 2008, commissioned 2015, retires 2028
- Hunting & fishing
- Sports—Competing, watching & now coaching!
- Home improvement projects



Alyssa loves:

- Watching Gilmore Girls reruns for comfort
- Cooking meals for friends—whether in need or in celebration.
- Thrift shopping—finding a hidden gem is my victory dance!
- Teaching—I've worked with kids from preschool to high school, & now homeschool our girls.
- A thunderstorm + candle + book = my kind of perfect.



As a family we love:

- Beach & pool days
- Cooking & eating food from places we've traveled
 - Car karaoke that turns into dance parties
- Tacos, sushi, and ramen are our go-to takeout
- Winter nights = Mario Kart battles downstairs





home sweet home

*Our home is at the end of a quiet road
in a peaceful neighborhood.*

We are just ten minutes from town and thirty from the city. It's a six-bedroom, four-bath house with plenty of space to grow, host, and make memories. Our backyard stretches over an acre and a half, full of trees, trails, forts, and chickens that lay eggs and keep the kids entertained.

Just five minutes away, the river is one of our favorite places to explore. We hunt for frogs, chase bugs, and learn through our nature co-op. Our town is small, friendly, and full of charm—with festivals, parades, and neighbors who know your name.



Our home is the kind of place where
a kid can focus on being a kid.
We homeschool with flexibility, always
choosing what's best for each child.
And our English Mastiff, Doc, rounds
out our crew—patient, loving, and
especially gentle with little ones.



community

Our community feels like family.

We're part of a small-group based church where connection runs deep— through Bible studies, playgroups, men's nights, or shared meals. Our home is filled with laughter, little feet, and the kind of life that comes from doing it alongside others.

We live in a small town that truly feels like a Hallmark movie— charming and close-knit—but it's also beautifully diverse because of the nearby military base. Families come from all over the world, and we've learned to welcome new cultures and friendships with open arms. That mix has taught us to love deeply and quickly, and to celebrate the traditions others bring to our lives.

our friends

Our friends have show up with meals
when life is hard, celebrate life's milestones
with us, and love our kids like their own.

The people in our church and community have become more than friends—they're our chosen family. We've raised babies side by side, shared countless cups of coffee, and laughed until we cried around kitchen tables.

Many of us live far from extended family, so we've built one here—rooted in faith, loyalty, and shared life. These are the people we call at 2AM and who show up for birthday parties, Thanksgivings, and school plays. It's not always perfect, but it's real, and we're so grateful our kids are growing up with this kind of love.



ten fun facts

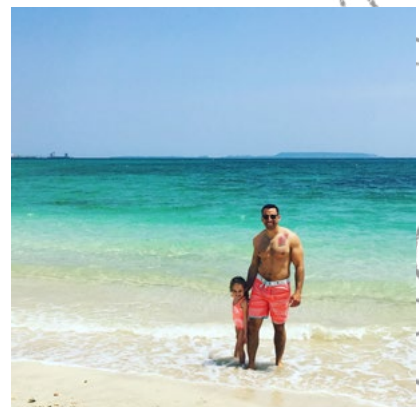
Serving God is the first priority
in our family.

We've lived in Okinawa, Japan
twice and traveled to Tokyo
Disneyland, Hawaii, China, Bali,
and South Korea as a family.

Maddox and Brooklyn were both born
in Japan on two different tours.

We've also lived in California
(twice!), New York, Virginia, Georgia,
and now Missouri.

Dinner together as a family is
non-negotiable!





Sometimes we surprise the girls
with ice cream for dinner.



Fridays = movies, pizza, and
Dollar Tree candy



We traveled to Ecuador
last summer to bring clean
water and the Gospel to
remote villages.

We love learning from and being
immersed in new cultures.



We've prayed for you and your
child long before we ever met.

ten fun facts



promises

Before you go, we want to make
you a few promises:

We promise to love your child fiercely, unconditionally, and forever—and never run out of hugs, even when they're embarrassed by them.

We promise to raise them in a home filled with faith, laughter, snacks, and spontaneous dance parties.

We promise to nurture who they truly are—whether they want to be an astronaut, artist, bug collector, or all three in a week.

We promise to embrace their passions, even if that means memorizing Pokémon names or stepping on Legos in the dark.

We promise to speak of you always with love and honor.

We promise to include you in your child's story in whatever way brings peace to your heart—letters, visits, photos, or simply knowing you're always welcome.

We promise to celebrate and honor your child's race, culture, and heritage with open hearts, curiosity, and joy.

We promise to say yes to messy moments—mud pies, big feelings, and hard questions.

We promise to share their story gently and honestly, adding more as they grow, and guarding it with care—because it's not just ours, it's yours too.

And most of all, we promise to never take a single moment for granted.

*Brendan, Alyssa,
Brooklyn and Maddox*







Thank you!