

Matthew *and* Jane







*This is us*



Hello!

# We are *so happy* to meet you!

We may not know you, your story, or how you came to be reading this book right now, but the fact that you are here tells us that you are kind, compassionate, strong, and brave. We can't imagine all of the things you're feeling in your heart and mind right now, but we thank you for considering adoption and considering us as potential parents for your child.

We hope that through this book, you will be able to see the love we have for each other, our families, and our son, George. As we introduce our family to you, the thing that comes to the top of our minds is hope; hope for a life filled with love, hope for a family full of joy, laughter, and support. We believe that every child is an absolute miracle and a gift. We intend to make sure the children that we are fortunate enough to parent know that they are so loved.

Our desire is to have a relationship that is healthy for your child, you, and our family. We realize that our relationship will grow and change over the years; but we want you to know that we respect you and your role in your child's life, and we will do all we can to honor you and do what is best for your child. We know that you want what is best for your baby, and we pray that you will find us to be all that you hope for your child. We appreciate you, your time, and your thoughtfulness more than we could ever express in words.

*with love,*  
*Matt + Jane*





# Our Hearts For *Adoption*

Our journey to adoption began in May of 2016. We assumed we would get a positive pregnancy test the first month of trying, but one month turned to two, which turned to six, which turned to twelve, and here we are many years later. Watching those we love around us have children has been exciting and beautiful, and has strengthened our persistence in starting a family of our own despite our struggles with infertility. After a lot of consideration and conversations with friends and family who have experienced adoption firsthand, we know that adoption is the best way for us to build our family.

# Adopting George

*We adopted our first child, George, in March of 2023. He is a happy, healthy toddler who brings our life so much joy.*

We knew when we adopted George that we would want him to have a brother or sister. Our adoption journey with George was so fulfilling and something we truly cherish. We talk openly within our household about adoption, so George knows his birth story and feels comfortable asking us questions as he grows. We have met with his birth mom twice a year for the first two years of his life and plan to meet with her annually in the future. We believe it is important to honor our agreement and her wishes, and provide George with the opportunity to know his birth mom to the extent that she feels comfortable with. We understand that adoption is a personal journey for the adoptive child and we plan to provide guidance, care and understanding for our children as they navigate that personal journey. It is critical to us that we create a home where everyone feels loved and accepted. We look forward to growing our family and the highs and lows of becoming a family and growing together with one another in love.





# Our Relationship

**STARTED DATING** - JULY 2008

**GOT ENGAGED** - JANUARY 2012

**GOT MARRIED** - OCTOBER 2012



We met in college after being introduced by mutual friends. It took a couple of weeks and a few sweet gestures by Matt to convince Jane that he was the one. Bringing Jane some tea when she was sick may have ultimately done the trick and it's been nothing but love ever since! Early on in our relationship, we enjoyed going to sporting events together, pool parties, movies, star gazing, and volunteering at the library to mentor elementary school students.

Our wedding day was truly one of the most magical and meaningful days of our lives. Surrounded by all of our family members and closest friends on a small vineyard in Florida, we vowed to love each other and choose each other every single day. We both said "I love you" and "I do" with our whole hearts that day, but those words carry so much more weight now - thanks to every trial and triumph, every fight and reconciliation, the ordinary days and the extraordinary ones. This sweet love we share grows each and every day. We learn from each other and always lean on each other.



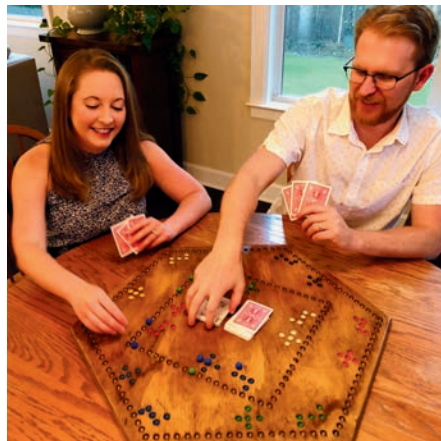


# Time Together

We like going on walks with our dog, cooking together, and traveling. We enjoy long weekends in various locations around the country, like Seattle, Nashville, Asheville, Blue Ridge, Colorado, Jekyll Island, Miami, Shenandoah National Park, Indianapolis, and Washington, DC. We have an annual beach vacation with Jane's extended family. We travel to Indianapolis a few times a year to spend time with friends who live there. We also have a semi-annual ski trip with friends. George typically travels with us and has been a great travel buddy. We recently took a trip to Utah to visit the National Parks and George proved to be quite the hiker.



*Some of our favorite trips have been to Costa Rica, Canada, Alaska, Italy, and Scandinavia (Denmark, Sweden, and Norway).*



**We are excited to continue our traveling, including trips to California, Vermont, Washington and Illinois in the near future. We enjoy traveling with George and all the fun that comes with it. He's a trooper and really enjoys new experiences.**

*In Our Family*





**WE VALUE KINDNESS, HONESTY, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, DEDICATION, HARD WORK, AND TRUSTWORTHINESS. WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING TO PURSUE YOUR PASSIONS WHILE ALSO ACCEPTING AND LEARNING FROM YOUR MISTAKES.**





ATTENTIVE, DEPENDABLE, LOVING, FUN

*My Husband, Matt*

Matt is outgoing, fun, and independent. He is intelligent and wise, but somehow finds a way not to stress about the small stuff. His love of learning is evident in his daily life, as he reads books and listens to podcasts about current events, economics, and all things history. Matt has a passion for team sports. Growing up he played football, baseball, and basketball. His love for sports has continued throughout his adult life with his participation in many recreational sports leagues. He has built a group of friends that play a weekly pick-up basketball game. His love for team sports has played a large role in becoming a great leader, mentor and friend.

Matt is a great dad! He is a hands-on parent. He loves spending the mornings with George. Mornings are their special time together, just the two of them, when they read books, play ball, and run around the house together. At family gatherings, Uncle "Matt-Matt" is the first to join the game of hide and seek with the kiddos, jump in the pool, dig a sand castle at the beach, and pick a book off the shelf to read to the crew. Matt will support our kids in whatever they pursue, whether that means coaching a sports team, being a scout leader, or going to music recitals. He was made to be a husband and a father and I am so grateful for him!

# Meet Matt



## MY WORK

*Corporate Attorney at a Law Firm*

My firm is very family and adoption friendly. I have multiple coworkers who have adopted, and they have been a great source of support. I will have six weeks of paid paternity leave, which I plan to fully utilize. My work is very flexible and allows employees to take time for family commitments. I largely make my own schedule and have the flexibility to be there for Jane and George.

## FAVORITE DESSERT

Chocolate chip cookies with sea salt

## HOBBIES

Playing basketball, attending sporting events, listening to audio-books (I really like science fiction, fantasy, and historical books)

## FAVORITE WAY TO SPEND A DAY

Time away with Jane and George - at the beach, in the mountains, in a new city or country, or just taking a long walk and cooking a meal together.

## FUN FACT

I really enjoy cooking, and I make some pretty delicious homemade pizzas!

I look forward to growing our family again. We've always known that we would want more than one child and having George has reinforced that belief. I can't wait to see George running around with his little brother or sister. I look forward to reading books together, taking trips, and making memories as a family. I also love spending time with my nieces and nephews, whether that's wrestling around after a family lunch, building sand castles at the beach, or just shooting baskets in the driveway. I love kids and love being a parent.

My parents really believed in personal responsibility. They were loving and caring to me and my sister, but they were willing to let us fail and learn from our mistakes. I think that parenting approach taught me a valuable lesson and I hope to teach my children the same lesson in a supportive and loving environment. My greatest wish is that my children have a happy childhood full of love and support. I want them to be kind, generous, humble and responsible.



PASSIONATE, CARING, PLAYFUL, LOVING

## *My Wife, Jane*

Jane is caring, selfless, and driven. She cares deeply about those she loves and what she believes in. She is a loyal friend and a loving wife, mother, daughter, and aunt. She will passionately defend what she knows to be right. She has this innate sense of justice and sticks to her principles no matter the circumstance. She consistently puts the needs of her friends and family above her own. That selflessness makes her a wonderful wife and partner. She is driven to consistently be a better person. She constantly listens to podcasts or reads books about healthy living, personal finance, and finding happiness, all with the goal of building the happiest, healthiest life that she can for our family. I have learned so much from her and know that I am a better person because of her. I can't imagine my life without her.

Jane is a great mother! She is patient, loving, and kind with George. She and George spend time playing, cuddling, reading books, and going on walks. You can really tell that she loves George very much. She does a wonderful job communicating with him, staying positive and calm in all of their interactions. She has a tenderness as a mother that is apparent after just a few minutes of seeing her with George and I am excited to see that carry into her relationship with another child.

# Meet Jane



## MY WORK

*Stay at home mom*

I was a Certified Public Accountant at a Public Accounting Firm before George was born. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to stay at home with George. I am excited to do the same with our second child. I love all of the quality time as we spend our days taking walks, reading books, playing games, visiting zoos, museums and playgrounds, and learning and growing together.

## FAVORITE DESSERT

Heath bar cookie

## HOBBIES

Cooking, taking walks while listening to podcasts, and traveling

## FAVORITE WAY TO SPEND A DAY

Spending the day with Matt and George, strolling the beach, swimming, and playing in the sand, then a tasty family dinner. Simple and sweet!

## FUN FACT

I love my daily walks with George, where I enjoy nature and occasionally see dolphins while strolling the sea walls at our nearby parks.

I love being a mother and I am very excited to grow our family again. We've always known that we want a family with multiple children, where our children can build strong relationships with their siblings. I look forward to reading books to our children, taking them to the park, and teaching them about the world. My greatest wish for our children is that they grow up to be happy and healthy adults who feel fully supported and loved by their friends and family, and ultimately fulfilled with their life.

Growing up, my parents would tuck us in at night, and always say, "I love you." They expected us to do our best in school, but our performance was never compared to others. They instilled values such as dedication, hard work, loyalty, being supportive, and being a nice person. My parents took a unified approach to raising us. They were very supportive and were involved in school and extracurricular activities. These are all things that helped form who I am today.



# Meet George



We adopted George as a newborn. He is now a very easy going, almost two year old toddler. He is comfortable going with the flow in whatever his surroundings are. He loves running around the house, especially throwing his ball or pushing one of his push toys. He is really into books and enjoys when we read to him. His favorite book is "In My Heart, a Book of Feelings." It teaches you about your emotions and how it is okay to have many different feelings. He also likes to "read" books on his own as well. His favorite book to "read" is "Never Touch the Stinky Piglets," he loves to look at the funny pictures and touch the sensory areas in the book. He likes his daily walks with Jane, where he gets some sun, sees nature, and gets to explore our neighboring communities. He gets along well with his cousins and our friends' kids and likes to be around other children.

George is happy and healthy and we have a good relationship with his birth mother. Consistent with her wishes, we communicate with her via text monthly, sharing photos and stories about George. We also have video calls with her on special occasions and have visited with her a few times since his birth. We plan to continue to see her at least annually while George grows up. We are passionate about doing what is best for George and his birth mother, and have an open line of communication with her in order to accomplish this. We are very open about the adoption process and try to be a resource to friends and family who are considering adoption.



# Family Time

We like going on walks, cooking together, playing in the yard, hosting friends for game night, and traveling. We really enjoy getting out and enjoying the local food scene wherever we go. We try to get off the beaten path and get a true taste for the local fare. This helps us better understand the local culture and get a real sense for the people living there. That experience of seeing how someone else views the world and what their life is like is one of things we love most about traveling.

We like to use the weekends as a time to be together as a family. That includes taking long walks and playing in the backyard. We also like cooking together. Matt claims to be the chef while Jane graciously accepts the title of sous chef. Matt really enjoys making fresh baked bread, pizzas, and, at least according to his nieces and nephews, the best smash burgers ever. Jane is also passionate about nutritious and delicious plant-based meals, and has quite the healthy eating cookbook collection.

# Parenting + Education



**We believe in having a loving environment where our children can come to us with any concerns they may have. Our ultimate goal is to have happy and healthy children.** We have a caring and supportive household that provides appropriate boundaries for our children. We hope to instill values such as kindness, honesty, personal responsibility, dedication, hard work, and trustworthiness. We hope our children will understand the importance of working to pursue their passions while also accepting and learning from their mistakes.

We understand the importance of helping our children achieve developmental milestones. We understand that all children grow and develop at an individual pace and are prepared to have patience and understanding. We are also willing to utilize community resources if appropriate.

**Since we live in a great school district, our first choice is to send our children to public school.** If we determine that private schooling would be a better fit for our children, it is something that we will definitely pursue. We have many great private schools in our area that we could choose from if we decide to go this route.

We plan to support our children in whatever route they decide to pursue. Since we both attended college, it is something that we would try to guide them to. However, if our children find that their dreams do not include college, we will be okay with this decision and will guide them to make the decisions best for their future that will allow them to be happy and supported.



# Holiday Traditions

**"My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. As the self-appointed chef, I find the holiday relaxing, and enjoy spending time with family and doing what I love, cooking. Thanksgiving is either spent with my family or Jane's family, but either way I enjoy spending the time with those we love." - Matt**

**"My favorite holiday is Christmas. I have an annual tradition of going Black Friday shopping with my mom on the day after Thanksgiving. Buying gifts throughout the holiday season with those I love, and seeing the excitement and joy that these gifts bring when being unwrapped on Christmas day is one of my favorite aspects of the holidays." - Jane**



The spirit of giving extends beyond just our immediate family. We sponsor multiple children through an annual gift drive, where we purchase toys and clothing for children in our community. We have an annual Christmas tradition of making a home cooked holiday meal and driving around to look at Christmas lights. Christmas is always spent at family gatherings where we give and receive gifts, and just enjoy time together. The celebrations are always utter chaos, in the best way, as we love watching the kids soak in the joy and fun! Halloween is also a time we enjoy spending with family. We meet up at Jane's brother's house and trick-or-treat with all seven of his kids. It takes all of the adults to keep track of all of the kids during what ends up to be a crazy and fun filled night. For Easter, we typically go to church with Jane's extended family and then have a big lunch followed by an Easter egg hunt for all the kids which is very entertaining, because the fifteen kids now outnumber the adults!

# One Big Family



## JANE'S FAMILY

My parents, Gary and Ann, were married for over twenty-five years, until my dad passed away in 2011. My mom is a doting Nana to her grandchildren and can't wait to have another child to spoil, as grandparents do best! My brother, Tom, is married to Abigail, and they have seven rambunctious kiddos. Michael, Mary Beth, Joanna, Jimmy, Thomas, Bruce, and Peter are excitedly waiting for the day they get to meet another cousin. The kids range in age from twelve years old to two months old! We are also close with Abigail's sister and brother-in-law, Mark and Libby, who we celebrate most major holidays and family celebrations with. They have seven sweet children; Gwen, Katie Grace, John, Maisy, Tony, Annie, and Lucy. They range in age from sixteen years old to four years old.

My mom lives about ten minutes away, and we regularly run errands together. We also do a weekly family dinner at her house, where we enjoy a home cooked meal. We celebrate major holidays with my extended family, and see them at least once a month. We make it a priority to attend at least one sporting event/dance recital for each niece and nephew to show our support for each child.

## MATT'S FAMILY

My parents, George and Cathy, have been married over forty years and are amazing examples of spouses and parents. They love hosting family and friends at their home in north Florida. My sister, Tori, is a strong and loving sister. Tori is married to her amazing husband, Justin, and has two boys, Rhett and Hagen, and a girl, Brighton. Rhett is six, Hagen is four, and Brighton is fifteen months old. The kids are a bundle of energy and fun. Hagen was born with a rare heart defect and their strength and resilience in the face of Hagen's condition are truly inspirational.

We see my parents, sister, and her family every couple of months. We celebrate major holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas with them, although typically this is a few days before or after the actual holiday. This way we are able to celebrate the holidays with all family members.



**We have a deep love for our families.** We are grateful for our parents, siblings, and nieces and nephews (we're up to ten, not including our nieces and nephews "in-law" who add another seven!). They are supportive, encouraging, loving, and a lot of fun! We truly enjoy spending time together - whether it's on family vacations or hanging at home enjoying a meal, there's no place we'd rather be than together.

**Our family was thrilled to hear that we are adopting a second child.** They love George and have been overwhelmingly accepting of him and our decision to adopt. They have an arms wide open policy for any child. They have prayed for us, cried with us, and held our hands through every step of our journey to our child and future children. They may not know him or her yet, but they already love this child so completely. **They are so excited about the opportunity to welcome another child into their hearts forever.**



# Home *Sweet* Home

We own a cozy, warm, and welcoming four bedroom, three and a half bath home in one of the best neighborhoods in town, with a park around the block and a great elementary school a few blocks away. The house is approximately twelve years old. Many of our best friends and their children live nearby. We have a very open floor plan with lots of space to play, learn, and grow. Our home is a peaceful place where we love hosting family, friends, and visitors who are greeted with open arms and a safe space to relax, recharge, and rest.

In our home we are honest, we are kind, we are teammates, and we are each other's biggest fans. We share the joys of living life together as a family. We celebrate diversity and enjoy relationships with people of all races, ages, and walks of life. We do our best to eat healthy foods (with a few treats along the way) that fuel our bodies, and we play and exercise.

We share our home with our dog, Scout. She is our Australian Shepherd/Catahoula mix pup. She gets along well with children and is the sweetest, softest, snuggliest, spunkiest dog with the biggest personality! She is so much fun and always keeps us laughing. Over the past ten years she has been a wonderful part of our family!

# Our Community

We live in a great school district, which is one of the reasons we purchased our house. The elementary school is within walking distance. It's nice to look out the window and see parents walking their children to and from school each day. The elementary, middle, and high school have the highest state ratings, and provide a great learning environment and opportunity for the future. There is a playground about two blocks from our house that we enjoy visiting. Our neighbors are friendly and children live in most of the homes on our street.



Florida has great family friendly activities. We have an annual family beach vacation, where we get to enjoy the pristine beaches. The city we live in has many higher education institutions, which brings great diversity to the area. We also have many different sports teams, which create fun family outings.



We are beyond blessed to be surrounded and loved by the very best friends - kind, genuine, honest, fun, encouraging, empathetic, wise people who love us and support us through all of life's ups and downs. They were so excited to meet George and welcomed him with open arms. They are so very excited to meet the next member of our family.



*Looking Ahead*





## Our Future

We are planning to stay in our current home and community. We have no plans of moving in our future. Given the close proximity of Jane's family, and the short driving distance to Matt's family, the location is great for us. We live in a big enough city so that there is plenty of job opportunity, growth, and activities, yet the close community we have built has led us to feel like we are fully supported.

We have considered adopting more children, but what exactly the future holds for us is unknown. We would be happy with more than two children if we are blessed with that opportunity.





We are so *thankful* for you!

Thank you for considering adoption and considering us. More than anything, we want you to know that we will love your child unconditionally and provide all of the love, security, and joy we can offer. We want your child to always know where he or she came from. You will always be an integral part of his or her life, and we plan to raise our child with an understanding and appreciation for you and the sacrifice you are making for him or her. Our desire is to have a relationship that is healthy for your child, you, and our family. We want you to know that we respect you and your role in your child's life, and we will do all we can to honor you, your desires, and do what is best for your child. This child will be loved beyond words by us, our families, our friends, and he or she will know the great love you have for him or her as well.

*with love.*  
*Matt + Jane*



You are loved!

