



richard
and liz



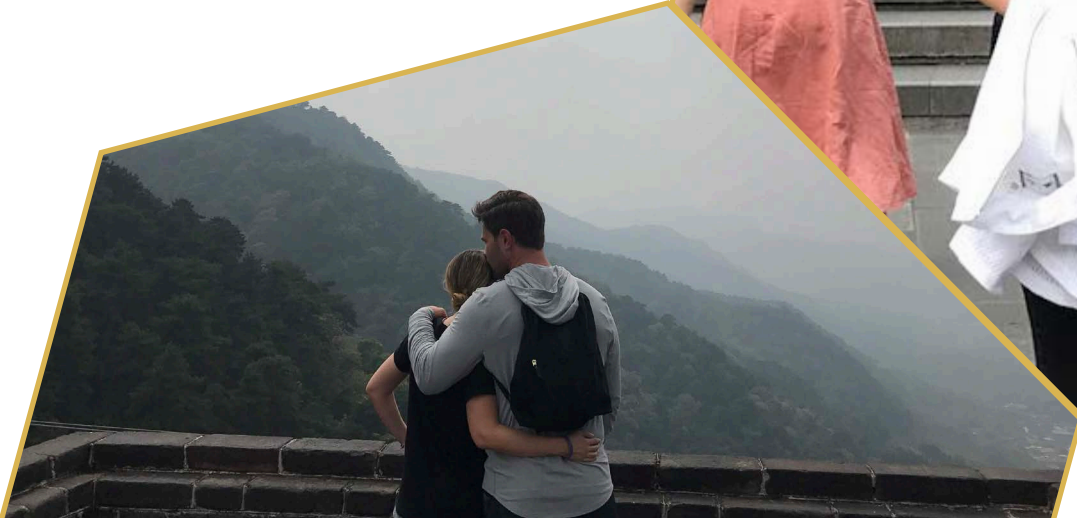
Hello!

Writing this letter together has opened so many emotions – we want you to know we’re grateful you’re making this decision to understand your options and hope you find comfort in the future you’re building for your child. Liz’s birth mother made the same decision 37 years ago and we will always be in her debt for picking Liz’s adoptive parents to love her with all their hearts. We hope you have allies supporting you, loving you, and helping you navigate this difficult path.

We want this profile to give you a glimpse of who we are and our vision of the future together. We have a genuine love and commitment towards one another, building a life together - beginning as high-school sweethearts, navigating family loss, getting married and continuing down the path to becoming adoptive parents. If you decide to make an adoption plan and choose our family, please know we will always honor you and the level of openness you prefer and will ensure that your child feels supported and worthy of love. In our home, we are patient, we always forgive, we dream together and push each other to be our best selves, and we never give up on family.

We are humbled you are considering us as parents for your little one. Building our family though adoption has always been our dream. We promise to raise your child with compassion, integrity, and laughter and to provide a life full of opportunity.

richard & liz



our story

Our journey began 24 years ago within the halls of our elementary school in California, where a 7th-grade transfer named Liz caught Richard's eye. Despite his initial shyness, Liz had a way of making him feel at ease. Late-night phone conversations became a regular occurrence, much to our mothers' amusement, who unbeknownst to us, were also fostering their own connection.

Our high school years were filled with all the classic milestones – first kiss, late-night drives, prom, and football games. Even though attending college in different states briefly separated us, our love

proved resilient, leading us to continue our relationship long-distance.

Liz's return to the west coast marked the beginning of our shared life in the city we grew up in together. Richard proposed ten years ago, and we exchanged vows in a joyous ceremony surrounded by loved ones. Today, we live close to where we both grew up and are very lucky to be near family and friends in a city that we know so well. Our 20-year journey has been marked by unwavering love and support, and we are excited to take the next step of starting a family together.

"I feel these two were simply made for each other. They are committed to each other and their family in every way. They have both experienced loss and the challenges that ongoing grief can bring. But they work through it together. They come out stronger and better versions of themselves." - our friend, Kristen



Richard and Liz in high school



BY RICHARD

meet liz

The one thing everyone says about Liz is that she is the strongest person they know. Her loyalty to her family and friends knows no bounds. She has tackled life's most difficult challenges, but she has always kept her focus on supporting her loved ones. Liz is nurturing, loving and warm with all our nieces and nephews, and even our friend's children gravitate towards her when they visit.

Liz will share a common bond with your child, as she was placed with her adoptive parents at birth. She understands the importance of knowing where you come from to form your own identity. Her passion for life and uncompromising values are just a few of her best attributes that will guide our family and make her an incredible mother.

"Liz makes me want to be a better husband and a better person every day. She dreams big and is not afraid to put in the work to make them a reality."

- Richard

Liz holding our nephew



MORE ABOUT

liz

AGE: 37

OCCUPATION: Advertising

BEYOND OCCUPATION: Liz loves her coffee in the morning and a reality show binge at night.

FAVORITE MOVIE: The original Top Gun movie; we even named one of our dogs Iceman.

FAVORITE PLACE: Being at home cooking in the kitchen with friends and family & sharing a meal together.

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: Friends, family, & our 3 dogs.

MY PERFECT DAY: Spending time in the backyard with friends and family having a BBQ.



Liz reading to our nephew

BY LIZ

meet richard

Richard is so generous with his time and patient with everyone he meets – especially our nieces and nephews. He has a great sense of humor and always tries to bring a smile to your face. He can lead but still be gentle and has a natural fatherly instinct.

He loves to cook all kinds of recipes but always knows when to pull out the trusted favorites for family gatherings – or when one of us is sick or needs cheering up.

We compliment each other in the best ways which is why being together for over 20 years has been easy. He's going to be the most incredible father.

"Richard's unwavering support and strength has been the foundation of our relationship. He's my rock; always there with encouraging words and a helping hand. His sense of humor and gentle spirit brings joy to every day, and I am so grateful to have him as my partner in life."

- Liz

MORE ABOUT

richard

AGE: 36

OCCUPATION: Real Estate Development

BEYOND OCCUPATION: Richard has been playing basketball since he was five and still plays twice a week. He loves to cook and try new recipes in the kitchen.

FAVORITE BOOK: Liar's Poker by Michael Lewis

FAVORITE PLACE: The local restaurant that his parents would take the family to every other Friday growing up.

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: Liz and our three dogs (Kato, Chewie and Iceman)

MY PERFECT DAY: Prepping all the food and packing the car for a family tailgate outside the stadium of my alma mater for a big-time football game on Saturday afternoon.

Reading with niece & nephew



our home & community

In 2019, after years of moving between apartments, we planned and saved to realize our dream of owning our own home in California. Our home is nestled in a welcoming and vibrant neighborhood, near great schools and surrounded by families of all ages.

We were thrilled by the strong sense of community we found in our new neighborhood. Neighbors actively look out for one another, fostering a supportive and caring environment. Daily dog walks often turn into impromptu social gatherings, providing opportunities to connect, share stories, and aid those in need.

While such close-knit neighborhoods may be rare in larger cities, they do exist, creating a haven for those who appreciate the warmth and support of a tight-knit community.



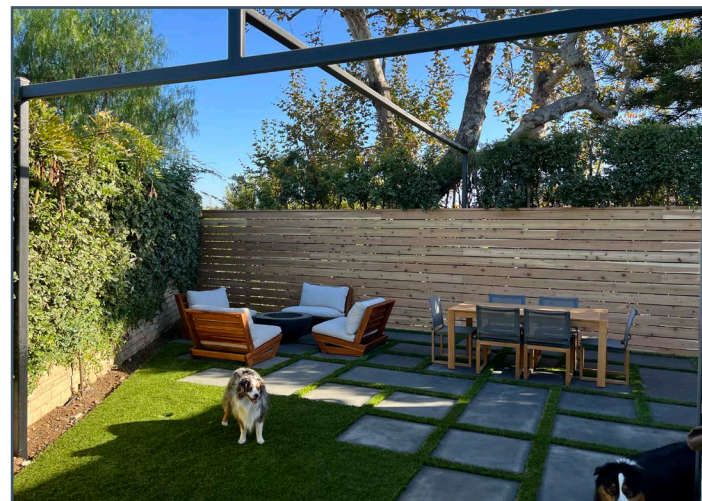
Our home



Our living room



Neighborhood shops



Our backyard

our dogs

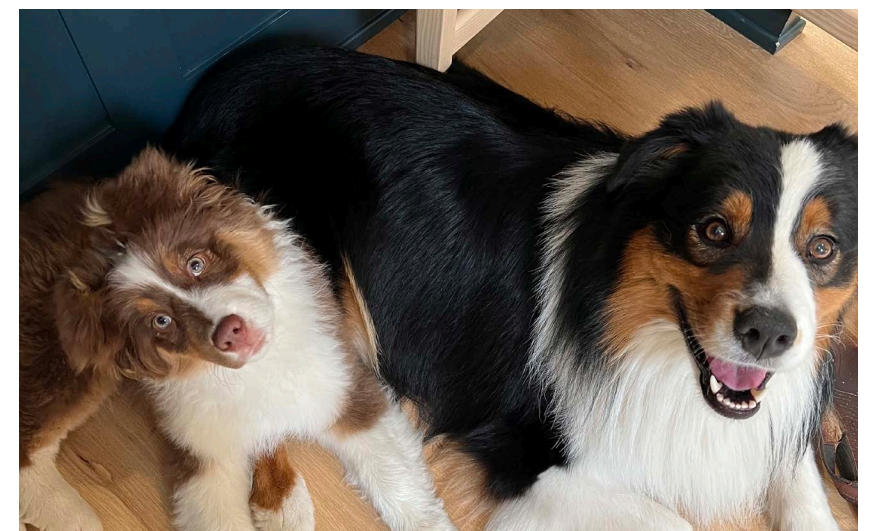
Our three dogs are a huge part of our family. We have two Australian Shepherds (Kato -5yrs and Chewie -3yrs) and one mini-American Shepherd (Iceman -4yrs).

After moving into our home and getting settled, we were ready to take on the responsibility of raising a dog together. The pack of brothers absolutely love each other and keep us active. We get in a lot of daily steps taking them for walks!

kato, chewie & iceman



Our nephew meeting Kato



our extended family

LIZ'S EXTENDED FAMILY

Liz was adopted into a loving family that struggled with fertility. They first adopted Liz's older brother James, before meeting Liz's birth mother and helping her bring Liz into their lives. Liz and James formed a strong bond, forged through their shared experience of adoption. James and his family live within 10 minutes of our home. We babysit for his 5-year-old boy and his 3-year-old girl whenever they call! James and his wife just welcomed a new baby girl this fall.

Liz unfortunately lost her mother, Anne, in 2014. Anne celebrated her Greek heritage, teaching Liz to cook traditional dishes like spanakopita, moussaka, and pasticcio that she learned while helping to run the family restaurant (like the movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"). These family traditions became cherished memories and Liz envisions passing on these traditions to our child and creating new family memories for generations.



Liz's extended family

RICHARD'S EXTENDED FAMILY

Richard is the youngest of two, with a 6 ½ year separation between him and his older sister, Dione. He had a great relationship with his sister growing up, even sharing a room for the first 7 years of his life.

Richard lost his mother to medical complications when he was 15 years old. Dealing with the death of his mother as a teenager was especially tough. Richard had to mature quickly to take on household chores, organize his school/sports schedules and prepare for the college admissions process. Today, Richard's father lives within 20 minutes of our home, in the house where Richard grew up. His sister's family is about an hour's drive away, but she visits frequently with her adorable 5-year-old girl. Richard also maintains relationships with his cousin, Jenn, and her husband who live in the city. We see them once a month usually for a hosted dinner at each other's houses.



Richard's extended family



Our niece



Liz's brother & his children

our friends

The most amazing part of our lives are the friendships we have built together over the last 24 years. These strong friendships formed during our time in elementary school, high school, college, and through social activities were foundational to our growth as a couple. The most important foundation of a friendship is commitment. We are proud of the long-lasting friendships we have developed throughout our lives.

Highschool friends



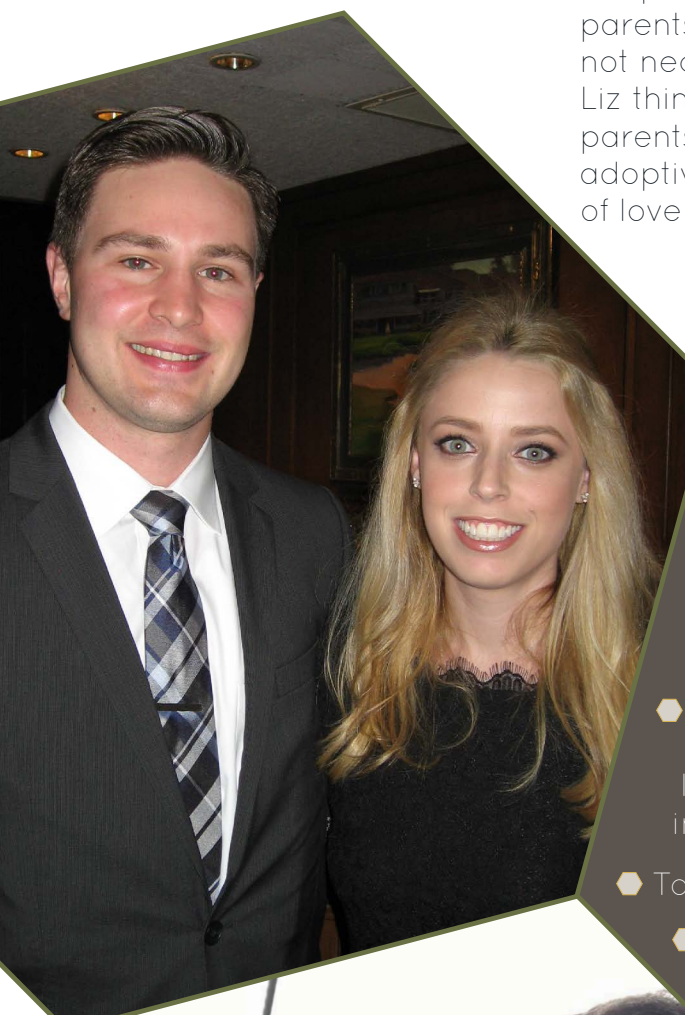
Football game with friends



Richard's basketball team

why adoption

Looking back, we knew that conceiving would not be easy. Since Liz was adopted at birth, we had always discussed adoption as an option. In our opinion, the satisfaction that parents feel comes from the experiences raising a child and not necessarily from the fact that they conceived them. When Liz thinks about her experience and the relationship with her parents, she is reminded that love between a child and an adoptive parent can be powerful. We know that we have a lot of love to give no matter what.



WE PROMISE

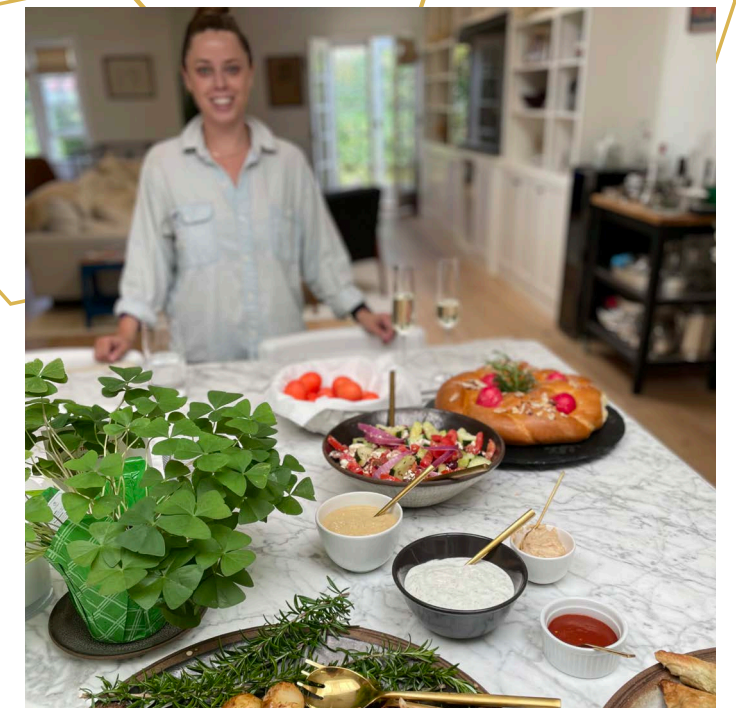
- ◆ In our home, we are patient, we always forgive, we dream together and push each other to be our best selves, and we never give up on family.
- ◆ We will be parents who provide emotional feedback to our adoptive child whatever they might be feeling. It takes extreme patience to raise children, and it is important to be honest and present.
- ◆ To dedicate time at home for education.
- ◆ To set a good example and set expectations for our adoptive child with affirmation when they do the right thing and calm explanation of the results of doing the wrong thing.



FUN FACTS ABOUT

richard & liz

- ◆ We celebrate Greek Easter every year with friends and family, making a feast of traditional Greek foods. One of the fun traditions passed down involves dyeing red hard boiled eggs to use in a game.
- ◆ Our dog Kato competes in Confirmation competitions through the American Kennel Club and Australian Shepherd Kennel Club. In his first year of competing, Kato was the 4th place Australian Shepherd in North America.
- ◆ We enjoy volunteering and have hosted a number of donation drives for causes close to our hearts. We organize and participate in walks to support PANCAN to bring awareness to pancreatic cancer, support families and survivors, and fund research.
- ◆ Each year, we look forward to gathering with our extended family for a 4th of July celebration at the beach. We spend the day playing with the little ones, catching up with old friends, watching the fireworks, and dancing the night away.



Volunteering with our friends



Kato winning best of breed





Family vacation, Liz tried brunette for a bit

Thank you

Adoption has always been at the heart of our dreams for building a family. We promise to raise your child with boundless love, unwavering support, and a deep respect for their unique identity. We will honor you, always, and create an environment where openness and communication flourish. Your child will grow up knowing they are cherished, worthy of love, and connected to their roots.

We understand the enormity of your decision and the courage it takes to create an adoption plan. Please know we approach this journey with the utmost respect for you and your hopes for your child's future. We are ready to welcome your little one into our hearts and home, creating a family built on love, resilience, and a shared commitment to a brighter tomorrow.

Thank you!

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