

# Patrick & Rochelle





# Dear Birth Parent,

To waiting families like us, birthparents are basically superheroes: strong and full of courage, selflessly putting the needs of another before their own, with the ability to change the course of so many lives. We admire your strength and are incredibly grateful to know there are people out there with hearts like yours. One such birthmother with a similarly huge heart blessed us with our son in 2020.

We know that we're just one of many eager families who would love nothing more than to love your child, so thank you for taking the time to consider us. Whomever you choose will have an enormous responsibility to honor your choice and the faith you've placed in them, and while we can't promise we'll do everything right, should you choose us, we can promise that we will try our hardest and never take the privilege of parenthood for granted. You would be an integral part of our family's story, and a cherished part of our lives (in whatever way you're comfortable). Our baby (by "our," we mean you + us together) will always know how loved they are by ALL their parents.



## Our Story:

We met in college and fell quickly and completely in love over a mutual appreciation of a good book and a good sense of humor. After graduation, our love of literature moved us to New York City where Rochelle began her career in book publishing and Patrick taught middle school English in the Bronx. We were married in 2010 and have since moved from NYC to Detroit to Denver and back to metro-Detroit where we're happy to live closer to both of our families as we grow a family of our own, continuing to read and laugh together every day.

Though the last two years have changed a lot in ways both wonderful (parenthood!) and difficult (pandemic!), we've loved rediscovering our favorite things through our son's eyes. We love spending time outdoors exploring our city and beyond: biking to the zoo or a good splash pad, hiking local nature trails or far-off mountain paths, road-tripping through the US and Canada, vacationing in both National Parks and theme parks. At the end of the day, our favorite place to be is snuggled on the couch together with our dog (Huckleberry), pockets emptied of whatever rocks our son discovered that day, re-reading our favorite picture books (or re-watching Pixar movies), and dreaming up future family adventures.



# About Patrick:

Patrick grew up with a very close family, with two older brothers who were his heroes, a younger sister who was his best friend, and wonderful parents who were his biggest fans. As an adult, his family is still just as close, even though his siblings now live all over the country (thank you, FaceTime!).

Patrick works in education, with experience teaching and writing curriculum for grades K-12, so our child will have the very best tutor and advocate when it comes to school. They'll also have access to a private coach and lifelong teammate due to Pat's experience playing and coaching multiple sports.

*From Rochelle:* It's impossible not to love Patrick. From co-workers to friends to complete strangers, he's genuinely polite and friendly, generous with his time, and endlessly patient. He's a loyal and supportive friend, an almost annoyingly perfect husband, and somehow an even better father (seriously, the kind of dad they write books about). Kids are naturally drawn to his ever-present smile and animated facial expressions. Our nieces and nephews line up to play with this one-man-sports-team/human-jungle-gym. The joyful laughs and shouts as he and our son play together are my favorite sounds in the world. I can't wait to add another little voice to the mix.



# About Rochelle:

Rochelle's upbringing was a bit chaotic (in the best way!) sharing time with her two families. On her mom's side (younger brother and a large extended family), there was never a shortage of fun, laughter, or snacks. Whenever they weren't shuttling between Rochelle's many after-school activities, the house was always filled with games and music. At her dad's house out in the country (with her step-mom, step-sisters, and another little brother), they always had at least five pets, from dogs and cats, to pigs and donkeys. Since her brother's disability prevents him from walking, they spent their time riding go karts and snowmobiles in their yard. Rochelle always felt lucky to have so much family all over the place.

Rochelle works in book publishing, so she is always ready with a good book recommendation and has access to all of the best children's books. Our baby will have the most enviable library, and since Rochelle works from home, there will always be a parent home to read to them.

*From Patrick:* Rochelle is the most thoughtful person I know. She'll know the thing you need before you know you need it, and she'll remember a conversation from years ago when you mentioned something you like. She brings people together and makes them feel loved, heard, and valued. It's incredible to watch all of those amazing qualities amplified in her role as a mom!







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## About Our Family:

Adoption is already a familiar and important part of our family. In addition to our son, both of Patrick's brothers are adopted, and two of his cousins have adopted children, so our baby will have a brother, uncles, and cousins who can relate to their experience. Rochelle's grandmother was once in your position and made the extremely difficult decision to make an adoption plan for her first child before going on to raise six children. We have learned so much from her story, and from our son's birth mom, and we hope to learn even more from you.

As extended families go, our child will be surrounded by love, with grandparents that visit weekly, seven older cousins ready to play, and aunts and uncles (and great-aunts and uncles!) eager to spoil another little one.

We are looking forward to watching our son become a big brother, and for a future baby to get to experience the super sweet hugs and kisses he's been practicing on all his toys. Our mini dachshund, Huckleberry, is already an experienced big brother and can't wait to lick up more baby food spills.

## About Our Community:

We've loved our Detroit-adjacent neighborhood since long before we moved here. We used to ride our bikes down the tree-lined streets on our way to our favorite park and dream about living here, not knowing that one day it would come true. When we officially began our adoption journey, we knew this is where we wanted to start a family: a safe and welcoming neighborhood in an exciting and diverse city. We have the best neighbors on our charming little block, with plenty of neighborhood kids to play with at the amazing park just at the end of the street. We're within walking distance of all the great restaurants and shops downtown, as well as the library, and all of the festivals and family-friendly activities that our city hosts year-round.

We have a strong network of close friends all around metro-Detroit who have been like family for over a decade, and have all recently started families, so our baby will have built-in friends and bonus aunts and uncles nearby.

