



Adam + Mike

INSIDE COVER  
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# Hello!



## Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to learn a little about us through these pages. We can only imagine the strength and love it takes to make the decisions you're facing right now, and we want you to know that we approach this process with deep respect and gratitude.

Our hope is to grow our family through adoption, and we're open to building a relationship that feels right for everyone involved. Whether that means regular updates, occasional visits, or something different, we're committed to honoring your wishes and doing what's best for the child, always.

We believe that love makes a family, and we're ready to provide a home full of support, laughter, creativity, and care. No matter what your path looks like, we want to thank you for considering us and for the love you're already showing your child.

With warmth and respect,  
Mike & Adam



Birthday party photo booth



Having some fun with the camera



At a family pool party



We REALLY love Costco



Exploring a new snack shop



Mini golf date night



Celebrating pride

## About Us

We met on Match.com while Mike was working on cruise ships, and we quickly connected over our shared values. We're both down-to-earth, easy-going, and reliable planning types - qualities that made it easy to trust each other from the start. And so Adam flew to Puerto Rico for our first date! Later that year, Mike finished his final cruise contract and we moved in together. Over the next six years we grew even more certain we'd found our lifelong partner. In 2024, we married surrounded by family and friends, excited to begin the next chapter that we'd planned from early on: building our family.

## Our Favorites

- Playing Nintendo games like Mario Kart and Mario Party
- Grocery shopping together, especially at Costco
- Going out for ice cream (absolute fav: Cold Stone Creamery)
- Trips to theme parks like Six Flags and Disney
- Brunches or really any hangout with friends
- Making cakes together (we made our wedding cake!)
- Nights in, cooking dinner and watching TV together



Can't resist a video game mural



Mike proposed after a race



Wedding day!



Wedding day as Muppets!



Our first cake together



It's cake!



Red carpet for our first film

## Hi, I'm Adam



Mom seeing me off to school

"Work hard and be kind to everyone," my mom would say each morning as I left for school. As the bus pulled away, we'd flash "I love you" in sign language. I grew up in rural western Pennsylvania, where my parents raised my sister, brother, and me with love and strong values. I feel lucky to have had such a caring upbringing — and I'm excited to share that same love and support with a child.

I've always loved sharing what I know. I tutored in school, and today I mentor junior engineers at work and volunteer with kids through a STEM program. Even when friends visit, I enjoy being the tour guide! I look forward to experiencing the world again through a child's eyes — though I may also end up explaining my bad jokes, like I sometimes do to Mike.

While I enjoy reading, video games, and other cozy indoor activities, I've always been drawn to the outdoors. Growing up, most of our vacations were camping trips, where I learned to build campfires and roast marshmallows. Now, living near Lake Michigan, I'm often out swimming, biking, or running as I train for triathlons. I dream of being one of those dads with a running stroller and can't wait to teach my child to ride a bike.



My brother, me, and sister on Dad



Reading with my godson, Samy



Feeling good in a triathlon



After my first Chicago Marathon



On set of our first film



In my office on a cruise ship



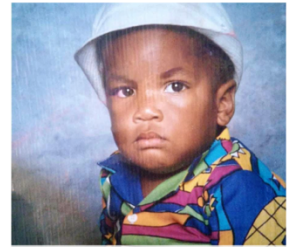
In Antarctica

## Hi, I'm Mike

I come from very humble beginnings, growing up in the rural parts of Kankakee, Illinois, surrounded by music, church, and a whole lot of imagination. My family is full of talented singers and musicians, and many of my childhood memories involve us traveling to churches around the country, sharing music and joy.

As a kid, I was always drawn to the arts. I'd spend hours writing poems, stories, and scripts, or escaping into my favorite video games. I also loved watching music videos on TV, dreaming of what it would be like to be part of that world someday. Years later, that dream came true. I moved to Atlanta to study at The Art Institute and joined a boyband that signed with a popular record label. We performed on national television and lived out some of the childhood daydreams I once had in front of the screen.

My love for adventure eventually took me around the world, working on cruise ships and visiting places I never imagined, even Antarctica. Today, I'm still telling stories through film, music, and writing. Creativity is the heartbeat of my life, and I'm excited to share that passion with a child. I can't wait to pass on the same sense of wonder, expression, and love that helped shape the person I am today.



Me as a baby



9 year old Blue Ranger

## What I want you to know about Mike by Adam

Mike is the most loyal person I know; he always has my back, and there's no one I trust more. He's thoughtful and sometimes quiet, but when he speaks (or sings ...and he can SING), he offers perspectives I might not have considered. I admire his drive to learn and grow. He's ambitious, and while that can sometimes feel daunting to cautious me, it's also led us to incredible experiences like making two feature-length films together.

I feel so blessed to have met Mike who just seems to "fit." Like how we share a love of travel and road trips: I usually handle the routing and logistics while Mike happily does most of the driving. I came into our relationship with a cat and a dog, and though Mike wasn't a "cat person" at first, he quickly became a devoted pet dad, spoiling them more than I do!

Mike also has a playful side. He loves nostalgia, re-watching old sitcoms like Martin, and still lights up when he sees Power Rangers toys. At the store, he'll wander down the toy aisle with childlike joy. That mix of loyalty, thoughtfulness, ambition, and playfulness is what makes him so special and why I know, without a doubt, he'll be the BEST dad.



At a coffee shop in Colombia



At Disney World



With our nephew, DJ



With Boscoe

## What I want you to know about Adam by Mike

Adam is my favorite person. He's one of the kindest, most helpful people I've ever met, with a generous heart. I love how he gives his time freely, whether it's helping someone in need, mentoring others, or volunteering both within and outside our community. He's always finding ways to include our loved ones in special moments, whether it's planning gatherings, attending life milestones, or simply staying connected.

He's also the one who keeps me and everyone else up to date on the latest technology. His tech skills come in handy often, especially when my family needs help, and I admire his patience with all of us. We love playing video and board games together, and he's usually the one organizing game nights, dinner dates, or weekend getaways with friends. He's the glue that keeps our circle together and always makes sure everyone feels seen and valued.

Adam is a natural problem solver, logical, calm, and detail-oriented. I feel incredibly blessed to have him as my partner. We've road-tripped across the country, traveled to amazing places, started businesses, and created films. Through it all, Adam brings joy, wonder, and love into everything we do. I know in my heart that he'll make an incredible parent.



On a cruise with my family

### Mike's Fun Facts

- Was once a professional singer and songwriter with a record deal
- Sailed the seas for 7 years and has literally traveled around the globe
  - Film and Entertainment Director
- Huge fan of things from the 90s (music, movies, tv, toys, etc)
  - Loves stand-up comedy

### Adam's Fun Facts

- Acted in and directed theater shows in high school and college
  - A HUGE fan of Star Trek, Star Wars, and other sci-fi
- Qualified for the Ironman World Championship in 2025
- Enjoys a wide range of TV: from Bridgerton to Severance
  - Favorite cuisine is Indian food followed by Mexican



At 'Ride For Life'



The view from the living room



A lot of cooking happens here



The dining and living areas



Street view of our building



Our building's courtyard



Our building's back patio

## Our Home

We've loved living together in our condo for more than six years. It's a modern space in a well-maintained older building, with an open layout that lets us stay connected — whether one of us is cooking, working at the dining table, or relaxing in the living room. Our neighbors are wonderful and supportive of our adoption journey ...knowing that there's good soundproofing between units helps!



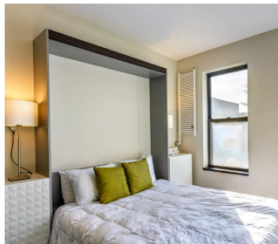
Primary bedroom



Our neighborhood school

## Our Neighborhood

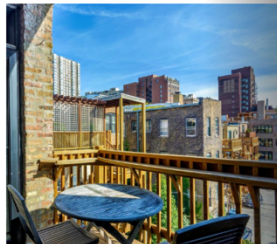
A big reason we love our home is our Chicago neighborhood, Lakeview. We're just a short walk from Lake Michigan, grocery stores, top-ranked schools, the library, playgrounds, and plenty of restaurants and shops. Best of all, it's a welcoming, diverse community where families of all kinds are celebrated.



Second bedroom



Home office



Back terrace



A nearby playground



We're a block from the lake



A short walk from Wrigley Field



Christmas with Adam's parents



Parents' first meeting in Colombia



Mike's sister, Mickey



Family birthday celebration



Adam's extended family



Mike's brothers

# Our Family

Family means so much to us, and we feel lucky that ours have blended so well. Adam has felt warmly welcomed into Mike's family, and Mike has been embraced by Adam's. At our wedding, many relatives met the other side of the family for the first time - it was wonderful to see those bonds form, some even starting on Facebook beforehand! Both of our families have been overwhelmingly supportive of our decision to adopt, and even though Mike's family is an hour outside Chicago and Adam's is mostly in Pennsylvania, we make family time a priority.



Mike's grandma and family



All of Adam's immediate family on a trip to Seattle summer 2025



Adam's sister and brother-in-law



An outing with nieces and nephew



In Paris with Adam's godson



Family trip to Indiana Beach amusement park



Adam's aunts, parents, and uncle



Birthday brunch with rowing, cycling, and other great friends



Picnic at a park



NYE with some besties



Six Flag is best with friends!



A friend's baby shower



Holiday visit with HS friends in PA



Friends' trip to San Francisco

## Our Friends

We feel lucky to have friends from every stage of life: family friends, high school and college friends, friends we've made through team sports, and other great people we've met along life's path. Our social circle is wide, but we also have a close-knit group we see every week. Together we celebrate birthdays and holidays, travel, play games, share brunches and dinners, and catch movies. Most importantly, we're there for each other through life's ups and downs, and we feel that the support we give to our friends is returned to us many times over.



Visiting friends from high school



Pride celebration with close friends



Dinner and game night



A long-time friend's baby girl



Brunch with close friends



Long-time family friends



We like what we see!



Getting ready before the ceremony



Showing a little playful attitude



One of our best friends, Simone, did a great job officiating



One big family now!



Having fun at the reception

## Wedding Day

Our wedding day is one we'll always remember. Friends and family came from near and far, different cities, states, and even countries to celebrate with us, and having all of that love in one place was beautiful. The day was full of laughter, happy tears, and so many personal touches that made it feel uniquely us. One of the highlights was playing games with our guests, something that brought everyone together and kept the energy high all night. We still talk about those moments today, and we look back on that day with so much love in our hearts.



PA tradition: the cookie table



Our mothers coordinated their dresses (and hair!) to our suits



Surrounded by love



Big day - her only son is married!



Cutting the cake we made!



Officially married, a moment of great joy all around!



HS friends from across the country



Christmas gathering with close friends



Mike cooking a feast



Black Panther & Spider Man



White & Green Power Rangers



Data & Geordi L. of Star Trek



Family Christmas gathering



Family holiday pajama party

## Holidays & Traditions

We love the holiday season and everything that comes with it. Each October, we host a Halloween costume gathering with friends, bringing fun, creativity, and great memories. For Thanksgiving, Mike cooks a huge homemade feast, and we celebrate with both family and friends during what we lovingly call "Friendsgiving." It's a time we truly cherish playing games, enjoying delicious food, and spending time with the people love. When Christmas comes around, we travel to Pennsylvania to be with Adam's family, where we enjoy cozy traditions, quality time, and the warmth of being surrounded by loved ones.



Jean Grey & Cyclops of X-Men



Friendsgiving with friends, Adam's parents, and some of their family



Visiting parents and cousins



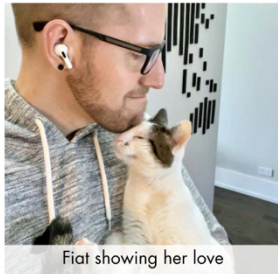
Sonic & Dracula



Mario & Princess Peach



Jafar & Maleficent



Fiat showing her love



Watching a rowing regatta together



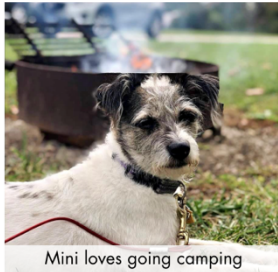
Fiat loves both her daddies

## Our Pets

Adam came into our relationship with two pets: Mini, a Shih Tzu-Rat Terrier mix, and Fiat, an American Shorthair cat. Adam grew up with cats, dogs, and fish (including a piranha!), while Mike grew up with dogs. At first, Mike wasn't sure about cats, and Fiat didn't usually like new people — but from day one, Fiat trusted Mike completely. Since then, Mike has become a wonderful "pet dad," playing games with both pets and even putting on "cat TV" (videos of birds and squirrels) for their entertainment. We believe pets are family, and we imagine our love for animals will be something we share with our child.



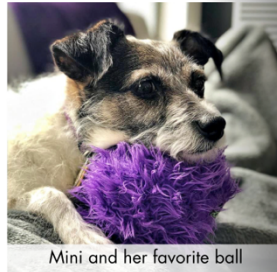
Fiat and Mini chilling together



Mini loves going camping



Fiat, in her happy place



Mini and her favorite ball

## Parenting Philosophy & Childcare

We believe that every child is born with their own unique identity, and as parents, our role is to nurture that individuality with love, support, and guidance. We want to raise children who are independent thinkers, curious, confident, and unafraid to explore the world around them. Our goal is to provide a safe and encouraging space where they can grow into the fullest version of themselves, discovering what brings them joy and helping them pursue their goals with passion.

Mike plans to be a stay-at-home dad to ensure that our child receives the daily care, attention, and presence they need to thrive during those important early years.

More than anything, we want to raise children who lead with love. We hope to instill compassion, empathy, and a strong sense of community. We believe in teaching by example, being kind, listening well, and standing up for what's right. We want our children to not only feel deeply loved, but to carry that love forward into how they treat others and the world around them.



St. Maarten



Rome, Italy



Paris



Disney World Florida



Disneyland Paris



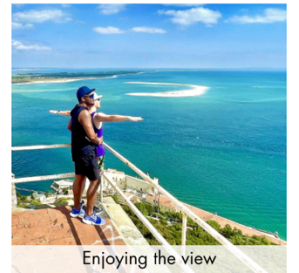
Enjoying the ocean waves



Lisbon, Portugal

# We Love Traveling!

Travel has been a meaningful part of both of our lives, together and individually. Exploring new places allows us to connect with different cultures, appreciate the beauty of the world, and create lasting memories. We approach each destination with curiosity and gratitude, whether it's a road trip across the U.S. or a faraway country. Along the way, we've made lifelong friends and gathered experiences that we treasure. We look forward to sharing those adventures with a child and seeing the world through their eyes.



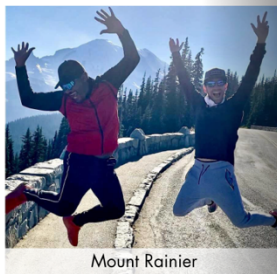
Enjoying the view



Road Trip on Route 66



Cancun



Mount Rainier



St. Louis



Grand Canyon



Bogota, Colombia



## Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to read our story. We hope this book has given you a true sense of who we are, what we value, and the kind of parents we hope to be. We have so much love to share and would be honored to give a child a safe, joyful, and supportive home.

Our first priority will always be what is best for the child — helping them grow, thrive, and navigate life's challenges with care and encouragement.

We also want you to know how much we respect the love and strength it takes to consider adoption. If we are fortunate enough to be chosen, we will honor not only the child but also their story, background, and connection to you as integral to their identity.

Whatever your path may be, we wish you peace, strength,  
and all the best for the future.

*Alan + Mike*

# Adoptive Family Information

	<b>Adam</b>	<b>Mike</b>
<i>Age</i>	41	39
<i>Race</i>	White	Black
<i>Ethnicity</i>	Caucasian	African American
<i>Education</i>	Master's Degree	Bachelor's Degree
<i>Beliefs</i>	Agnostic	Believes in God
<i>Occupation</i>	Software Engineer	Film Director
<i>Hair/Eyes</i>	Blonde/Hazel	Black/Brown
<i>Height/Weight</i>	5'8", 155 lbs	5'11", 215 lbs
<i>Health</i>	Excellent	Excellent
<i>Smoking</i>	Never	Never
<i>Alcohol</i>	Social occasions	Social occasions
<i>Years Together</i>	7 years, 1 year married	
<i>Home</i>	Chicago, in the city	
<i>Pets</i>	Mini (dog) and Fiat (cat)	
<i>Childcare plan</i>	Stay-at-home dad (Mike), shared caregiving, and reliable backup support	

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