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RACHEL
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»» HELLO! ««

MY NAME IS
RACHEL



ME & AN ALPACA NAMED RACHEL
(WHO NEEDS TO VISIT A DENTIST)

THE MOUNTAINS LOOK
BEAUTIFUL IN WINTER!



ADOPTION has been a part of my life since I was born. My older sister is adopted from South Korea.

I've never known a life without adoption and always assumed that it would be a foundation for growing my own family when the time came. I learned last year that I would not be able to have my own child biologically, and while that news came as a shock, my heart knew that I would find my baby through adoption when the time was right.

I hope to have the privilege to raise a child to be strong, courageous, independent, empathetic and more than anything else, to feel loved and secure. If you were to choose me, I know that you would be giving a piece of your heart to me and at the same time, filling a gap in mine - SOMETHING I DON'T TAKE LIGHTLY.

ABOUT
ME

»» **My Family Life & Growing Up - MY FAMILY IS THE BEDROCK AND FOUNDATION OF MY LIFE.** When everything else in life changes, my family is always there behind me, supporting me.

I recognize that not everyone has had the same privilege as I was fortunate to have growing up. From excellent public schools nearby to a solid, stable family, the opportunities I've had have shaped who I am today and I will pass on these same opportunities to a child.

»» **Volunteering** - It's important for me to serve my community. **CURRENTLY, I VOLUNTEER AT ROSIE'S PLACE, A WOMAN'S SHELTER IN BOSTON.** I cook and serve dinner to women and children who come to the shelter for meals, or help the women 'shop' the free food pantry for monthly groceries. I genuinely enjoy talking and forming relationships with the women who rely on the services of Rosie's Place and can't wait to share this experience with a child.

»» **Favorite Foods - I AM BLESSED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH AND STRIVE EVERY DAY TO MAKE HEALTHY DECISIONS.** I try to eat healthy as much as I can and will eat my weight in blueberries or mangoes if given the chance! When it's hot outside, a tropical fruit smoothie is one of my favorite things to cool me off and in the winter, soup is my jam - particularly Ramen or Vietnamese Pho. There's also an amazing Cuban restaurant in my neighborhood, which reminds me of growing up in Miami. My biggest food weakness though is mac and cheese! I don't like it to be too fancy though - just some bread crumbs on top and maybe a little paprika to spice it up.



HANGING OUT IN VIBRANT
JAMAICA PLAIN

I WISH
YOU
STRENGTH
& PEACE
THROUGH
THIS
PROCESS.

HIKING IN
WASHINGTON STATE



FOR WORK

I work in marketing for a retailer and love what I do! **THE COMPANY I WORK FOR IS VERY FAMILY FRIENDLY.** Not only will I be able to take three full months off when I bring home a baby, but there is also an in-house daycare, where I can pop in during the day to see my child and even eat lunch together.



TAKING A BREAK AT WORK TO ENJOY A SMOOTHIE

TRAVEL & ADVENTURES

My father worked in the airline industry, **SO I WAS FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO TRAVEL A LOT WITH MY FAMILY.** We frequently visited New York City as well as Alaska, Hawaii, and other far reaches of the States. We also traveled to Europe where I experienced seeing where the Beatles were born, riding a gondola in the canals of Venice, and trying to speak French (poorly!) in Paris. I still love to travel because of these special moments I've sought out, creating so many amazing memories. Memories like the warmth of hot springs in Iceland while the snow was falling overhead, cold showers in a barrel under a waterfall in Croatia, and eating freshly made seafood paella in Spain. **I try to take a big trip annually and plan for a mixture of adventure, culture and food!** I hope

to also show my child the world, so they can experience the vast beauty and create memories of their own.



EXPLORING THE WATERFALLS IN CROATIA



ME & A T-REX AT UNIVERSAL



LOOKING OUT AT SAN SEBASTIAN ON A TRIP TO SPAIN

I LOVE TO HIKE

SUMMITED THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN IN NEW ENGLAND

Climbing makes me feel strong, both in my body and in my heart. And being amongst these mountains makes me feel like there is something bigger than the day to day troubles that bring us down. Plus, the beauty is something I'm in awe of every time. I've established a tradition of bringing a Snickers on every hike with me. Sometimes the

hikes are so tough and my morale gets low, so I break out my 'Emergency Snickers' to cheer me up and keep me motivated. When I don't need an 'Emergency Snickers,' I gobble it up at the top of the mountain as my celebratory 'Summit Snickers'! **I LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING THESE MOUNTAINS AND THE BEAUTIFUL OUTDOORS WITH A CHILD.**



FUN FACTS

1) I WENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA AND I'M A HUGE GATORS FAN!

2) MY FAVORITE HOLIDAY IS THANKSGIVING - FAMILY, FOOD AND FOOTBALL!

3) MY FAVORITE COLOR IS GREEN.

4) I'VE SPENT THE LAST YEAR EMBRACING MY NATURAL CURLY HAIR, WHICH I FOUGHT SO HARD TO DO AS A CHILD.

5) I'VE BEEN SKYDIVING TWICE. IT'S SCARY BUT FUN.



THE FAMILY CHEERING ON THE GATORS!

I RECENTLY EMBRACED MY NATURAL CURLS



MY HOME

I LIVE OUTSIDE OF BOSTON,

in a community rich with diversity, acceptance and culture. We are spoiled with easy access

to Dominican and Cuban food, top notch ramen and some of the best bagels in all of Boston!

My deck is my favorite part of my home. I have a little eating area and a cozy sectional that I love to spend warm weekend mornings on with a book and my coffee. The deck is hidden behind some big trees, which make me feel like it's my own private oasis in the neighborhood.

ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT MY NEIGHBORHOOD



is that it's in the heart of the "Emerald Necklace," a series of parks, which includes a big pond with sailboats and a boathouse, the Arboretum with the most beautiful trees and a park that houses the zoo. Being a stone's throw away from these lovely parks, means I have constant access to the outdoors.

MY DECK IS FAVORITE PLACE TO ENJOY COFFEE



There are also a number of kid friendly events and traditions from parades in the Summer, paper lanterns on the water at Halloween and our annual Kite & Bike Festival in the Spring.



TRADITIONS



THE FAMILY WITH OUR TREE!

Some time between Christmas and New Years, our family gathers for a special fondue dinner. We dip everything in cheese and then switch to chocolate! The girls end up with cheese and chocolate all over their mouths and clothes, but their smiles more than make up for the mess!

The day after Thanksgiving is the day our family goes to a farm to pick out our Christmas tree. We begin the day hoping that little Lenora won't get car sick and hold our breaths as we drive down curvy roads to the farm. Once we arrive, we hit the hayride together to the Christmas trees. Even Grandma and Pop Pop ride along. We pick a tree as a group and once we have agreement, my brother-in-law cuts down the tree with a saw. He groans and sweats through it, but he's proud when the job is complete! We roast marshmallows over a fire while we wait for the tree to be bundled atop our car.



THE GIRLS' CHRISTMAS TREE PICK



LENORA GOBBLING UP A ROASTED MARSHMALLOW



RILEY AND ME ENJOYING A HAY RIDE!



CELEBRATING Dad's 70th birthday!



RILEY AND LENORA BEING SILLY WITH ME

FAMILY + FRIENDS

Grandma and Pop Pop live outside of Philadelphia and have been married for 47 years. Before retiring, Grandma was a school teacher and librarian and Pop Pop, a Vietnam War veteran, worked as an airplane mechanic. Grandma has a handmade quilt ready for the next child that enters our family and Pop Pop will build a beautiful wood toy chest for his next grandchild. They love taking the kids to the American Helicopter Museum, where they volunteer.

Aunt Tracy and Uncle Tom both work in medicine, which is handy to have in the family. While Uncle Tom is out for a run, Aunt Tracy whips up the most incredible healthy meals. I call her MacGyver because she can come up with a solution to any issue!

Cousin Riley is 7 years old and so patient and inclusive with younger kids. Her younger sister, Lenora (4yo) is a fun-loving silly girl whose contagious giggle can turn anyone's frown upside down.

MY SISTER AND I IN CALIFORNIA



ADOPTION = CONNECTION

I grew up with ADOPTION AS A FOUNDATION of my family. My parents struggled to have a baby in the early years of their marriage. With the financial support of my grandparents, they adopted my sister from South Korea. I was born three years later.

Growing up, we celebrated the differences that made our family unique but our love was all the same. My sister was consistently

offered opportunities to meet other Korean children, to dine on Korean cuisine and to even visit the country. My parents strived to give her what she needed in order to establish a strong identity.

Today, my sister is my closest friend and the person most dear to me in this world. Adoption brought us together and our love for each other makes us inseparable.

My closest friends are Jenny – whom I've known since Kindergarten! – and Caitlin who I met when I lived in Seattle. While both Jenny and Caitlin are mamas to two kids each and live in cities far away, I love joining their families on fun activities for the kiddos when I visit.

Since I started hiking 3 years ago, I have forged a number of very close friendships with other women who share in our passion for the mountains. Sarah and Mollie are my hiking tribe. We spend nearly every weekend together during hiking season, taking turns cheering each other through blisters, dehydration and exhaustion as we make our way up these peaks. From summit selfies to post-hike mac and cheese or burgers, we have built traditions that have bonded us like family.

MY BEST FRIEND JENNY & I



CAITLIN & I CATCHING UP



MOLLIE, SARAH AND I ARE A HIKING FAMILY!





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PROMISE
TO...

»» **Love your child** unconditionally with all of my heart and soul.

»» Ensure that they have **stability, a good education** and **endless opportunity**.

»» **Honor you** and proudly share your child's adoption story with them.

»» **Keep you in our lives** with annual visits, frequent letters and photos with respect to your comfort level. I believe love and family can be infinite, and I hope you'll choose to remain part of our family.

»» **Integrate your culture and background** into your child's life so that they feel connected to their history.

THANK
YOU!

