



Dear Birthmom –

We're David and Melody and are thrilled to meet you in this letter and have the chance to let you know some things about us, our home and our family. We've been happily married for five years and are very much looking forward to adopting a baby.

Raising a child together was always in our dreams when we married, but, unfortunately, we are unable to give birth to a child. Although we've experienced a lot of heartbreak trying to have children, we both realize that the thrill and joy of raising a child in a loving and nurturing home is most important to us – not the act of giving birth ourselves. Adoption gives us the chance we've been looking for to give a child the

wonderful life and bright future he or she so richly deserves. We have incredible respect for you and your courage in considering all the options available for your baby and his or her future and are honored to be considered as one of your options.

We live in Connecticut in a 4 bedroom house surrounded by woods at the end of a cul-de-sac. All the neighborhood kids love sledding down the hill in front of it. When we look at the deer and wild turkeys running around the yard, we sometimes forget we're less than a mile away from everything anyone could possibly need (schools, restaurants, shopping, movies). All our neighbors and their children are friends, and we all spend lots of time together doing fun things like trick or treating, sledding and hunting for Easter eggs.

David and I have known each other for almost 13 years and were good friends before we married. We met 12 years ago on the job and became unlikely friends. After knowing each other for only a week, we clashed over a work issue and

had a major argument. As the argument carried on (and on and on), we realized that we were enjoying the whole thing and each other. In truth, David was just teasing me – and I loved it! David was born in England and moved to America when he was 19. He was raised by his parents, John (a college professor) and Margaret (a homemaker), with his brother Andrew, who's 2 years older than him. He enjoyed a comfortable, middle class upbringing in the suburbs. He didn't grow up rich, but they were



never poor, and life was always very stable. I was born and raised in Connecticut as the runt of the litter by my parents, David and Esther. Life for me and my siblings (David, Fred and Darlene) was rough at times because our Dad had some problems (drinking and other), but it was our Mom that kept us all together. We didn't have much materially, but we did have love and respect, and Mom always kept us grounded.

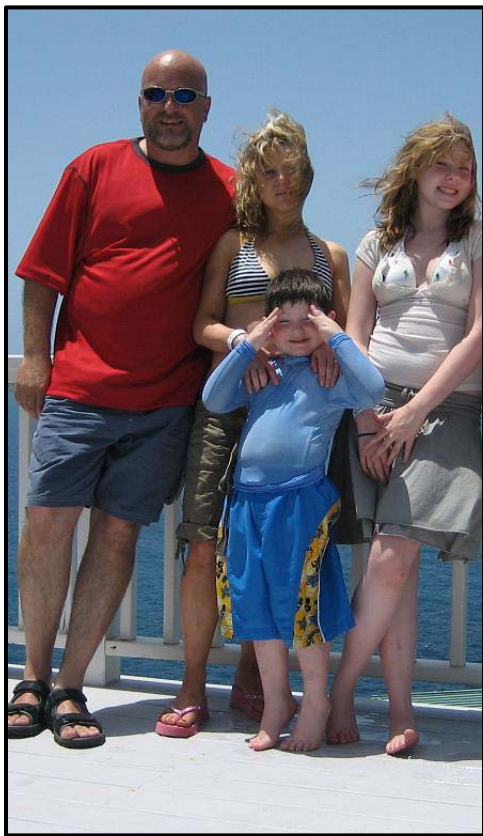
They say opposites attract: David and I are a great example of that. David loves meat, and I'm a vegetarian. David is a Marketing Executive, and his job involves spending money. I'm the Financial Controller, and my job is to save money. He's

tall, and I'm short. I have hair, and he doesn't (but he carries it well).

I've had two children (Dean 8 and Nikki 17), and David had none. Even though our backgrounds are so different, we have so much in common – particularly, our love of children and the desire to raise one together. Despite our different backgrounds, we very much agree on the importance of love, humor, respect, education and family.

We were both married to other people when we first met. We all make mistakes in life, and both knew that our marriages had been mistakes. Until we married, I had raised Dean and Nikki pretty much as a single Mom without any father figure in their lives, but as soon as we married, the kids both accepted David as their Dad even though, officially, he's their step-dad. He has been such an incredible influence in both their lives, and they are both so much better for knowing him. Since getting married, we've all visited some wonderful places and had incredible family vacations together. We've travelled to St. Thomas, Los Angeles and

Mexico on long vacations and have enjoyed many shorter trips to zoos and amusement parks together. Here are a couple of pictures of fun trips we enjoyed. We, especially, love the zoo because we're all big animal lovers. We have three cats and a parrot named Cosmo who has a pretty expanded vocabulary. (No swearing allowed because if the bird picks up on it, someone's in trouble!). We also love Disney movies so on rainy days, we'll usually catch a matinee, saving the sunny days for hiking and outdoorsy stuff. We've discovered something else too – Shakespearean plays. Our neighbor's kids recently starred in a local production of Hamlet and to my delight, our kids were in awe. Maybe we have future actors on our hands! We introduced Dean to soccer (or football as they call it in





England) and encouraged him to join the local town soccer team. We also made sure he learned how to swim by taking him every week to lessons (and fun swimming) at the local YMCA. I read to Dean every night, but he always enjoys David's "made up" stories. They usually combine our pets and some kind of Star Wars theme but are always entertaining and leave Dean begging for more. The stories must be really good because Dean often prefers them to the stories I read him. I like to tell people that I have a husband and 3 kids because David's the biggest kid of all. When Dean goes on field trips and the school is looking for chaperones, the other kids tell their parents they don't want them to go – they just want "Dean's Dad to go."



David and I still work together – basically running the company which brings tremendous benefits. Although we're both big believers in responsibility, our positions bring us huge flexibility as it relates to the children. We're always there for field trips, school plays, recitals and any other time the children need us. We can leave work at a moment's notice and tend to the children whenever necessary without having to explain it to anybody. The children always come first in our world. We also encourage a very friendly work environment where children are welcome in our offices any time – something both Dean and Nikki have enjoyed many times. Children are always drawn to David's and my offices because we always keep them stocked with toys. Most folks find it difficult to get their kids to leave at the end of the day because they're having so much fun. Often, we have to tell David and the kids to keep it down a bit when they're having too much fun.



One important thing David and I share is financial responsibility. This may sound like bragging, but we don't want it to come across that way. We both make good money and spend it wisely. We have a lovely house and live very comfortably but not extravagantly. We have no debt other than the mortgage on the house. We want you to know that your baby would never want for anything whether it be clothing, food, shelter, education, entertainment or any other life-fulfilling opportunity. We always spend on the children before ourselves, and your baby would be no different. We also believe strongly in a good education. We're very fortunate that Nikki and Dean take their education very seriously – Nikki, as a freshman in college, and Dean, as a 4th grader. David and I have both completed various levels of higher education and would make sure your baby had every educational opportunity readily available – including the guarantee of a college education.

Some fun facts about David:

-David's sense of humor is larger than life. He's definitely a funny-man and always has everyone cracking up, wherever we go.



-He's been in the US long enough to have lost his accent, but lots about his speech gives him away. Many phrases and words sound distinctly British. Plus, he turns it on in full force when he's in the mood. It's really charming.

-He likes to do foreign voices (like Indian and Russian) and even has the kids doing them too.

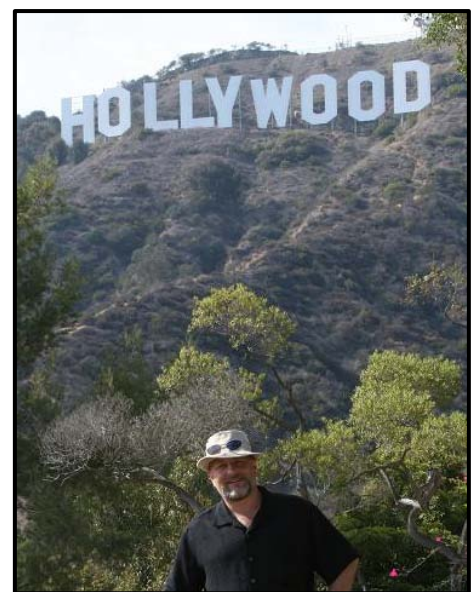
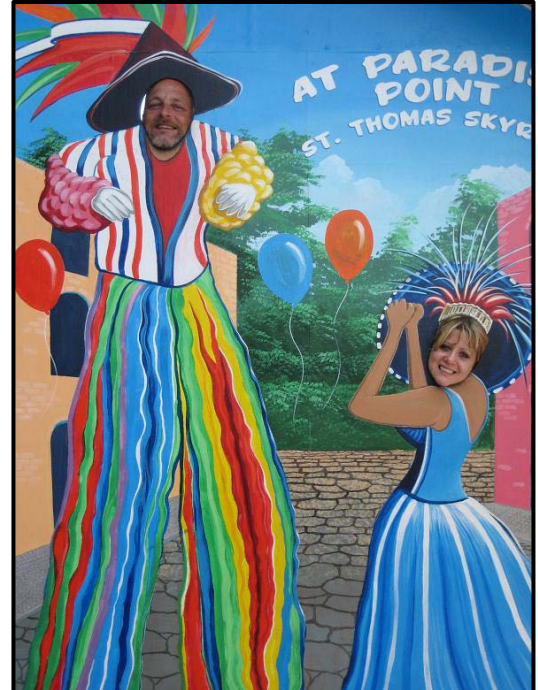
-He's teaching the children all sorts of worldly things I can't teach them, like how the game of cricket is played, and what French people are like. An added plus – he knows everything about European history and is pretty well versed in world politics, too.

-David is super intelligent, well-spoken, and educated. He always wins at Trivial Pursuit, and it steams me.

-Kids and animals take to David like a magnet. He's highly requested by the kids in Dean's class to chaperone field-trips because he makes them giggle so much and lets them jump all over him.

-He's very generous

-He's kind to strangers and talks easily with everyone. When we go to dinner, if there's a table close to ours, chances are we'll have made friends with the people sitting near us.



Some fun facts about Melody (we call her Mel):



-Mel is all of 5 feet tall and 95 lbs soaking wet, but she's very spunky.

- She's a vegetarian, does yoga and is really into diet and exercise.



- She makes things very entertaining because Dean loves to copy her yoga moves too -- nothing like watching an 8 year old doing the "downward dog."

-She loves to learn.

-We stopped using housekeepers because Mel always cleaned the house before they came so that they didn't have

too much work to do. She became friends with them all and would have tea and donuts ready and would sit and chat instead of having them clean!

-She's very maternal and nurturing. The children are always her first priority.

-She's very principled and loyal and fights to protect others.

She can't stand to see anyone being taken advantage of and when she does, she steps in.

We really appreciate your taking the time to learn a little bit about us. We cannot tell you how much it means to us that you are considering us as parents to your precious child. If you choose us, we promise that your child will always know of your love and courage. Likewise, we would be happy to send you letters and photographs letting you know how your child is getting along, if you wish.



As a final point

If you would like to know more about us, talk with us by telephone, or meet us in person, you can contact Steve and Joel Kirsh at 800-333-5736. Rest assured that when you call, nobody will try to pressure or influence your decision in any way, and you won't be committing to anything by calling.

Thanks again,

Mel & David

