

INTRODUCING

Michael & Somer





DEAR FRIEND

hello,

In sitting down to write this letter, there are so many things we want to say to you. We want you to know we're grateful you're taking the time to learn more about us. We want you to know we've worked together for 16 years to build a healthy, loving, committed relationship and how excited and ready we are to become parents. But this letter isn't about us – it's about you. We can only imagine the emotions you are experiencing as you work to understand your options and develop a plan for you and your baby. We hope you have allies supporting you, loving you, and helping you navigate this difficult season. We hope you find comfort in learning about families like ours who would be honored to welcome your baby into our home. If you decide to make an adoption plan and you choose us, please know we will always honor you and the level of openness you prefer in a way that ensures your child feels loved, supported, chosen and worthy. We promise to raise your child with compassion and integrity, and to provide a life full of opportunity. We hope this book gives you a glimpse into our lives and our hearts.

With ever so much gratitude,

*Michael
& Somer*



OUR STORY

in Somer's words



Michael grew up in California and I grew up in a small town in Arizona. We met in Arizona while working our way through college at a restaurant near campus and quickly became best friends. We spent all of our free time hiking and traveling together and within a year we were inseparable.

We supported each other over the next ten years on our journeys to adulthood and self-discovery. After graduating from college, we moved to the east coast to attend graduate school and rented a tiny apartment only 20 minutes to New York City. For several years, we worked and went to school on the weekdays and spent our weekends exploring every corner of that beautiful, chaotic island. Shortly after graduating, we eloped on the cliffs overlooking the ocean in Hawaii. Then, we took our next

leap of faith and pursued our dream of joining the Peace Corps in Uganda, Africa. Throughout our service, we fell in love with Ugandan culture and vowed to continue experiencing other cultures by traveling to a different country each year. So far, we've spent time in Turkey, Spain, Italy, Mexico, and the Philippines.

Today, we live not far from where we met on a beautiful, tree-lined street in a historic neighborhood. Michael works at a local hospital as a nurse and I work from home in finance. We feel very lucky to live near family and friends in a city and community that we truly love. We will never grow tired of discovering the beautiful desert that surrounds us. We would be so thrilled and honored to share this life we've created with a child.



MEET SOMER

by Michael

It's impossible to paint a picture of Somer in just a few paragraphs – her strongest attributes are her intelligence, her kindness, and her passion for the people she loves. No one prioritizes their family more than Somer. She is also that person who wakes up at sunrise, runs a few miles, makes breakfast, and creates an activity list before anyone else has stumbled out of bed.

Somer loves to read books and listen to podcasts because they feed her curiosity about life. She loves travelling internationally to remote villages with obscure languages, so we can “live like the locals live” if only for a week. Her passion for life and learning, her strong work ethic, and the powerful way she loves and supports her family are only a few things that will make her an incredible mother.



MORE ABOUT *Somer*

OCCUPATION: Finance

FAVORITE MOVIE: Man on the Moon

FAVORITE PLACE: Solvang, CA

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: Family, Running Shoes, My Husband's Hugs, and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

MY PERFECT DAY: Michael and I wake up early, drink cappuccinos, go for a hike, and then spend the evening relaxing at home.



Somer and niece



Somer with Peace Corps host brother

“Somer has an energy and drive that will inspire a child to take on the world with passion and purpose.”

- Michael



Somer and best friend



Somer with family friend



On vacation with best friend's daughter



FUN FACTS

ABOUT *Michael
& Somer*



Somer is a serious cactus lover and has more than 20 kinds of cacti growing in pots inside and outside of our home (I think she secretly names them!).



We learned to speak Lusoga while living in Uganda, Africa (Michael also speaks his native language, Tagalog).

Every time we travel to a new country we make note of our very best meal and then we recreate it at home, so we can experience the culture again and again!



Michael is the family activity coordinator and loves board games, charades, cards and any game that involves laughter and friendly competition.

Somer is an avid runner and can be found running the streets of our neighborhood at sunrise while listening to her favorite podcasts.



We love to go on “cruiser bike dates” to our favorite local restaurants regardless of weather.



THANK YOU



We appreciate your taking the time to consider our family. We hope we were able to paint a picture of the life and love we have to offer. We're sending you strength and hope as you continue to consider your options. If you choose to move forward with an adoption plan, please know that we are here and ready to embrace your child with all that we have. We are committed to making sure your child knows where he or she came from and the respect and honor we have for you and your decision.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

*Michael
& Somer*



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