



*Shimmy
& Lisa*

Shimmy & Lisa



Hi there!

Thanks for spending some time with us today. We can't emphasize how ready, eager and excited we are to become parents.

Of course, we know you have a lot of questions, and we hope our book can help with that.

Know this ... we are far from perfect, but we know what perfect love is. We have it with each other, and we can't wait to love our new baby in the same way!

Shimmy & Lisa





“ We are fun, different,
and REAL...oh...our
home is full of LOVE!”

Our love story

We love our love story, because it happened so naturally and organically. We met in the sports world and were acquaintances first, then friends, then dated, then got married. We love doing “everything” together, and “nothing” together ... from traveling the world, to going to concerts and sporting events, to riding our bikes in the city, to walking our dogs and playing with them at dog parks, to reading and cooking meals together side-by-side.



about Lisa

by Shimmy

I smile whenever I think about Lisa. (I'm smiling right now!) She is the kindest, most thoughtful person I've ever known. She has a way of making everyone feel seen. That is a gift. Lisa inspires me to be the best person I can be by the way she lives her life. She has the perfect combination of intelligence and humility. She's smart but doesn't have to prove it. I joked at our wedding I could never win an argument with her because she was a debate team state champion but the reality is, she's not in competition with you. She roots for everyone to win.

Lisa has always shared with me her desire to be a mom. She makes time for her niece and nephews in a way that amazes me. She shows up to swim meets and soccer games and violin recitals. My heart melts when I watch her with our friend's children.



“*Lisa is the love of my life, the heartbeat of our family, and I cannot wait to watch her continue to grow and glow as a mother.*”
– *Shimmy*



Aunt Lisa playing soccer!



more about Lisa...

Occupation: Sports Communication

Favorite movie: Rudy. I love underdog stories and beating the odds.

Favorite place: Home.

Can't live without: Family. They support me, love me, and motivate me.

My Perfect day: Starting the day with a walk with Shimmy and our two dogs, followed by a bike ride on the lake together, and settling in for the night with a good meal and a movie.

about Shimmy

by Lisa

Shimmy amazes me, and I would say that even if I wasn't her wife. She never cuts corners, she's one of the most self-aware people I know, and she'll never hesitate to make a scary change in her life ... if it makes her better. And because of that, she makes YOU better. Shimmy walks into a room, and you smile. You need a pick-me-up? ... Shimmy is there. In fact, TIME is her greatest gift. Whether it's a handwritten note, a timely FaceTime, a phone call or a text. She cares enough to put her life aside, to make time for yours.

I can't wait to see her as a Mom. She's always, always wanted to be one. She's been the most dedicated godmother, the most supportive aunt, and has been so involved with her friend's kids ... it's like they are her own.



Storytime with Godmom Shimmy



“*Shimmy shines with such beauty inside and out...and I am lucky to see it and feel it everyday...she cannot wait to share her love for life as a Mom!”*

– Lisa

more about Shimmy...

Occupation: Sports Communications

Favorite movie: Love & Basketball

Favorite place: Home with Lisa and our dogs

Can't live without: The power and peace that meditation provides

My Perfect day: A perfect day starts with morning meditation and prayer with Lisa, taking our pups on a long walk, and ending the day by hanging out at the park, reading and being present.





Game night at home!

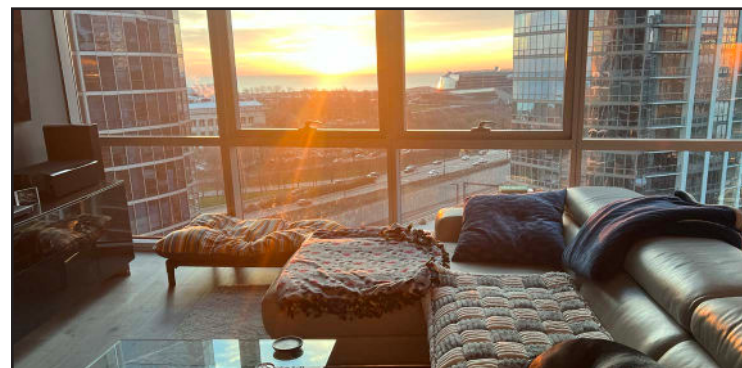
our community *and home*

We live in Illinois, and in a perfect location to stay busy, within a diverse community. Our neighborhood consists of tree-lined streets, parks and museums. A short walk in the neighborhood, and you'll see people of all ages and races, running, walking their dogs, and playing with their children.

We frequently use our community's indoor swimming pool, theater room, workout room, and nursery ... it's the perfect spot for kids and adults.



Theater room entertainment



Beautiful sunrise at home



Chance helping mom work!



Max loves the city!

Our *dogs*

We have two rescue dogs, Chance and Max. Chance is a German Shepherd-Boxer mix and Max is a Lab mix. We rescued both of them without thinking twice about it, when no one else wanted them. They are perfect for us. And not a day goes by that we don't love on them with hugs and kisses, and walks and playtime at the dog parks. Chance will be the greatest big brother, he loves kids and is around them all the time. Max is such a cuddly sweetie. We've had friends visit with their kids and make comments, "Your dogs are so good with our kids!" Chance and Max can't wait to be big brothers!



Frisbee in the park

Our extended family

Lisa's family, in her words:

I've always had a strong relationship with my Mom and Dad. They have always been a part of everything I've been involved in, and it doesn't matter my age ... from school work, to activities, to my current job. My Mom and Dad have set an example on what caring, interested, and loving parents look like. Plus, I am fortunate to be an aunt to three awesome (now) young adults ... (sheesh, time flies!) We've done everything, from soccer games to swim meets, to making up our own carnival games for the family. I've loved being an aunt, and have loved loving on them!

Shimmy's family, in her words:

My family is not out of a fairy tale...very untraditional, (or maybe traditional by today's standards.) My mother was a single mom, who recently passed away. She was, and continues to be, my role model. She adopted 5 of my siblings, (the last in her 60's), and her selflessness and love was a powerful example that shaped my life. My family is loud, wild, but real and full of unconditional and judgment-free love.



Christmas with Shimmy's family



Lisa and the family!



Shimmy's Godmom and cousins



Christmas Eve family love



Juneteenth Parade with friends



Special Day. Special People.

Our friends

"Show me who you walk with and I'll show you who you are." That sums up our circle of friends, who in many ways represent us. Our core group of friends, our circle as we like to say, are diverse in age, race, religion, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, and careers but what they all have in common is they are good, high character people, who love and support us.



5K with friends



Basketball, hotdogs, and besties!



Another day, another 5k!

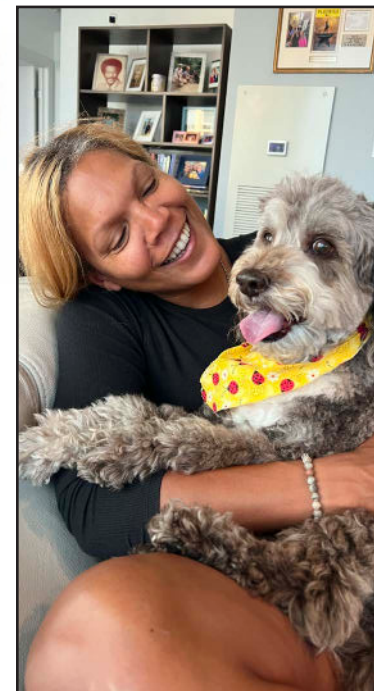
Why we have *chosen adoption...*

We have both felt the meaning and power of being loved and supported by our families. And we want to create that environment for another child in this world. In fact, Shimmy has witnessed first-hand the power of adoption. Her mother adopted multiple children, and gave them opportunities and stable lives. We think there are few things more rewarding than parenting, and nothing more selfless in this world than adoption - on both sides of the story. We have always wanted to raise a child, and adoption is the route that makes the most sense for us.



We Promise:

- to love our child, unconditionally and with our whole hearts.
- to honor the adoption agreement and respect and honor you.
- to raise our child in a diverse, inclusive community where they feel accepted and have a sense of belonging.
- to expose our child to experiences and foster their curiosity and creativity.
- to put the needs of our child first and ensure they feel safe, seen, and heard.
- to demonstrate gratitude everyday for this incredible gift of parenthood.



Fun Facts *about us*

- Lisa played two sports in college...basketball and soccer. Most people don't play one sport, let alone two!
- Shimmy is a first generation college graduate. (And as if that wasn't enough, Shimmy was also determined to go back to school decades later and get her Master's Degree!)
- Lisa volunteered for seven years at a children's hospital in Chicago.
- Shimmy spends time as a dog walker in the city, she loves doing service acts!
- Shimmy and Lisa love traveling. Between the two of them, they've been to 46 states and 16 countries!
- Shimmy is a volunteer youth basketball coach.
- Lisa and Shimmy have eclectic music taste and went to 6 concerts in the summer of 2023.





Thank **YOU!**

*T*hanks for spending some time with us, and considering us in your adoption plan. We are honored and grateful. We also recognize how scary and life-changing this can be for you as well ... and we view ourselves as partners with YOU in this process. We can't wait to start the next chapter!

Shimmy & Lisa