



Rachel *And* M A T T





## WE ARE MATT + RACHEL + SEVIE

We recently bought a condo in a family-friendly community in Southern California. We love the convenient location close to parks, schools, and community pools. The open-concept living space on the second floor features my inherited mid-century modern furniture from my grandmother, which inspired our décor choices. Family photos and scenic landscapes adorn the walls, creating a warm and personal touch. We recently purchased our first-ever new car, a minivan, perfect for our growing family.

We are fortunate to have a strong support system for childcare. My mom helps us out regularly, and both sets of grandparents are available for occasional weekend help. With their assistance, Matt and I can balance work, parenthood, and time for ourselves.

Faith plays a significant role in our lives. Raised with Christian values, we want to pass them on to our children. We met through Young Life, an organization focused on building relationships with young people before sharing the message of faith. We appreciate their approach of building trust and genuine connections, aligning with Jesus' teachings of kindness and compassion. We plan to share our faith with our children in this same spirit.





## OUR STORY

*We met...*

through an organization called Young Life.

We met in 2010 through Young Life, a Christian organization focused on connecting with young people. I worked for the Capernum group which was created to serve students with disabilities, and Matt volunteered. His genuine care for the students initially drew me to his character. Years later, we reconnected in a Bible study group and started spending time together as friends.

**OUR FAVORITE THING TO DO TOGETHER IS TRAVEL. WE HAVE BEEN TO SEVERAL PLACES: ALASKA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND IRELAND.**

In 2015, after a year of growing closer, Matt finally asked me out. Our connection was undeniable, and things moved quickly. We met each other's families within weeks and said "I love you" within two months. A trip apart solidified our feelings, and we knew marriage was in the cards. My intuition, mirrored by my Mom's early prediction, proved true. Matt proposed in May 2016 after getting my Dad's blessing. His unique proposal involved a morning hike (despite my aversion to mornings!), leading to a romantic photo-op and the all-important question. With Matt's Dad officiating, our special day unfolded, followed by a perfect honeymoon on Vancouver Island.



OUR ANNIVERSARY IS IN

*October*



## *about* R A C H E L

I enjoy creative pursuits like photography, which I'm fortunate to do professionally. I also love tending to plants and have a dream of a backyard garden someday. Cooking allows me to bond with my daughter while teaching her healthy habits. Since managing my autoimmune disease requires a mindful diet, we cook most meals at home to ensure our family eats healthy.

Beyond photography, I teach classes at a community college aimed at empowering adults with disabilities. I often bring my daughter to school events so she can interact with people from various backgrounds and abilities. Instilling inclusivity is important to me, and I want my children to learn to embrace and accept everyone in a healthy way.

While maintaining structure and boundaries, Matt and I strive to make parenting enjoyable. His work-from-home schedule allows him to spend time with Sevie throughout the day. I work weekdays, with additional photography shoots on weekends, but usually spend most of the week with her. We regularly visit the beach, explore new places, try different playgrounds, and connect with friends and family. While she tests boundaries and learns consequences, Sevie is a generally easygoing toddler who absorbs information and develops at an incredible pace. It's a joy to witness her daily growth.

## F U N F A C T S

Favorite Food: fresh baked sourdough bread with butter and salt

Favorite Tv Show: Scrubs, The Office, Gilmore Girls, Seinfeld, Schitts creek

Guilty Pleasure: Reality TV

Favorite Color: earthy greens

Unusual Talent: I can say the alphabet backwards





## about M A T T

As an active dad, I enjoy staying connected to the water through surfing and swimming. Early mornings often find me at the pool for laps, while I cherish catching waves whenever possible. Surfing since childhood, the ocean brings me peace and clarity. Back on land, I find joy in creating furniture for our home through woodworking, with my curious daughter sometimes "helping" in the garage.

My career in software development allows me to work from home and contribute to educational software at EMS Linq. Testing software used by schools is immensely rewarding. While I strive for excellence at work, family comes first. My favorite moments as a dad involve sharing activities I love, like playing in the waves with Sevie. Though she's not quite ready for the big waves yet, we have a blast building sandcastles together.

### F U N F A C T S

Favorite Hobby: Woodworking (I build and design furniture)!

Favorite Sports: Surfing and Swimming

Favorite Holiday: Christmas



A B O U T  
*Sevie*

Our 2-year-old daughter, Sevie, is the perfect blend of sweet and spicy! We finalized her adoption in fall 2023, and she's been the brightest light in our lives ever since. Sevie is observant, strong-willed, and loves making us laugh. An animal enthusiast with a cautious side, she enjoys spending time with the loving dogs in her life. She's an adventurous eater, happily trying most veggies while still keeping a kid-appropriate love for chicken nuggets and pizza. Dates and ice cream are her favorite special treats. Sevie will make an amazing big sister! She's always eager to help with younger children and can't wait to welcome a sibling into our family.

**F U N F A C T**

SEVIE LOVES THE BEACH! IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S COLD OR HOT OUTSIDE, SHE CAN SPEND HOURS PLAYING IN THE SAND AND THE WATER.





ABOUT OUR

## *Family & friends*

We are incredibly fortunate to be surrounded by a loving and supportive network of family and friends who are all eagerly awaiting the arrival of a new addition to our family. This includes parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, and close friends, both near and far. Any child placed with us would be showered with the love and encouragement of all these wonderful people. Additionally, our daughter, Sevie, already enjoys building friendships with children of similar ages from our close friends' families.



## OUR *traditions*

Our family cherishes spending quality time together. We enjoy annual summer getaways with Matt's family, typically renting a spacious house near Big Bear, Palm Springs, or San Diego. These trips are all about relaxation and connection, filled with games, walks, and outdoor fun. We also host a festive Christmas dinner for both sides of the family, where Rachel's legendary gourmet grilled cheese takes center stage. It's a wonderful time to unwind and create lasting memories with loved ones.







*Thank you for considering us,*

T H E R E I S N O T H I N G W E C A N S A Y T H A T W O U L D  
E N C O M P A S S T H E O V E R W H E L M I N G S E N S E O F  
G R A T I T U D E W E H A V E F O R Y O U .

*To Birthmom,*

A L E T T E R

It's hard to know where to start with a letter like this, everything I think to say falls short of the sentiment we want to express. There is nothing we can say that would encompass the overwhelming sense of gratitude we have for you, the choice you've made in choosing life for your child, and the incredible sacrifice you're making to give them the best opportunities you can. If you're reading this, we know you're considering making a difficult decision that will have a monumental impact on so many people's lives, including yours. We understand this is an incredibly difficult decision, and we can only imagine the struggle you must be experiencing with the choices before you. We want you to know that if your child were to be placed with us, they would be incredibly loved and well cared for not only by us and a doting big sister, but also by our two very supportive families. We care about you, we are on your team and we are on your baby's team. If you were to choose us to be your child's family, we promise we will do all we can to ensure your child is given the best life we can give them. Thank you for taking the time to read this and considering us to be the parents for your baby; we are humbled and honored.

Before we got married, we discussed the idea of adoption and we decided that adoption would be one of the ways in which we build our family. Adoption has never been our backup plan, it's always been a part of our "Plan A". For me (Rachel) it's been something I've thought about since I was a teenager. I've always wanted to be a mom, and I've always known I wanted to adopt. I remember bringing this idea up to Matt when we were dating, we were driving into Yosemite Valley, going camping with friends. It was just the two of us in the car and I remember feeling excited and relieved at his openness to the idea of adoption in the future.

I know that moving forward in this process must be one of the most difficult emotional challenges you'll ever face. If you were to choose us to be your child's family, you will not be forgotten when we talk to them. They will know about the incredible sacrifice you made for them and how much you cared about them. You'll be spoken about in the highest regard. We will pray for you with our children, just like we pray for our daughter's birth mom.

Thank you again for all you are doing to make the best choice for your baby.. Your sacrifice and selflessness is something bringing beauty, life and opportunity to your child. Thank you for considering us to be the recipients of the most precious gift.

*Sincerely,  
Matt, Rachel and Sewie*