



IVY *and* JAMES



HELLO!



Thank you so much for getting to know our little family. We cannot imagine the difficulty of what you are facing, but would be honored and delighted to provide a loving home for the baby you are growing.

We live in a small town on a kid-filled street where we love to play and hangout with our neighbors. James has worked at a local bicycle shop since he retired from the army and Ivy is a doctor. We had our son, Frankie, in 2020 and have both found parenting him to be one of the most fulfilling experiences of our lives. Our guiding principle to parenting is, "who are you, and how can we help." Which is to say, how can we help our kid grow into a joyful and responsible human. The themes in our house are respect, tolerance, joy, and compassion. We embrace the chaos that comes with parenting. As much as we enjoy our life, we feel our family is incomplete and look forward to growing through adoption.

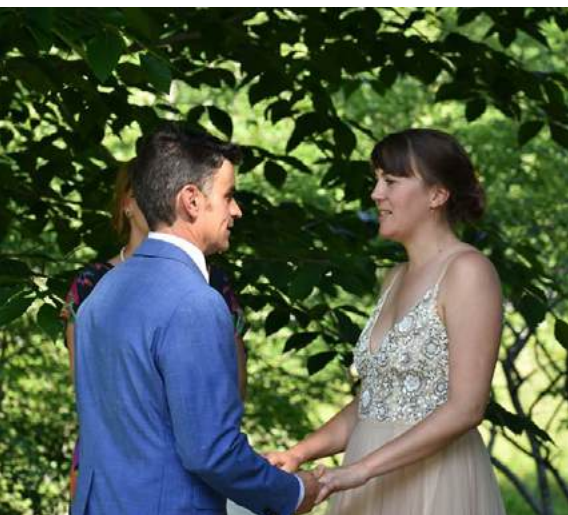
WE UNDERSTAND THIS IS DIFFICULT FOR YOU AND
APPRECIATE YOU CONSIDERING ALL OPTIONS FOR YOUR
CHILD. WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE ARE OPEN TO
ANY LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT OF YOU AND YOUR
FAMILY IN THIS CHILD'S LIFE AS WE WORK TOWARD A
COMMON GOAL OF HAVING A HAPPY KID.

Ivy and James



OUR STORY

We met in 2016 when we were both commuting to southern New Hampshire for work. On our first date we went mountain biking and things got off on a rough start; the biking was hard, James is an expert biker and Ivy...is not. It got dark quickly. Thankfully, the “date” ended with a wonderful, relaxed conversation. From there we spent a lot of time together and Ivy eventually convinced James to leave his job and move in with her in Vermont.



WE WERE MARRIED IN JUNE 2018 ON THE HOTTEST DAY OF THE YEAR NEAR OUR HOME SURROUNDED BY OUR BEST FRIENDS AND FAMILY. WE SHARE A COMMON PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD AND HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES- TAKE JOY IN SIMPLE THINGS, LET GO OF CONFLICT EASILY, AND DON'T ADD UNNECESSARY STRESS.



why adoption?

Frankie, our son, was our fifth pregnancy after a series of losses. In the fall of 2021, we got pregnant with our son, Henry. Henry was born with a rare genetic condition and died at six weeks old. We have truly been tested as a couple and we have found that the challenges bring us closer. We continue to love everything about raising Frankie, but still feel our family is incomplete. Frankie and Henry have demonstrated to us that we love raising kids and the biology feels secondary.

WE ARE BEYOND READY TO WELCOME A NEW BABY AND LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING AND RAISING A NEW LITTLE HUMAN. WE BOTH UNDERSTAND IT IS AMONG LIFE'S GREATEST GIFTS.



MEET IVY

written by James

Ivy grew up with her sister in rural Maine in a house their parents built. Her father was a third grade teacher and her mom was a social worker-turned artist. Her parents cared deeply about happiness, parenting, and honesty. Ivy watched her parents work to remain a happy couple and they still walk around holding hands at 73 years old. Ivy has always been a funny combination of loving science and people so becoming a doctor felt like a natural choice. Ivy loves spending time outdoors as a way to create balance in life. Through her training to become a doctor, various outdoor activities, and general joy for life, she has gathered a wonderful group of friends and a strong support system.

IVY HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO HAVE KIDS AND HAS HAD TO WITHSTAND THE HEARTACHE OF INFERTILITY AND THE LOSS OF OUR SECOND SON. SHE HAS REMAINED A SILLY, PATIENT, LOVING MOM TO FRANKIE, TAKING HIM ON BIKING ADVENTURES AND PUTTING HIM TO BED EVERY NIGHT. SHE IS THE LOGISTIC MANAGER OF OUR FAMILY AND ORGANIZER OF OUR LIVES. NOTHING WOULD MAKE HER HAPPIER THAN TO BRING ANOTHER BABY INTO OUR HAPPY FAMILY.

Ivy's favorite things:

DATE NIGHTS WITH JAMES

BIKE RIDING

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

HIKING

CRAFTS

FAMILY VACATIONS

READING TO FRANKIE





MEET JAMES

written by Ivy

James grew up in rural Massachusetts. He was an active kid and loved playing sports, going fast, and being outdoors. James started working at the age of 14 and has never stopped. He joined the Army out of High School and served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He worked his way up to Sergeant First Class before his retirement in 2021. The army gave James an enormous skill set, lifelong friends, and an appreciation for home. After his deployment he found that mountain biking was a place he could find peace. He now works at a bike shop and volunteers teaching young kids how to mountain bike. For all the tough/hard things James has done, he is one of the sweetest and silly human beings you'll meet.

WATCHING JAMES PARENT HAS BROUGHT ME GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF WHO HE IS. HE IS SO AT EASE WITH KIDS AND WAS IMMEDIATELY "ALL IN" WITH FRANKIE. JAMES HAS A FLEXIBLE JOB AND PROVIDES A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE DAILY SHUTTTLING OF FRANKIE. THERE IS NOTHING SWEETER THAN COMING HOME TO THEM RUNNING AROUND LAUGHING OR SNUGGLING AT THE END OF THE DAY.

James' favorite things:

DATE NIGHTS WITH IVY

MOUNTAIN BIKING

GYMNASTICS CLASS WITH FRANKIE

VOLUNTEERING AT KIDS BIKE CAMP

TACO TUESDAY

FIXING UP OLD CARS





OUR SON, FRANKIE

Frankie is a love. He is our tall, silly 2 year old little boy filled with adventure and spirit. He is easy to get excited and particularly loves trucks, his neighbors, and riding bikes. As far as babies go, Frankie was easygoing – but we know it might not be that way the second time around and that's okay! From what we have seen, Frankie loves babies. He is very sweet with the babies he meets, he likes to carry his baby doll around in his backpack, and he often asks about the babies in the neighborhood he knows. While we know there will be a huge adjustment period, Frankie is a pretty easy kid who seems up for having a sibling.





OUR HOME IS A REFUGE, A PLACE WHERE WE
COME TO REST AND RECHARGE.

OUR HOME

We live in a colonial home built in 1982. It's on an acre with flower gardens and a nice view of green rolling hills. Before we had kids we renovated our home to be a warm and open space. We have a big kitchen island that we all gather around. It's a great area for having small gatherings and sharing snacks and drinks while we cook. We eat dinner together most nights around a round table next to the kitchen. James installed an indoor play structure in the living room complete with swing and rock wall. It's a great structure to play on and very helpful when it is too cold to play outside. We have a big cabinet that kids can access full of books and toys. It's a great space for kids to play and Frankie's friends often come over with their families on the weekend.

Upstairs we have three bedrooms and two bathrooms and the layout forms a little track that we often run around when things get silly. Our home is very casual, lived in, and kid-friendly.



YOU CAN WALK DOWN A PATH IN OUR BACKYARD TO A QUIET STREET FILLED WITH FAMILIES AND KIDS AND MINIMAL TRAFFIC. THAT STREET ENDS AT THE COUNTRY STORE WHERE THEY MAKE EXCELLENT BREAKFAST SANDWICHES AND SERVE SOFT SERVE ICE CREAM IN THE SUMMER. WE CAN WALK TO THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND NEARBY PLAYGROUNDS AND WALKING TRAILS.





OUR PETS

Our dog, Nala, is a sweet, old mutt. She was originally James's dog. He adopted her after he returned from Afghanistan and Nala was important to his adjustment back to non-military life. Nala has always been a good girl and has aged into a very relaxed dog. She's great with Frankie (he likes to pet her and she doesn't care at all) and welcomes any visitors. She mostly just wants to lay in the sun.



our community

WE LIVE ON A KID-LINED STREET IN VERMONT. WE DO A LOT OF DRIVEWAY HANGOUTS WITH VARIOUS FAMILIES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

Frankie attends daycare nearby and we have some nice teenagers who come babysit so we can get out on dates. We don't follow any particular religion, but believe in the common tenants of various faiths – respect, tolerance, acceptance, generosity, and community. We love attending local community gatherings and spend A LOT of time at the various local playgrounds. When Frankie is school-aged we will be able to walk just down the street to take him to his school.



OUR FAMILY

Ivy grew up in Maine and has a small immediate family in Maine and Pennsylvania and extended family all over the place. James has family in Massachusetts and North Carolina and also has a large extended family. We try to FaceTime with grandparents weekly and see some grandparents monthly. Frankie and his sibling will have a handful of older cousins to play with and approximately one million second cousins to run around with at family gatherings. We learned from our experience with Henry how truly well supported we are by our friends and family. We look forward to calling on them again as we build our family.





OUR FAMILY LOVES HOLIDAYS. WE HOST THANKSGIVING MOST YEARS AND GO TO THE LOCAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR, DO A PUZZLE, WATCH FOOTBALL, AND EAT WAY TOO MUCH FOOD.

WE GO TO IVY'S SISTER'S HOME IN PHILADELPHIA FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. WE SHOP AROUND, OGLE AT THE CITY LIGHTS, MAKE COOKIES, EAT TOO MUCH, AND HAVE A LOVELY RELAXED TIME. WE LOVE BEING AROUND OUR FAMILY AND LOVED ONES AND WATCHING THEM PLAY.

OUR PROMISES



WE KNOW THAT LOOKING THROUGH THESE PAGES
MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU AS YOU CONSIDER THE
FUTURE, BUT WE THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE AND
WANT TO LEAVE YOU WITH THESE PROMISES:

We promise to do everything we can to help your child succeed in life – whatever that means for them. There's no room for ego in parenting. We don't care what their profession is, or if they like what we like, we only care that they are happy, respectful, considerate, and tolerant members of society.

We promise to help your child access whatever resources they need to reach their goals. Our own resources aren't limitless, but we would rearrange our lives if our children had any disability or special needs. We promise to love your child without exception.

We promise to be open to any level of involvement of you and your family in your child's life as we work toward a common goal of having a happy, unconditionally loved child.

Ivy, James and Frankie



