



# Tabby and Michael





# Hello!

WE ARE

## Tabby and Michael

*from*  
*North Carolina*

**W**e're grateful you're here and taking a moment to learn about us. For us, family has always been so much more than being connected by blood, it's the people you surround yourself with and who will always show up. We know that this decision is not an easy one, but please know that we cannot wait to show your child not only unconditional love, but a life full of adventure, travel, and embracing nature. A genuine thank you for taking the time to get to know us as you navigate this chapter.

# Our Story

We first crossed paths while battling bird-sized mosquitoes in the Costa Rican jungle during a student volunteer trip. Our bond grew as we discovered we had so much more in common than just our shared mosquito bites; our love for music, food, hiking, and travel became the foundation of our connection, and it's something that still unites us today. Six years later, on the Isle of Skye in Scotland, Michael proposed. In that moment, Tabby quite literally fell for him, slipping on the ice in the most unexpected (and hilarious) way! That moment became one of our favorite stories, one we'll laugh about forever. We left that trip with the reminder that life doesn't always go according to plan, but with the right person by your side, even the "missteps" are moments to cherish.



Hiking in the Appalachian Mountains

Soaking in the beautiful New Hampshire views with our dogs



Edinburgh, Scotland



We're driving distance to the ocean!





ALL ABOUT

# Tabby

*I'm Tabby, a nature lover from a small Midwest town who moved to North Carolina for love (and adventure) with Michael.*

We're lucky to live in a place where we can enjoy both the mountains and the beach, spending weekends hiking and exploring. As an entomologist, I teach Michael about the bugs we find along the way, something I never thought I'd love, since I was terrified of them as a kid! But like many things in life, the more I learned, the less there was to fear. Now, I'm beyond excited to share that sense of wonder with a little one as we take on new adventures together. I can't wait to introduce them to the joy of exploring the unknown. When I'm not outdoors, I'm probably gardening, or curled up with my nose in a good book reading. I'm so excited for the day when I can snuggle up with our future child, lost in a story.



Travel memories from Germany





Adventures in Edinburgh



Beach time and shell finding with our niece Julie



Exploring the coast and its hidden natural arches



One of Tabby's favorite parts of her work, tending to her bees



## Tabby's Fun Facts

*Can't Live Without*

My Kindle

*Sport I Like to Play*

Tennis

*My Inspiration*

Jane Goodall

*Favorite Lunch Box Snack*

String cheese! (or really, any cheese)

*Favorite Hobby*

Crafting and painting

*Favorite Vacation Spot*

The Creeper Trail in Damascus, Virginia

*I Collect*

Bugs

*Favorite Holiday*

Valentine's Day for its focus on thoughtfulness and connection, and we make a tradition of exchanging homemade cards each year.



ALL ABOUT

# Michael

*I'm Michael, an enthusiast of the outdoors, sports, and travel.*

I love a longer backpacking trip, where I can disconnect from the outside world and immerse myself in nature with Tabby and our dogs. My most peaceful state is around a campfire at night or with a hot cup of coffee on a cold morning in the woods. I am also a big fan of the NHL, specifically the Carolina Hurricanes, and frequently attend games. I love the idea of getting to bring our child along to both of these activities, teaching them how to tie knots and the getting to see them excited about whatever sports/activities they find enjoyment in. I work for a small startup that focuses on decarbonizing the industrial world, which gives me a sense of meaning beyond my day-to-day routine and aligns closely with the values we hope to instill into our future child.



Climbing in Thailand





Meeting our friend's new son, Ari



A fun day at the Children's Museum with our nieces



One of our favorite travel views in Italy



## Michael's Fun Facts

*Favorite Ice Cream Flavor*

Anything with peanut butter!

*Favorite Children's Book*

But No Elephants!  
by Jerry Smath

*Can't Live Without*  
Coffee and bagels

*I Collect*  
International  
currency and  
postcards from  
our travels

*Favorite Hobby*  
Breadmaking

*Favorite Sports Teams*

Carolina  
Hurricanes  
hockey team

*Sport I Like  
to Play*  
Soccer



# Our Home

While we have lived in North Carolina for quite some time, we recently built our dream home in the suburbs. We are fortunate enough to live in a cul-de-sac with welcoming neighbors and many children playing in the streets. We moved to a suburban area with great schools to prepare for expanding our family. Additionally, we have a large wooded backyard with plenty of area to play and explore. Our dream is to build a tree house for our child (and us, who are we kidding?!) to enjoy. Within 15 minutes, we are able to enjoy the one of the largest playgrounds on the East Coast. We frequently visit with our friends and their kids and can't wait to share it with our future child too.



Picnic at a local park



Morning coffee

## OUR PETS



*Tobin*



*Isla*



*Maverick*

We have always thought of our family as extending beyond just the two of us, and that includes the pets who share our home. We have two adventurous dogs, Tobin, who is eleven, and Isla, who is six. We also have a cat named Maverick, who likes to think of himself as the third dog, and a turtle named Franklin.





Friendly competition

Weekend backpack trip



*As a family, we love to explore new places in our area, from nearby hikes to local coffee shops.*

A typical Saturday starts out with breakfast and a short nature walk in our backyard. Depending on the season, we may be outside gardening or planting native flora or visiting local pop-ups and farmer's markets. We often imagine being able to take our child on an adventure, to the many local parks, playgrounds and children museums.



# Our Family

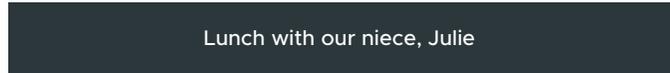
*Our family and friends show up for one another, and our home is a place where people gather, feel welcomed, and belong.*

Michael comes from a large Italian family with many siblings. Every time we spend time with them, we play board games, work on puzzles, or play outdoor yard games. Every meal with his family is centered around a big homemade meal made with lots of love in the kitchen, where everyone does their part. Tabby comes from a smaller family that also loves board games and spending time together. Her family is based in the Midwest, so we typically take one road trip a year to visit, and they visit us as well. We have plenty of nieces and nephews of varying ages on both sides who are all eager to welcome a new playmate. Between going to the beach or the mountains, we are fortunate to go on many trips with our family.

Friends are a big part of our lives, and we're often the ones bringing people together. We love hosting gatherings and have created several annual traditions for our friends and their families, including a Halloween cornhole tournament and our Friendsgiving celebration. Our home is a place where people gather, laugh, and feel comfortable being themselves. Making sure everyone feels welcome, included, and at home comes naturally to us.



Beach vacation with Michael's family



Lunch with our niece, Julie



Hosting a Murder Mystery party with friends



Bahamas trip with Tabby's parents





THOUGHTS ON

# Parenting

*We value presence over perfection, connection over screens, and real moments that help children feel seen and valued.*

As future parents I think we all stress about having to be the perfect parent, but in reality, its important to be adaptable. We want our child to feel heard and validated. Every child will have different needs and rather than needing to fit one mold, we want to learn from each other. With so much technology competing for attention these days, we're intentional about being present and choosing connection and real moments over screen time. We are committed to ensuring our child will feel supported and comfortable exploring their heritage and learning their story.



A favorite travel memory from our time in Thailand

Standing in awe at the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland





# With Grateful Hearts

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*Thank you for taking the  
time to get to know us!*

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**W**e know this is an incredibly difficult decision, and we hope you've seen how deeply your child will be loved and how committed we are to helping them truly flourish. We're new to both parenting and adoption, but we're ready to learn, grow, and create the best environment we can. Most of all, we will always encourage our child to embrace their identity, and we'll be there every step of the way as they explore, grow, and become who they're meant to be.