

jonathan & ben





thanks
for opening our book



hello

Thank you for reading our book and considering us as you navigate the many paths in front of you.

We understand that you may be facing one of the most challenging choices anyone can make, and we hold your decision with deep respect.

We are Jonathan and Ben, and we live in suburban Chicago. We have been together for 7 years, and becoming parents is a desire we learned we shared on our second date. We believe that love and stability form the foundation of a nurturing home, and we are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for your child. **As you explore what feels right for you and your baby, we hope this book offers a sense of who we are, the life we lead, and the family we hope to grow.**

We truly admire your strength as you consider what path is best for you and your child. If you decide that adoption is the right choice and choose us to be part of your child's story, please know that we will always honor you and the role you play in their life. We are wishing you clarity and peace as you move forward. We are rooting for you every step of the way.

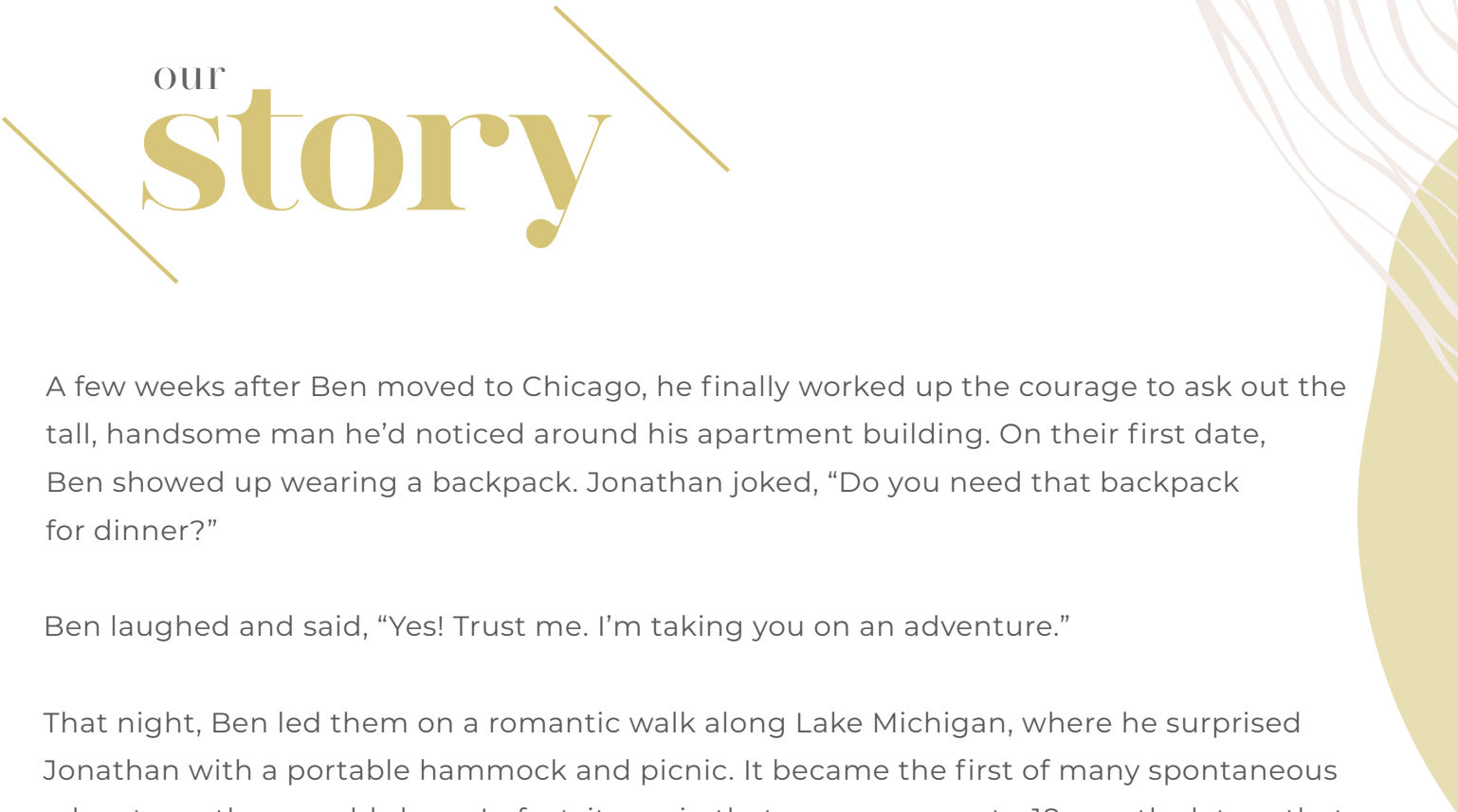
Sincerely,

Jonathan and Ben



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our story

A few weeks after Ben moved to Chicago, he finally worked up the courage to ask out the tall, handsome man he'd noticed around his apartment building. On their first date, Ben showed up wearing a backpack. Jonathan joked, "Do you need that backpack for dinner?"

Ben laughed and said, "Yes! Trust me. I'm taking you on an adventure."

That night, Ben led them on a romantic walk along Lake Michigan, where he surprised Jonathan with a portable hammock and picnic. It became the first of many spontaneous adventures they would share. In fact, it was in that very same spot—18 months later—that Ben proposed.

Our love story blossomed quickly. We were drawn to each other's energy, kindness, and genuine curiosity about the world. We became each other's biggest cheerleaders, supporting one another through life's milestones, including the loss of family members and big changes at work. No matter the challenge, we always come out stronger, together.

We have since built a life filled with joy and intention, celebrating a beautiful, love-filled Jewish wedding, buying our dream home in the suburbs, adopting two adorable cats, and traveling the world side-by-side. Our lives are filled with laughter, stability, community, and an ever-deepening love.

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why we are adopting

We have separately dreamt of becoming dads since we were children.

Early in our relationship, we determined adoption was the right path for us because we believe family is built through love and commitment; not DNA. We know we will love and cherish a child fully and unconditionally, embracing them as our own. We both have friends who are adoptees and friends who have adopted themselves, and have witnessed the many joys that adoption brings. We have always felt drawn to leading and teaching those younger than us. Ben taught piano and was a teacher's assistant in college. Jonathan babysat throughout high school and worked at a daycare during college. We cherish spending time with our 7 nieces and nephews, and can't wait to raise a child of our own. We are empathetic and respect each child's individuality. **With so much love to give, we are excited to pour that love into a child and provide them with a supportive home and the best opportunities possible.**





meet jonathan

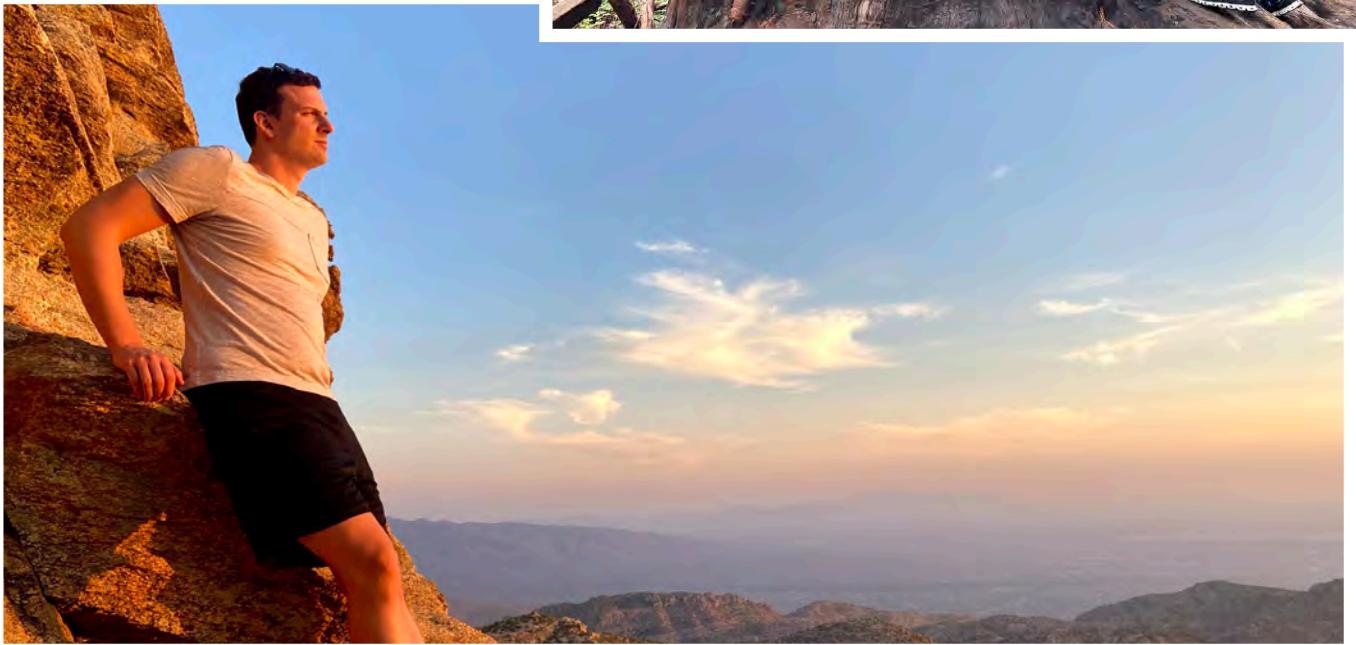
FRIENDS SAY I AM:
Passionate, Loyal,
Trustworthy

FAVORITE PLACE:
Muir Woods National
Monument

INSPIRED BY:
Nature, Making a positive
impact, Community

Jonathan was born in Tallahassee, Florida, and moved to suburban Chicago before he turned one with his two kindhearted parents and two older sisters. His sisters have given him so much love his entire life that he still considers them best friends. Jonathan also grew up alongside his trusted and loyal Golden Retriever, Sandy. Jonathan spent his childhood days playing outside with his friends and joining a hodgepodge of sports and clubs throughout school, like Cooking Club, a volunteering group, and Green School Alliance. His senior year, Jonathan led a group of students that went into a local daycare every month to play with and read to young children.

Jonathan went on to study environmental policy at Indiana University, where he learned a multitude of ways to make the world a greener place. He also learned how to speak Spanish, leading him to spend a semester in Argentina, which kickstarted his love for travel.



Today, Jonathan leads sustainability implementation at a commercial real estate company, where he ensures that the over 1,200 buildings are eco-friendly and energy efficient. He is also the president of a local non-profit that advocates for local sustainability actions, educates residents, and supports policies that make our community greener.

As a parent, Jonathan will be nurturing, compassionate, and organized. He believes that every child is born with the ability to make the world a better place and knows it is his duty to spark their curiosity and give them the space to develop their own passions and interests.

HOBBIES: Hiking, Playing with cats, Riding roller coasters at Six Flags, Gardening, Relaxing in a hot tub

meet ben

FRIENDS SAY I AM:
Kind, Enthusiastic,
Curious

FAVORITE MUSICALS:
Lion King, Wicked,
Six

INSPIRED BY:
Music, Learning new
skills, Family



Ben was born in Washington D.C. and moved eight times throughout his childhood, including going to elementary school outside of Chicago, middle school on Long Island, New York, and high school outside of Dallas, Texas. While this was difficult, it shaped him into the brave, outgoing, animated, and activity-driven man that he is today.

One thing that remained consistent throughout his life is his curiosity and his love for music and theater. In fact, he was the star (at least in Jonathan's eyes) in the local community theater production of *Fiddler on the Roof* in 2024. Most days you can catch him playing Pickleball, singing Taylor Swift at the piano, and planning adventures and activities for his friends and family.

Ben loved his time at Texas A&M University, where he studied accounting and music, was his dorm's coolest R.A., and was a teacher's assistant. Ben works for an education publisher and is

happy to have found a company that combines his passion of making the world a better place with his professional accounting skills. He brings levity to his team, and his teammates are happy to be working with someone that is easy to talk to, but can buckle down and take care of business when necessary.

As a parent, Ben will be a cheerleader to his child. He will support and uplift them to achieve their potential. He will foster a home full of joy, laughter, and curiosity and will model a life of making the world a better place.



HOBBIES:

Traveling, Baking various treats, Playing pickleball, Collecting Lego sets, Taking workout classes with friends



ben in Jonathan's words

"Ben is genuine and leads with kindness. He loves games, being active, and having a good time. I've always thought he would love a little companion to bring along on his adventures. **Whoever is lucky enough to call him Dad will have a rich life filled with joy and smiles. I can't wait to see it.**"

jonathan

in Ben's words

"Jonathan is the best person in the world. He is not only my biggest supporter and encourages me to be my best self, he shares that passion with everyone he meets, including children. **He knows how to connect with every child in our lives and is there to help them laugh, grow, and learn. I can't wait to see him thrive as a Dad!**"



our home

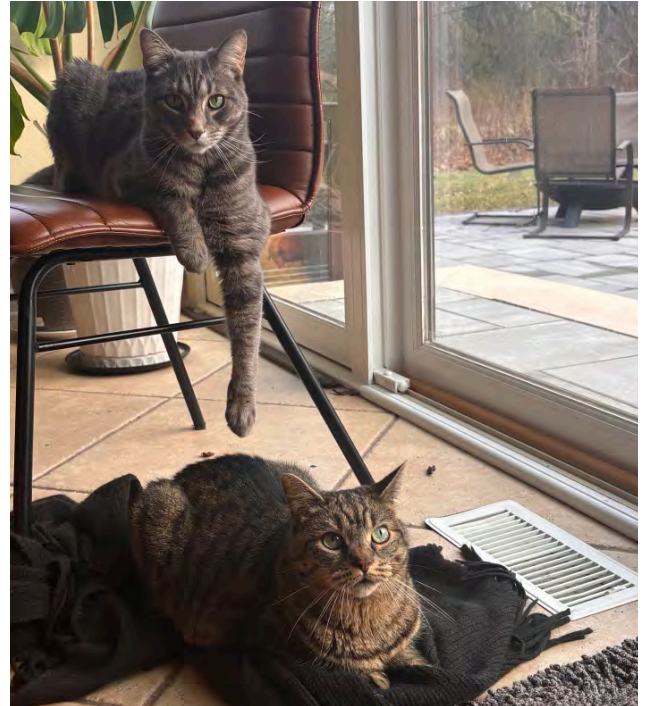
Home is our favorite place to be. We affectionately call it a treehouse because we back up to a forest preserve. At home, we enjoy cooking, playing piano, and exploring the forest together. Our two cats, Babka and Schmoozy, are cuddly, playful, and ready to meet their new sibling!

We live in a beautiful suburb 30 minutes north of Chicago, Illinois. **Our community is known for excellent schools, kind and welcoming people, and a thriving culture. The neighborhood we live in is friendly, safe, and has children of all ages.** We live 10 minutes from both Jonathan's parents and Ben's aunt and uncle - we are thankful to regularly get together with our family!





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meet our families

Jonathan's Family

Jonathan's parents live 10 minutes away and are excited to have grandchildren nearby, even asking to be part of Jonathan and Ben's childcare plan. One of Jonathan's sisters lives 4 hours away with her husband and three sweet children. They enjoy getting together once a month. His other sister lives overseas with her husband and two playful children. They all get together about twice a year. **Jonathan's family's group chat is constant, sharing anecdotes from their days, a funny meme, or stories about the children. He is grateful for the unwavering love in his family, especially for how quickly they embraced Ben.** Jonathan's mom joked, upon meeting Ben, "Are you kidding? We like him more than we like you!"

Ben's Family

Ben is very close with his parents and grandmother who live in Tucson, Arizona. Ben has one brother, who lives in Austin, Texas with his wife and their two adorable daughters. With most of his family spread throughout the country, he is grateful to have an uncle, aunt, and three cousins all within a ten minute drive. In fact, Ben, his aunt and uncle, Jonathan, and his parents, all have a subscription to a local theater together. **Ben is fortunate to see his entire family multiple times throughout the year to celebrate Passover and bake our Nana Betty Cookies.**



Both of our families are so happy and supportive of our decision to adopt and grow our family.

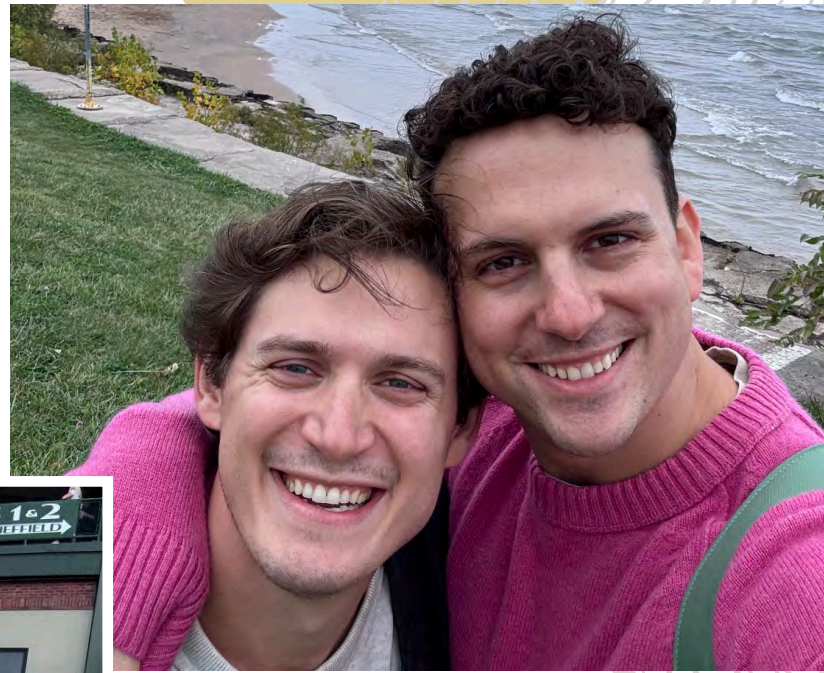




in our
family...



we value spending
quality time together



we support each other and
cheer each other on

we make sure everyone feels
welcome in our home

we always make time for
family, fun, learning, and
self-improvement



before you go

we want you to know

Thank you for taking the time to read our book and to get to know us. **We hope these pages have shown you who we are, the life we share, and the family we hope to grow. As you consider what feels right for you and your baby, please know how honored we are to be part of your journey.**

Whatever you decide, we hope you feel surrounded by compassion.

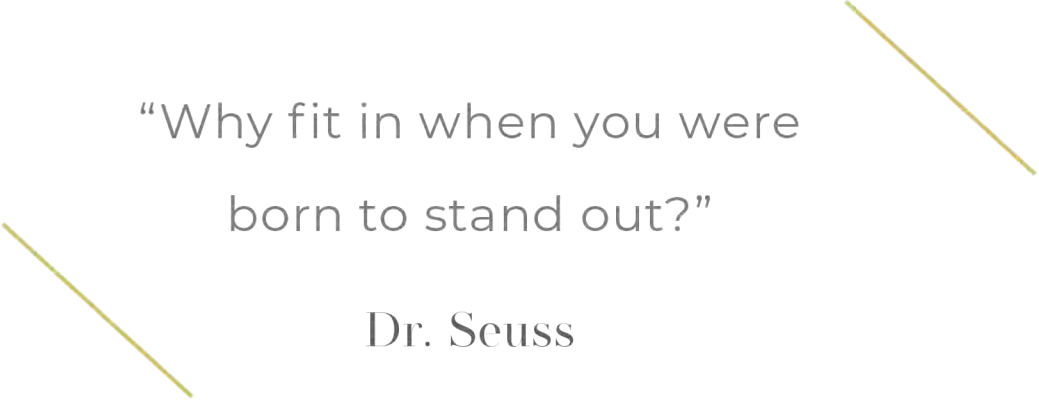
IF YOU CHOOSE ADOPTION AND DECIDE THAT WE ARE THE RIGHT FAMILY FOR YOUR CHILD, WE MAKE YOU AND YOUR CHILD THESE PROMISES:

- We promise to honor you and speak of you with gratitude and respect.
- We promise to prioritize their well-being, health, and safety.
- We promise to celebrate diversity and respect different perspectives.
- We promise to be committed to the openness of our adoption, however that may look.
- We promise to make laughter, fun, and quality time together a part of every day.

We are so excited to become adoptive parents. We hope you have gotten a glimpse into our lives and you have a sense of the values and morals that matter most to us. We wish you nothing but the best.

Thank you,

Jonathan and Ben



“Why fit in when you were
born to stand out?”

Dr. Seuss

