

A photograph of a man and a woman smiling together. The man is on the left, wearing a blue short-sleeved button-down shirt with a small white anchor pattern and glasses. The woman is on the right, wearing a white top with a large black and white floral print. They are standing in front of a rustic stone wall with lush green foliage in the background.

 BRIAN
MELISSA

hello

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us. We're proud of your strength and deep love for your child as you consider adoption. No matter your decision, you're a hero! We hope that you feel supported and loved wherever you are in your life.

Our hearts are wide open. There's nothing we want more than the opportunity to love a child deeply and completely through every stage of life.

We're praying for you and are excited for you to learn a little about us.

Brian & Melissa

WE'RE **SO EXCITED** TO MEET YOU

our story

WE MET ONLINE...

We were “matched” in May of 2019, and pretty quickly realized how right we were for each other. Melissa could tell right away that Brian was down-to-earth and fun, and Brian immediately loved Melissa’s laugh and attitude about life.

We lived three hours apart, so our dating involved a LOT of weekend highway miles. We enjoyed getting to know each other and finding out all we had in common (our faith, commitment to our families, and a love of games and queso), as well as all of the differences that made us unique (Melissa loved Brussels sprouts, and Brian didn’t... yet). We made the most out of every moment we could get together. For example, our third date included watching a musical and sharing our first kiss, but began with us attending a funeral!



"Snow in love" at our Christmas wedding



**This was our second date,
our first picture together**



**Brian proposed on a hot summer
day... in Melissa's driveway**



Our honeymoon treehouse



**A summer visit to
Eureka Springs, Arkansas**

After a year of getting to know each other – and just as Brian was getting ready to propose – he lost his job and was free to move across the state to be near Melissa as we prepared for marriage. Planning a wedding during the height of COVID wasn't fun, but we settled on a small, Christmas ceremony in an indoor garden in Oklahoma, near Brian's family. It wasn't large or fancy, but it was beautiful and we wouldn't change a thing (especially the taco bar!). After sneaking away and getting ice cream, we had a short but whimsical honeymoon... in a treehouse!



meet Brian

BY MELISSA

Brian is a genuine family man. I fell in love with Brian because he is smart, funny, creative, positive, loyal, and so much more, but others agree too because he is a loving son, brother, uncle, and friend. People at church flock to be around him because he is fun and easy to talk to.

He knows how to take care of me, such as helping with laundry or having ice cream in the freezer after I text him that I had a bad day. He also jumps right in when his friends need help, and finds the right words to say when he is helping his clients at work. Brian is extremely thoughtful and creative, whether it's leaving a love note in my lunch bag every day, creating a personalized card game for my mom's birthday, or creating an escape room for our friends and family.

Brian has so much fun with our nephews. He gets down on the floor to play with them, reads to them, and plans fun activities when they come to visit. I can't wait to see Brian be a father, I know that he will do everything he can to ensure a child is loved, cared for, and has a lot of FUN!



Nephew Luke decorating Uncle Brian for Christmas



Dancing with Brian's dolphin buddy

Fun Facts about Brian

Job: Sales Director, web site design company

Favorite food: Chicken-fried steak

Favorite color: Purple

Favorite movie: Any musical, especially "Singin' in the Rain" or "The Music Man"

Hobbies: Freelance writing for several publications, taking care of my cacti and lemon tree, listening to audiobooks, watching movies (I once saw 119 in theaters in a single year!), grilling, sending and receiving postcards



meet Melissa

BY BRIAN

Melissa is the most thoughtful, hardworking, and beautiful person I know. She likes to laugh and is always thinking of how she can make her friends and family feel loved and appreciated. She encourages me when I need it and is extra silly when I need that, too.

Melissa is a teacher, and it's amazing to watch her support and love each of her students in a unique and special way. Her tenderheartedness and patience mean she goes above and beyond to make sure they grow and thrive. It will be so exciting to watch this unfold in new ways within our own family!

She never does anything halfway, and that will extend to being a mother. Any child would be lucky to have her raise, teach, nurture, care for and love him or her.



First time meeting Minnie Mouse!



Teaching Nephew Reed to play violin

Fun Facts about Melissa

Job: Middle School and High School
Orchestra Teacher

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite color: Bright pink

Favorite movie: "Anne of Green Gables"

Hobbies: Scrapbooking, relaxing on the porch, visiting coffee shops, taking care of plants, playing violin for weddings and church, vintage and thrift shopping

our life together

Visiting aquariums, like this one in Omaha ▶

Working on projects together, fun or mundane... ▼

This painting hangs in Brian's office



▲ Having a blast at the Kansas City Zoo, even if we look silly

◀ Enjoying time together outside

OTHER THINGS WE ENJOY DOING AS A COUPLE

- trying new board games
- attending concerts and musicals
- planning parties
- tasting new recipes
- visiting botanical gardens
- road trips

this is our home



We live in a 3-bedroom **home** in a suburb of a big city in Missouri.

We live in a suburb of a big city in Missouri, and our home is on a quiet, sleepy cul-de-sac. We have a nice, big backyard (with apple and peach trees!) and kind neighbors (along with bunnies, and birdies, and the occasional deer). We're within walking distance of daycare, elementary and middle schools, and just a few minutes away from parks... and Grandma's house.



thank you!

We can't imagine all the feelings you're experiencing. Above all else, we want for you to choose what is best for you and your child.

WE APPRECIATE YOU TAKING THE TIME TO GET TO KNOW US

We hope we get the chance to meet you and discuss an adoption journey together!

WITH LOVE

Brian & Melissa