



MELISSA *and*
JUSTIN



Hi!

Thank you for taking the opportunity to look through our profile book. This may be the first or the millionth letter you've read today from hopeful adoptive parents. Either way, we imagine you may be feeling overwhelmed by choices right now, so it means even more to us that you're reading this.

This is only a small portion of our life in these pages. We can't promise we're always perfect parents, but we hope you see that we're a couple of real people who are doing our best to create a life filled with so much love.

No matter what you choose for your baby—our family, another family, or even to parent—we truly hope you feel loved and supported as you continue your journey in parenthood and life. You are worthy and will always be an important part of your child's life.

Love,
Melissa & Justin



a little bit of our story

We are Melissa and Justin, and we have a two-year-old daughter, Hattie. We consider ourselves to be pretty normal people. We mow our lawn, fold our clean laundry in a timely manner (sometimes), and go to church. We love dreaming together (usually about our next home project) and experiencing all the fun kid places with Hattie. **Being a family—especially being parents—is easily the best part of our lives.**

We met in high school, spent many years as best friends, and realized we were in love with each other while on a beach in California. After a short stint of dating long distance, we settled into our hometown and were married in 2015. We've spent the past five years creating a home, making new friends, growing in our faith, and always taking time for each other.

Adoption has been on our hearts since we got married. We knew being able to have children biologically would be a struggle, and **we are so grateful that adoption led us to our daughter, Hattie.**



meet melissa

AS WRITTEN BY JUSTIN

Melissa is the best mom in the world. And Hattie is definitely a mama's girl. **Melissa's favorite thing in the world is being a mom to our daughter.** I couldn't have been more blessed to have found such a **caring, passionate, and kind-hearted** person to be my partner in life.

Melissa is creative, thoughtful, and loves helping others. She has endless amounts of love and kindness for our daughter, family, and friends. Her nurturing nature will bring love and comfort to our children.

- OCCUPATION:** Work-at-Home Mom
- FAVORITE FOOD:** Anything Mexican
- FAVORITE BOARD GAME:** Clue
- FAVORITE MOVIE:** The Sound of Music
- FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE:** Philippians 4:7 - "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."



meet justin

AS WRITTEN BY MELISSA

Justin loves Harry Potter, superheroes, anything chocolate, and—most of all—being a dad! Hattie is absolutely smitten with him, and she is the light of his life. Justin loves to make Hattie laugh with tickling and silly antics. I love watching them together. He is such a good dad to her.

Justin has the kindest, most compassionate heart. He is calm, considerate and loyal. **Justin loves fiercely, and there is nothing he wouldn't do for me, our daughter, our family or our friends.** I know his love for all our children will be just as fierce and steadfast.

- OCCUPATION:** Data Analyst at a local bank
- FAVORITE TV SHOW:** FRIENDS
- FAVORITE DESSERT:** Brownies
- FAVORITE BOARD GAME:** Monopoly
- FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE:** 1 John 4:4 - "The Lord is greater than the giants you face."



meet hattie

Hattie is our two-year-old daughter. She brings more love and joy into our family than we could've ever imagined. **Hattie is fiercely independent, brave, and full of so much love. She says "hi" to every animal she sees and cares deeply for others.** If anyone shows any signs of distress (even an unfamiliar expression), Hattie will instantly ask if they're okay and offer to help—including the animatronic dinosaurs at her favorite place, the Dinosaur Park. Hattie absolutely loves being outside, knows all the words to the Moana soundtrack (Frozen, too!), and is obsessed with all things dinosaurs.

We are so grateful to have an open adoption with our daughter's birth family. We met Hattie's birth mom the day she was born. Since then, we've gotten to know each other and Hattie's grandparents. We send photos, videos, and texts back and forth. We live within three hours of each other, so we try to visit every few months—and more often for her family that lives in the same city as us. **We love Hattie's birth family and know they love us, too.**

FUN FACT: The name "Hattie" means "home ruler" or "little ruler". We chose it because it reminded us of the strength Hattie's birth mom described in herself.





home *sweet* home

We live in a five bedroom, three bath house nestled in the back of a quiet, family friendly neighborhood. Our house has an open floor plan with the main bedrooms upstairs and a guest room and office in the finished basement. (We plan to create a fun play space in the basement when Hattie is a little older.) We have a fenced backyard with a lot of space to play and explore. Our neighborhood has family movie nights at the pool in the summer and a Christmas light contest during the holidays. We are a short drive away from everything and are located near some of the best schools in the area.

Our community is situated near the border of a “big” Midwestern city and a much smaller suburb. We love that we have the benefits of a bigger city with the feel of a small town. Our downtown is being revitalized with more family friendly spaces like a brand new baseball stadium and new parks. We have one of the best zoos in the state, along with museums, a science center, botanical garden, and a really cool animatronic dinosaur park. Our community has an entrepreneurial spirit and is full of small shops that we love to visit and support.



We have two pets: Crosby and Remi. Crosby is our spunky black and white goldendoodle. He loves to explore the backyard with Hattie following right behind him. Remi is our tailless cat who loves to curl up on our laps. Both of our pets absolutely love Hattie, and she loves them, too.



our families

MELISSA'S FAMILY

Melissa's family includes her mom (Grammie) and dad (Papa), who **are looking to buy a house only five minutes away from us to be able to spend even more time with Hattie.** We love how much they enjoy being grandparents. **We have Sunday night dinner with them each week.** Grammie always lets Hattie play dress-up with her jewelry and reads with her. Papa adores Hattie and is always finding something fun to do with her (like golfing or driving their boat!).

Melissa grew up as the oldest of two. Sadly, her sister, Laura, died last year. Hattie was the love of Aunt Laura's life. We talk about Aunt Laura and ask Jesus to give her a hug for us during our prayers. With the loss of Melissa's sister, we both realized how important it was to us that Hattie have a sibling.

For us, family is more than just people related by blood. Family is also all the people who love you at your hardest and choose to walk beside you. We have many friends-turned-family who we've met through school, jobs, and church. We enjoy getting together for coffee or game night, while the kids play together. **We feel lucky to be surrounded by so many people who love us and love our daughter.**

JUSTIN'S FAMILY

Justin's family consists of his mom (G.G.), dad (J.J.), and four siblings (two sisters, two brothers). His parents live primarily at the Lake of the Ozarks, which is a fun place to visit in the summer. G.G. and J.J. love sending Hattie big gifts like a puppet theater, giant floor piano, and a family of Potato Heads.

Justin is the oldest of five. His siblings are spread throughout the United States. Justin's sister, Cristina, lives about two hours away with her husband and our two nephews, Levi and Grayson, and niece, Lydia. **We try to visit each other every few months and plan special "cousin weekends" to celebrate holidays.** Hattie talks about going to see "Cristina-an-Paul and friends" almost daily! Justin's sister, Shelby, and her husband live in Florida with our two nephews, Kevin and Landon, and our soon-to-be-born niece, Alana. Hattie is always asking to FaceTime with them! Justin's brothers live in St. Louis and Philadelphia. **While we don't all live close to each other, we make sure to stay in touch through sibling video chats and text messages.**





things we love



MELISSA LOVES:

worship music
being Hattie's mama
coffee dates and game nights with friends
procedural crime dramas
interior design

JUSTIN LOVES:

my family
traveling to new places
Diet Coke
watching FRIENDS reruns
slow family weekends



HATTIE LOVES:

her stuffed cow, Cow
playing outside in the water
dinosaurs
going to "the balloon store"
bacon

1. Feeding the giraffe at the zoo | 2. Visiting the pumpkin patch for our first "Cousin Weekend" | 3. Riding in Papa's boat | 4. Quick visit to "the balloon store" | 5. Checking out the Children's Garden at our local botanical garden | 6. Annual trip to Illuminations, a light display at our botanical garden



FROM WANTED TO WANTED
FROM LOVING ARMS
TO *loving arms*



OUR promise

There are no words to describe how grateful we are for you. Whether you choose us or not, we are so thankful you've taken the time to consider us for your baby. We're not even going to pretend this is easy for you. What we can do is make several promises to you if you do choose us:

We promise to give your baby the world, to love them fiercely, and to be the very best parents we can be for them.

We promise to show up for them, encourage them, celebrate them, learn with them, adventure with them, and make all the memories with them.

We promise to be their safe haven, especially when they need us the most, and to point them toward Jesus.

We promise to always share your child's life with you to whatever extent you feel comfortable. And if, for whatever reason, you're not ready, we will always be here when you are.

And, last, but certainly not least, **we promise** to always love your baby exactly like they're our own.

Melissa, Justin & Hattie

