

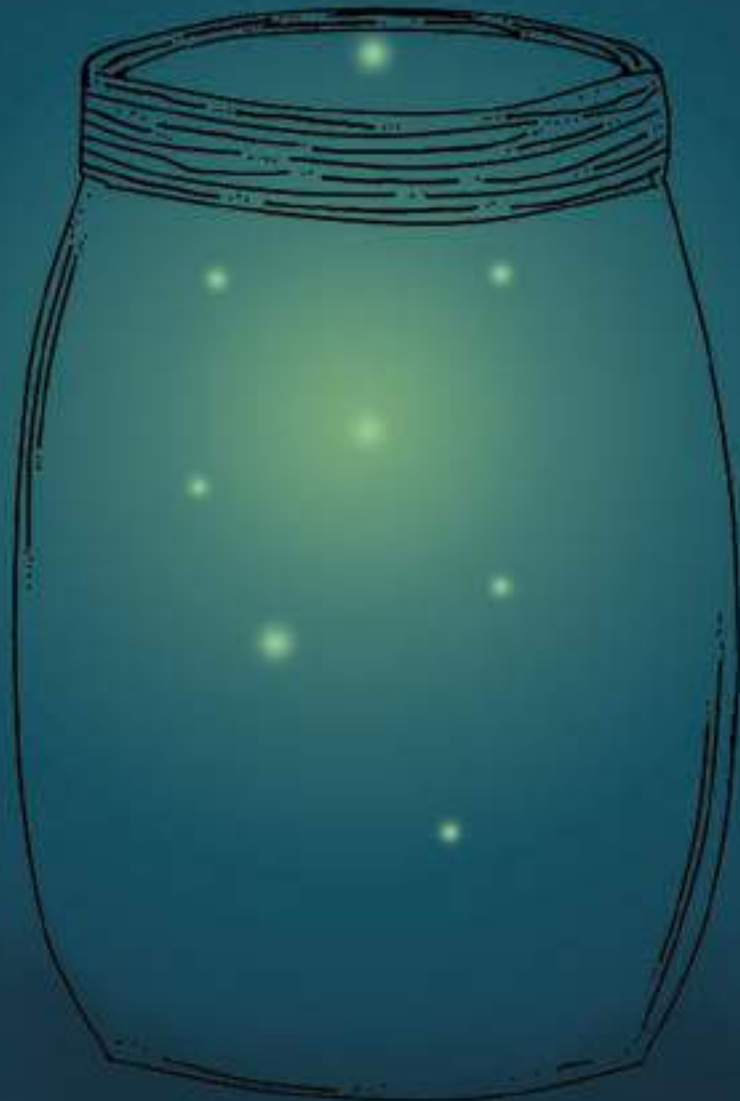
.....  
NOTHING CAN DIM

*the light*

THAT SHINES WITHIN

.....

*Maya Angelou*





Thank you for taking the time to learn more about us. We have so much to give in resources, opportunities and --above all else-- love, and we are hoping for a chance to give it. We look forward to doing everything we can to help our new baby grow into a strong, beautiful, and amazing person. Your strength and courage with this choice is unmatched and we are grateful for your consideration.





## About Scott

AS WRITTEN BY LAURAL

When I met Scott I immediately realized that he was incredibly smart but grounded, self-sufficient and thoughtful, and one of the truly kindest people I've ever met. His sincerity has this amazing ability to break the tension with some quirky statement and make people feel safe enough to be themselves. He knows his own limitations and makes it safe for you to also have limitations and find ways to work around them as a team. In fact, his patience helps build me up and want to be a better person. I've been lucky enough to watch Scott effectively and gently guide our adopted daughter, Berlin, age 2, through her natural exploration of limits as a toddler. I knew he would make a great father even before we had Berlin as I watched him with his nephews and our friends' children. He guided them with the care and concern of a natural parent and I was (and continue to be) blown away. We equally share childcare according to our strengths, and it gives me confidence that we will always find a way at any age or stage!



# About Laural

AS WRITTEN BY SCOTT

Laural is simply stunning. Her intellect, curiosity, empathy, and compassion are unparalleled. Each day I fall more in love with her. Laural is like a good book in that her unique perspective opens new worlds. There isn't a day that goes by where Laural doesn't teach me something new and make me laugh in the process. The thing that truly drew me to her is that she is a natural mother. She was protective of her friends' children and loved to teach them cool things about nature and how things worked long before we were married. I've never seen a person comfort, console, and challenge our daughter with such grace. The delight on Berlin's face when she comes back into a room is a gift.



# Our Love Story



YOU

LIGHT UP MY

LIFE

We met one week before Thanksgiving in a local coffee shop in 2013. It was obvious to both of us, our friends, and family that we had each met someone special. From Scott: "In my first conversation with Laural I was taken aback as I didn't know it was possible to be so smart, kind, beautiful and funny. If I imagined a dream wife I wouldn't have come up with her as even dreams can't be this good." Our relationship has always been rooted in trust, honesty, respect, and love. We were married in an intimate ceremony in the summer of 2015 and spent our honeymoon traveling across Europe. We were fortunate to grow our family in August 2017 when we adopted our daughter, Berlin. She is a happy, outgoing, good-natured, and very empathetic toddler. She is the best thing that has ever happened to us. Our daughter has a very outgoing personality and loves to take care of and protect her animals (both alive and stuffed) and we believe will be a fantastic big sister. We have been forever thankful to have been chosen as parents for our daughter and are now looking forward to the next chapter of our story.





# Our Home



We live in a historic five-bedroom home in the middle of a metropolitan area in the Midwest. It is a unique area filled with old homes with plenty of yard space, a large park, museums, zoo, restaurants, and theaters all within walking distance. As a tenured college professor and Interim Dean of the school, Scott has a flexible schedule which allows him to often work from home. Thus, his job provides excellent educational opportunities such as free college tuition for the family. Laural is currently pursuing a doctorate after spending 15 years as nurse and is finished with coursework, now preparing for her dissertation process from the home office. Her goal is to eventually teach as a professor of nursing. This flexibility provides ample time to focus on our family providing the love, dependable presence, education, and play that every child needs.



# Our Hobbies

We both have a month of winter vacation and three months off during the summer allowing us time to travel. We have traveled together to Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Portugal, France, Thailand, Iceland, Malaysia, and several times (and with Berlin) to New York, Miami, Montreal, Toronto, Wisconsin, Maine, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, and California. We look forward to traveling as we believe immersing our family in other cultures is a great way to stay connected to the world. In fact, we three are looking forward to visiting Egypt for a week this spring.





Laurel is incredibly handy and enjoys working on household projects and writing poetry. Scott is an avid reader and enjoys painting and running. As a family we love cooking or grilling, going on hikes (or walks with Berlin), and taking her to museums, playgrounds, gardens, story-time at the library and local bookstore, and the zoo.





# Our Family



We have a diverse set of family and friends. Scott has a brother (Greg) and sister-in-law (Zendyn) and 2 nephews, Malcolm and Zane, who have been ecstatic to have a cousin to teach everything they know to! There are frequent trips to India to visit Zendyn's parents. Scott's mother has a cabin on a lake in Wisconsin, allowing us to go boating and jet skiing in the summer, and snowmobiling and skiing in the winter! Laural's parents live 1.5 hours away, which we LOVE, as they both adore Berlin and want more grandchildren.







We look forward to helping you through pregnancy and delivery, should you want it. We want the best for you and the baby. We knew from literally day 1 that we wanted to adopt children and have a chance to give what we can to make the world a bit brighter. Berlin adores babies and would love a little brother or sister. She feeds her dolls and stuffed animals her own food, rocks them to sleep and even tries to change their diapers. If we are selected as adoptive parents please know that you will always be a part of our family. We will be as open to our child as you want about where they came from and will make it clear to them, as we do with Berlin, that what you have done is the ultimate act of love. We admire so much your selflessness and are more than grateful for your consideration.