



Dear Expectant Parents,

Hello, we are Catherine and Daniel and we want to thank you for taking the time to look through our book and learn more about us! Our hope is that this book can give you a snapshot of the life that we have built together. We have looked through new and old photos to find ones that will show you who we are as individuals and as a couple. We want to tell you that we are excited to meet you and that we are constantly hoping and praying for you and for your baby. We hope that the pictures and stories in this book can help you to make your decision.



Our Story

We met in 2005, when we we were both in college. Daniel was going to school in Santa Clara and Catherine in Fresno. We met online in February and in person on April 2nd. We dated long distance for the next two years, until Daniel could finish college and move to the Fresno area. He proposed in 2008, on the third anniversary of our first date in Monterey. We got married at Mission Santa Clara on December 19th, 2009.

We went on our honeymoon at Lake Tahoe and then Avila Beach, which set the stage for our love of travel. We have visited Arizona, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Utah, and Hawaii on several occasions. We have also traveled abroad, in Italy, Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Portugal, and Spain. Experiencing new cultures, places, and events is one of our favorite activities.

Closer to home, we enjoy spending time together and love learning new things. We like to learn new recipes and cook old favorites, make jam and marmalade, listen to music, read, spend time with friends, and visit family. In the springtime we like to drive around and see the blossoming orchards in our area, and in the fall we see the fall leaves. In winter we love coming together with our family for the holidays, as well as travelling to cozy, snowy destinations. We both love watching our favorite football team, and spending time with our cat Flora.

Our Anniversaries

First Date: April 17th, 2005

Engaged: April 17th, 2008

Married: December 19th, 2009

Bought House: September 14th, 2012

First Pet: June 12th, 2019

a little about

Daniel



I grew up in San Jose, California with my parents, Ed and Kate. I have one sibling, my younger sister Hilary. Growing up, my favorite place in the world was my family's houseboat. Going there was the highlight of every summer. It is still my favorite place in the world. I also enjoyed close relationships with my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, all of whom lived in the area. In 2007 I graduated from Santa Clara University with a BA in Classics and a BS in Psychology. I moved to Fresno to be closer to Catherine, and got my teaching credential in English from Fresno State. I have been a high school English teacher since 2008. I love reading, astronomy, learning new languages, and traveling to destinations both new and familiar!



Daniel's Favorites:

Food: Pasta or Enchiladas

Book: *The Lord of the Rings*

Music: Americana, Traditional Irish

Planet: Saturn

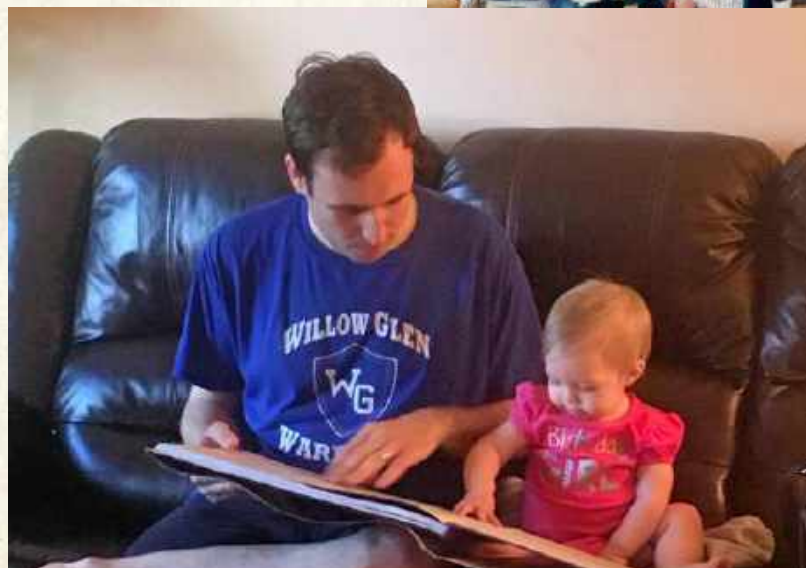
Place: The houseboat and Ireland



Taking an Online Class,
With Flora's Help



Watching the
Conjunction of
Jupiter and Saturn



At the Houseboat



Going on a Dinner Cruise



Pumpkins!



a little about

Catherine

I grew up in Fresno, California. My parents, Katie and Anthony, raised me along with my two brothers, Nick and Michael. Growing up my dad ran his own business. My mom, a teacher, was home full time with occasional teaching opportunities during my childhood. I had a large extended family on both sides and spent time with my grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins. Some of my favorite childhood memories were the family vacations I took each summer. Going on a road trip to explore a new place often including extended family members. I have an AA degree in Liberal Arts and worked at my dad's business for over 16 years. I love spending time with family and friends, baking, and traveling.



Catherine's Favorites:

Food: Mexican food and BBQ

Candy: Anything sour

Music: Country

Thing to Bake: Apricot Pie

Place: Hawaii and Portugal



Daniel's Note About Catherine

Catherine is the sweetest, funniest, most beautiful, and most perfect person I know. From our first date I have known that I love her and want to spend my whole life with her. My favorite times in life are when we're on our way somewhere together: the adventure doesn't wait until we reach our destination, but starts as soon as we leave the driveway on our way. She is my bright spot, the spark that makes every part of my life better. From early on in our relationship I have known how much she loves babies and children: she would babysit her infant goddaughter (who is now in college!) and talk about her love of children. Seeing her with our nieces and nephews and with any other child or small creature that is in her care shows me what a wonderful and loving mother she will be.



Catherine's Note About Daniel

Daniel is the love of my life. I knew at our first meeting that there was something special about him and that he was a keeper. He has proven that to me over and over and takes such good care of me. He is so funny and smart, qualities that have led to many adventures over the years. He is a wonderful provider for us and works hard. I am always proud that he is my husband. Our wedding day was the happiest day of my life knowing we would spend our days together and build a beautiful life. He is romantic and thoughtful in both small sweet gestures and fun surprises. When I see him with our nieces and nephews my heart melts. Watching him as Uncle Daniel has shown me a small glimpse of how he will be as a dad. Patient, kind, and always able to turn a task into something fun with interesting facts along the way.

OUR *home* AND NEIGHBORHOOD



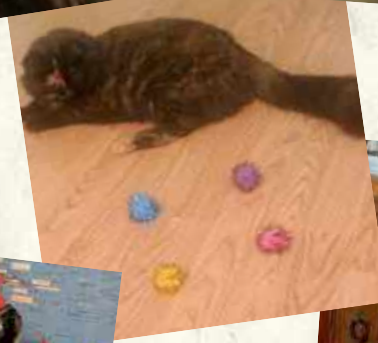


We live in a nice neighborhood in a small town. We have good relationships with our neighbors on either side, both of whom are older people with grandchildren. One of our neighbors watches our cat and our house when we travel. Across from our house are fields and a view of the mountains. Our house has three bedrooms and two bathrooms, a screened patio for bug-free outdoor dining on summer evenings, and a large yard with grass, fruit trees, and plenty of room to run and play. Our favorite room is probably the kitchen, where we love to learn new recipes and cook old traditional ones. When we bought the house, our overwhelming feeling was that it would be perfect for children: we can't wait to welcome a child into our home!



All About Flora

On June 12th, 2019 Daniel was taking out the trash when he found a tiny abandoned baby kitten hiding behind a flower pot. We brought her in and named her Flora! She is our first pet as a couple (Catherine had cats growing up, Daniel had dogs). Flora has brought us so much joy!



She is gentle and sweet, and loves it when our nieces and nephews come over to visit! She loves treats, chasing sunbeams, taking naps, and "helping" whenever we are working on our laptops or on any projects. We're sure she will be happy to welcome a new family member!



Family

We are both very close with our families. Catherine's parents and siblings live in the Central Valley, and we spend a lot of time with them. Daniel's parents live in the Bay Area and his sister lives in Washington state. We both have aunts, uncles, and cousins who range from very close to all over the country.



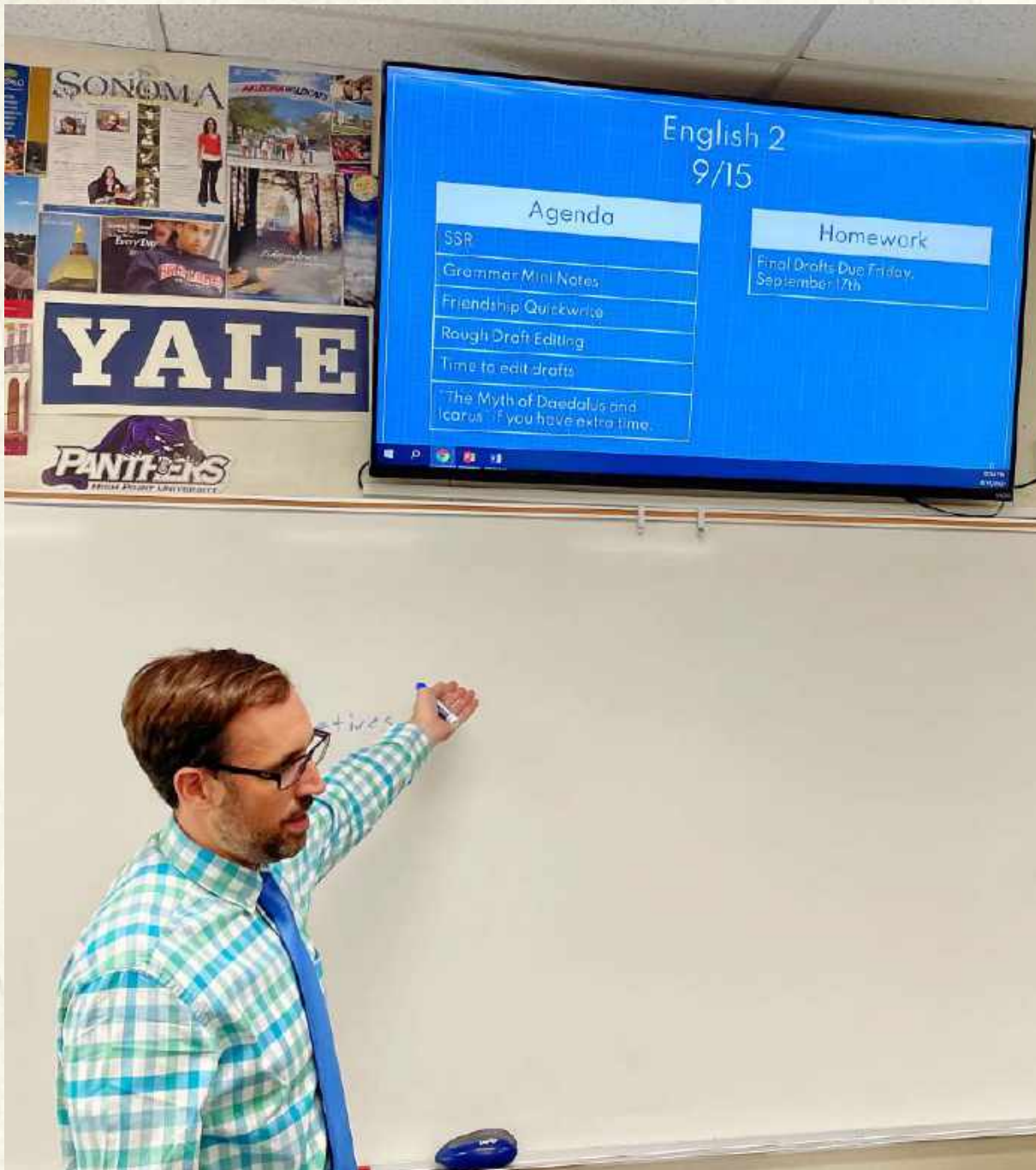
We enjoy taking trips to visit family members; Catherine's grandmother lives with her parents in Fresno, so we are able to visit her regularly. Daniel's grandmother lives in San Jose and loves to host the entire family for events at her house. We are blessed to spend so much time with our families!





Friends

We both love spending time with our friends. We have a large group of friends from various activities: people we know from church, from work, and from other places as well. Catherine's best friend, and the maid of honor at our wedding, was her best friend since they were both four years old! One great experience was our visit to Ireland, where we spent time with Daniel's friend Adrian who he met while studying abroad there. His family's thatched-roof cottage was amazing! We frequently gather with friends for parties, lunches, book clubs, and many other fun activities.



Daniel & Catherine's

CAREERS

Daniel has been a high school English teacher, Chess Club advisor, and Academic Decathlon coach for fifteen years. He is the chair of his English department, and is currently working on his Master's degree in Classics and Archaeology. Catherine worked at her dad's accounting firm for over fifteen years, but is now ready to be a stay at home mom full time!





Throughout our years together, we have developed many traditions which we love. On Sundays we go to church in the morning and spend the afternoon with family. We make orange marmalade in the winter when our orange trees have fruit, and other jams in the spring and summer when various fruits are in season. We make recipes that have become traditions for us, including Catherine's pies, banana bread, and *pasteis de nata* (Portuguese custard tarts) and Daniel's chocolate chip cookies, brownies, and *kolaches* (Czech fruit pastries). We go on a few vacations during Daniel's summer break, often with one of our families. We go to Half Moon Bay to get pumpkins in October, and go on a trip with Daniel's family to celebrate our birthdays sometime in fall. We attend an annual Hallowe'en costume party with friends, which is a lot of fun! We also go on a yearly anniversary getaway, usually to a snowy destination, and spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with our families.



traditions



Christmas is our favorite holiday! Decorations, delicious treats, and Daniel's grandma's old Christmas records playing!



Learning a Family Recipe



The Houseboat on a Summer Morning





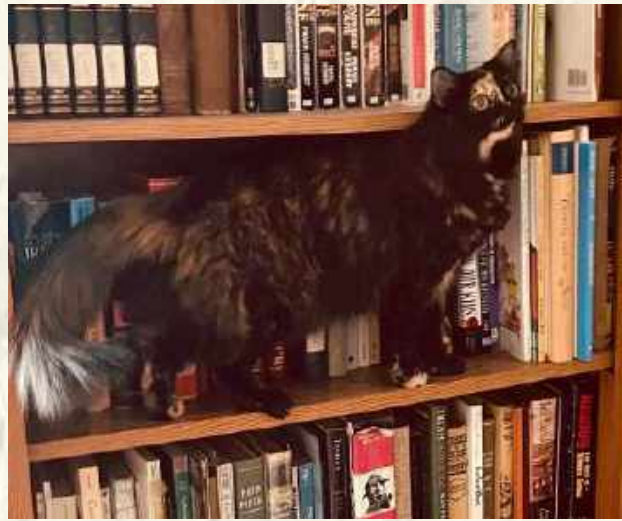
Adventures

We love to go on adventures to places near and far! A trip abroad to Ireland, Portugal, or Canada is a lot of fun, but so are Tahoe, Avila Beach, Half Moon Bay, Carmel, Arizona, or Oregon! We have gone whale watching, climbed a redwood tree, hiked around the volcanic crater on the Portuguese island of Faial, gone up in a hot air balloon, learned recipes from relatives in Ireland, and snorkeled in Honolua Bay. We can't wait to embark on the adventure of parenthood!



Our Interests

Daniel loves astronomy and has collected a few telescopes and other astronomical equipment over the years, which he loves to use. He also likes film photography, reading (especially Classics/Ancient History), and learning new languages. Catherine loves to bake, take care of Flora, read, listen to podcasts, and spend time with friends. We both love music, travel, and spending time together.



Notes from our parents



Dear Little One,

We long for the day of meeting you and holding you in our arms. You are a precious gift from God. Our extended family has been blessed with adopted nieces and nephews and everyone will enthusiastically welcome you.

We can't wait to be part of your life as you grow up. Grandma Katie loves to read and will always be happy to tell you a story. Grandpa Anthony will take you on adventures and hikes, and will always make you laugh.

We love your Mom and Dad very much and know they will spend their lives loving and caring for you.

Your loving grandparents,
Grandpa Anthony and Grandma Katie

to their future grandbaby



Dear Precious Baby,

We are so excited for your arrival, whenever that may be. You have been wished for, prayed for, and waited for for so long.

Right now, Grandma is dreaming of the days she will spend knitting for you, or teaching you to play piano and guitar as you get older. Grandpa can't wait to sing songs, dance funny dances, play peekaboo, run through sprinklers, and most of all, make you happy.

We are already planning the trips we will take together to Cambria, Disneyland, or wherever your heart desires to go. We can't wait to do all these things with you and a ton more. You are going to be the most loved child and grandchild of all time.

Get here soon, little one!
Grandma Kate and Grandpa Ed