

Rachel & Scott

OUR STORY 

*It's so nice to meet you.*

Hi! Our names are Rachel and Scott. We really can't thank you enough for taking the time to read about us. We know that it takes a very strong and loving person to consider making an adoption plan.

We're so grateful that you're open to learning more about who we are, and hope for the opportunity to learn more about you, too.

We put this book together for you to get to know more about us. We can't wait to meet you in person too so you can really know us in order to trust us.



Photo of us on our wedding day in 2012.



**Rachel and Scott taking our nephew Joshua out for his 7th birthday on a special date!**

Our greatest hope is that we can become parents. We love children, are not able to have children on our own and would love the opportunity to adopt and make a child – perhaps your child should you so generously choose us – the center of our universe.

We were both very lucky to be raised but two loving parents. We would love to provide that unconditionally loving and supportive upbringing for your precious child.



**Scott's brother Jordan, Scott, Rachel and our nephew Joshua at the park on Saturday morning.**



Music is a tremendous part of our lives. We both grew up surrounded by music, but it has truly become a core element to our world in a way we never could have dreamed of. Scott's career as a Grammy-award winning songwriter has provided so much joy, friendship and taken us to places we'd never imagined. Whether it's going to see our best friends play concerts at the biggest venues in the world, dancing to Scott's songs on the radio, having a singalong with friends and family in the living room, or even teaching our friends babies how to play instruments, music is with us daily.

We are so grateful for the role music has had in our lives and so excited to share this very special world with a child.  
If given the opportunity, we will fill your child's life with love and music.



**Scott teaching baby Sophie (best friend Danny and Lindsey's daughter) how to play piano!**



**Rachel and nephew Joshua at his first concert!**



**On the red carpet at the 2019 GRAMMY AWARDS with our close friends / Scott's collaborators: Shawn, Sylvie, Ziggy, Justin, Rachel (red dress), Scott (behind Rachel, to right) and Andrew.**

# How we met:

We met when we were 15 years old at a summer camp. We quickly became best friends and along with a handful of our other close friends – Danny, Josh, Jessica and Jillian – all started spending a lot of time together. As soon as camp ended and we parted ways, we started the tradition of nightly phone calls. When I, Rachel, first got my driver's license at 17, I was most excited to be able to go see Scott, who lived 20 minutes away. After a few years of being so close, we realized our feelings ran a bit deeper than “just friends” and we started dating.

Scott had a band (he was the lead singer, guitarist and wrote all the music) at the time so a lot of weekends were dedicated to going to see his band play – sometimes locally, and sometimes in Manhattan – which is a memory that always makes me smile. He wrote a lot of his first songs about our relationship which mostly consisted of stories about blurred friendship lines, young love, and what it felt like to fall in love for the first time.



Photo of us at 16 years old with best friends Jillian, Jessica, (Scott, Rachel) and Danny. We're all still best friends today!



Scott playing a concert in his backyard with his first band. Scott is playing guitar in the middle in white t-shirt; 16 years old.





Photo of us just after we said "I do".  
Everyone was very excited – you can see  
Rachel's cousin, Lyndsey, cheering in the  
background!



Scott kissing Rachel.



From there, we both went to college and it felt pretty far apart – Scott in upstate New York, and me in Baltimore – which pushed us in different directions for a few years. We still spoke regularly, but saw each other less. The time apart was the right thing to do, but we both always had that feeling... that special feeling when you know something in your gut but aren't really understanding what it's saying yet. For me, I think that feeling was telling me that our love was real, it just wasn't our time yet.

After college, Scott went on a national tour with his band and my love of children and travel brought me to Thailand for 6 months. I lived on the beach in an island called Koh Samui and taught English to elementary school kids. I didn't speak Thai, and they didn't speak English – but we found a way to communicate, and play and learn together.

We got back together when we were 24. When we were 27, we moved in together and got married – which was one of the most fun nights of both of our lives. We called our wedding “a celebration of love” and while the night was about the two of us, it was also just as much about the community we had around us.

Ten years later, we sometimes look at each other and say out loud, “I can't believe we've loved each other since we were so young”. It's so crazy to think that we've shared so many phases of our lives. And it's so amazing to have been there alongside each other as we've grown and changed both individually and together.



**Scott at 6 yrs old with his dad,  
Dorian.**



**Scott and our niece Lauren and  
nephew Dylan as kids.**



**Scott's brother Jordan, Scott's  
sister Manda holding her son (our  
nephew) Dylan, and Scott.**

## *Life Growing up : Scott*

I was born into a family with two loving parents. My parents (Nancy and Dorian) already had 2 children (my brother and sister, Manda and Jordan) to whom I am very close. I was musical from the day I was born and music has been a big thread in my life. I was playing piano and guitar and singing since before I can remember. Instruments were all over my house. We had a piano, guitars and a bass. My first love was the piano. My father Dorian would teach me chords and melodies and I couldn't wait to master them. Everything else in my house Jordan and myself turned into a drum set. Counter tops, pots pans – you name it, my dad played Jazz and would tell me and Jordan there were no wrong notes in Jazz so play whatever feels good. It was always a free and creative way to play that I still use today when I'm working on music. Nancy, my mother was an English teacher and was always relating everything in my life to a story with morals. I remember if I got into the least bit of trouble she would make me write an essay either apologizing or defending myself.

I was involved in lots of sports growing up and played on lots of basketball and baseball teams in my community. My father Dorian coached some of the teams I played on. I look forward to being able to coach sports for a child of ours. I made a group of friends in my early years that are still my best friends today. We played sports together, formed rock bands together and mostly made each other laugh a lot- we still do. In the summers we went to camp together. Camp was a big part of our lives. We would wait all year to go to camp so we could hang out with each other all day. What I wasn't expecting was to meet Rachel at camp. As Rachel mentioned, we first became friends at 15 years old. It's hard to believe we met so young. We immediately clicked. Friends for years before dating we developed a relationship that only kept getting stronger. We would talk about spending our lives together when we didn't have any idea what that even meant.



Scott at age 11 playing piano with his dad, Dorian.



Scott as a baby playing the harmonica  
with his Grandpa Sidney.





Rachel (on the right) with her younger sister Ilana as kids!



Rachel at age 7 with her family on their annual summer vacation. (Rachel is on the bottom right)



Ilana (Rachel's sister), Janice (Rachel's mom), Eric (Rachel's dad) and Rachel at a show in NYC.

## Life Growing up : Rachel

When I think about my childhood, the first thing that comes to mind is my grandma telling us over, and over again “family is everything”. As a kid, I didn’t really understand why she felt so strongly about that but as an adult, I find myself living by that value in almost every decision I make. I was born to two loving parents, Janice and Eric, and the first grandchild to all four of my grandparents, and a bunch of Aunts and Uncles who welcomed me by writing my name in the snow on the blizzard-like day I was born. Just two years later, my sister, Ilana, (and best friend) was born and our family was complete.





**Rachel (left) next to her mom (Janice), sister (Ilana) and family friends Lyndsey and Debbie after completing the NYC Half Marathon together.**



**Rachel (left) holding best friend Jessica's son Ollie with Jillian and Jessica kissing Ollie's little feet.**

Some of my favorite memories from my childhood happen to be things that still make me very happy – spending time at the beach playing in the ocean, gathering around the piano while my dad plays whatever his favorite song-of-the moment is over and over until he gets it just right, cooking and baking (so much cooking and baking!), taking long road trips to go skiing, traveling and making new friends wherever we went, and holiday celebrations so filled with family we could barely all fit in the house. Whether a holiday celebration or Friday night dinner, there was never an empty seat at the table – because if there was, my mom and grandma would quickly open their arms and fill it with someone from the community so they didn't have to eat alone.

In kindergarten, I met my two best girl friends – Jillian and Jessica (who was adopted as an infant from Colombia, so adoption has always been a very important part of my life) – who are still my best friends to this date. I'm the godmother to Jessica (and her husband Pete's) son, Ollie, and Jillian and her husband Gabe live just two blocks away from us now! Like Scott and his friends, something we looked forward to all winter long was summer camp where we could spend all day at the lake, doing arts & crafts and doing our best to play sports (which unlike Scott, I was honestly never very good at). Most of all, we looked forward to reuniting with our other best friends. For me, one of those best friends just happened to be Scott.







Scott and Rachel at dinner with Rachel's grandparents Joe and Irene.



Rachel with her dad (Eric) and sister (Ilana).



Pool day with cousins! Left to right: Luke (1st cousin) Scott, Rachel, Anna (1st cousin) Joel (brother-in-law) and Ilana (sister).



Rachel with her sister & cousins having summer fun! Left to right: Luke, Rachel, Anna, Ilana (sister) .



Jordan (Scott's brother), Manda (Scott's sister) and Rachel.



Rachel and her Grandma on Thanksgiving being playful in Turkey hats.





Rachel and nephew Joshua after picking wildflowers.



Photo shoot with the Fam! Scott, our nephew Joshua, Scott's brother Jordan, sister-in-law Diane, and Rachel.



Scott and Rachel taking our nephew Joshua to his soccer game!

## Our Family.

Family is and always had been the most important part of our lives. We live very close to our parents and see them frequently. Since we have been together so long our parents have developed a wonderful relationship with each other as well – and will even hang out together when we're not there! They actually met when we all used to go see Scott's band plan when we were in high school, so they've known each other almost as long as we have! We spend lots of weekends together and often bring our families together for holidays – including aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents.





**Scott's brother Jordan, our sister-in-law Diane, their son Joshua, Scott and Rachel all trick-or-treating on Halloween.**



**Scott's sister Manda, our nephew Joshua, sister-in-law Diane, Rachel and Scott's brother Jordan having fun on a fall afternoon.**

Adoption has always been a very important part of our lives. Scotts brother Jordan and his wife Diane adopted their 7 year old son just last year after they cared for him as their foster son for 6 years. He joined our family as a foster child when he was just a few months old, so we've all known him and loved him since he was a baby in diapers. Jordan, Diane and Joshua live just 5 minutes away and we see them multiple times a week for coffee dates, movie nights or even just little walks around the neighborhood. Joshua loves coming over and he's even claimed a room in our house as Joshua's room. He races to it when he walks in the door.

It's been so much fun building new traditions with Joshua – like going for weekly pizza dinners, cheering him on at his baseball games in the park on Saturday mornings, taking him to the pier to go fishing and of course, building many new holiday traditions with him. Halloween is such a fun one – every year, we take Joshua trick or treating and then head over to the community garden where people from the neighborhood set up a haunted garden for all the kids. The night usually ends with watching a movie together and playing games until bedtime. Joshua is eager for us to have a little one to join him on these adventures. He has told us he will share his old costumes with his new cousin.







Nephew Joshua, Scott, Scott's brother Jordan, Scott's mom Nancy and Rachel having fun taking selfies with stick-on mustaches!



Rachel and our nephew Joshua going out for special pizza dinner after trick-or-treating.



Rachel and Scott snuggling with our nephew Joshua on Christmas morning!

We love to share the excitement of the holiday season with Joshua and creating our own special Christmas traditions together is definitely a highlight. The first weekend in December every year, we all meet up at the park just down the block from our house where there is a seasonal Christmas Tree farm set up. Together we pick our trees (really, Joshua picks the trees!) and stock up on seasonal goodies like fresh maple syrup and Christmas decor. We then all drag the tree back to our house, put Christmas music on and have a decorating party which always includes lots of hot chocolate and usually, and a lot of dancing to whatever Joshua's favorite song of the moment is – usually Michael Jackson's Thriller. Joshua is so excited to think that he could have a baby cousin to join him.





We are also very close with Scott's older sister Manda, our brother-in-law Mike and niece and nephew Dylan and Lauren. We have babysat Lauren and Dylan since the time they were little and are in shock every time we say we can't believe Dylan is in college already. Scott has also been a big influence on Lauren's life. She has taken a big interest in creating music and he has been able to create a special bond with her teaching her how to write. It's pretty wild to think Rachel has known them their entire lives too.

Rachel's sister, Ilana, just got married and we're so excited to welcome Joel to our family. We're also very thrilled of the possibility of having children close in age so they can grow up together, like we did with our cousins. Whenever we're with Ilana and Joel, we find ourselves on spontaneous mini-adventures together – like going for hikes, renting kayaks and spending the afternoon on the water, or venturing out to find the best ice cream shop around. We can't wait to continue those adventures together as our families grow alongside each other.



**Celebrating Rachel's grandparents  
65th wedding anniversary with  
parents, aunts & uncles, siblings and,  
cousins. (Scott is in back with yellow  
hat, Rachel on bottom right with  
purple hat.)**

# Our friends.

Our friends are a very big part of what makes us “us”. We feel very lucky to have such a large network of friends that we’ve created both separately and together. Both of us are still extremely close to friends we grew up with and also have a tight knit group of friends we’ve made over the years from college, work, and traveling. Many of them are close by and we take any opportunity we can to make time to be together. It’s been so fun watching all of friends start families of their own.



**Volunteering with friends at a soup kitchen we work with often. (Rachel is in the bottom middle in the red apron. Scott is in the back behind her 2nd from the back left.)**



**Sunday road trip with best friends since elementary school and their kids! Left to right: Josh, Meg, Danny, baby Sophie, Lindsey holding baby Ethan, Rachel and Scott.**





**Rachel and Scott with best friends Shawn and Camila spending the day in nature together.**



**Rachel and close friend Rob hiking in California together.**



**Pumpkin picking with friends Jillian and Jordan and their son Leon.**





Scott and Rachel on a walk.

## *Our life together now:*

We've lived in Brooklyn for over 10 years – since about the time we got married. A few years ago we bought our home that we currently live in which is on a tree-lined street right down the block from the park and playground.

In the spring and summer, the neighborhood is super lively and we love to have friends and family over to enjoy the energy here. We'll often walk down the block and hang out at the park and then have everyone to our backyard for a BBQ dinner.

Our neighborhood is filled with shops and art galleries but has a very intimate neighborhood feel. One of our favorite parts about where we live is that so many different types of people from all over have found a home here and everybody is celebrated for exactly who they are.

We love living here – we are so so excited to rediscover the area as parents.





Scott and his brother Jordan playing in the leaves with nephew Joshua.



Scott and his mom holding our cousin Haley's newborn twins Carter and Sydney.



Rachel holding best friend Katies's daughter Mia on a nature walk while they pick corn.



When we're not home in Brooklyn, we tend to spend a lot of time upstate NY in the mountains. This tradition started when we would go spend the weekend camping with friends for July 4th every year and has grown to us now having a cabin upstate that we love to spend time at. Our annual camping trip is still something we do (but now we do it with Jordan, Diane and Joshua) and we also spend many weekends at our house upstate hosting groups of family and friends.

Over the summer, we spend a lot of time having picnics, campfires and floating around the lake and in the winter, we cozy up and listen to old records, do fun arts & crafts projects and cook with friends, and our friends small kids (who are all between 0-5 years old). Every family member is eager for us to add a child to the family group – and so are we!



Scott and Sophie (best friend Danny and Lindsey's daughter) being silly on a hot summer day upstate.



Rachel and our nephew Joshua laughing after a dance contest with each other on a camping trip!



Scott holding best friend Danny and Lindsey's baby Ethan on vacation.





**Rachel, life-long family friend Lyndsey, Rachel's mom Janice, and family friend Debbie (Lyndsey's mom) on a hike together.**



**Rachel and Sophie (best friends Danny and Lindsey's daughter) after picking flowers at our house upstate.**



**Rachel with our niece and nephew Dylan and Lauren the day after our wedding.**



**Scott and Rachel exploring South America!**



**Fun and in love in a waterfall in Hawaii!**

Rachel loves hiking (and Scott loves making Rachel happy and has grown to love it too) and doing anything that involves nature and sunshine. Our love of nature also draws us to travel a lot – whether traveling to the National Parks or even internationally. Every summer, we try to take some time off to visit somewhere new, explore the nature there and learn about the culture.

Sometimes we'll travel just the two of us (which often leads to meeting some new friends along the way) but usually, we get together a close group of friends or family and use the opportunity to spend time together.

We are looking forward to adding child friendly trips like visits to Disney to our list of travels.

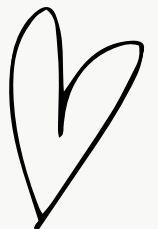




We've both always cherished holiday traditions and quality time with family and one of our favorite days of the year is celebrating Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving Day for us starts the same every year – by watching the Thanksgiving Day parade, which is so special as it signifies holiday season in NYC – a magical time of year filled with holiday lights, weekends ice skating and festive dinners with friends. As soon as the parade is over, we hop in the car and all drive to Rachel's Aunt's house in Connecticut where we are greeted by a warm house full of cousins and a cup of hot apple cider. We spend the day eating a very traditional Thanksgiving feast (turkey, stuffing, freshly baked breads, sweet potato pie, etc.), watching football and sharing stories. The kids table where we once sat is now filled with our nieces and nephews and our cousins kids. Just like we used to do, after we all eat, the kids all run down to the basement where Rachel's aunt sets up a wonderland for them filled with ping pong, toys, stuffed animals and games.



**Rachel's family at our house for a Sunday brunch!** Left to right: Eric (Rachel's dad), Janice (Rachel's mom), Aunt Karen, Rachel, Cousin Hayes, Ilana (Rachel's sister), Joel (brother-in law), Cousins Sara, Justin Nikki and Scott.



As a kid, playing down there with all the cousins was always a highlight and it's so much fun that it's a tradition the next generation loves, too. Right before dessert is served, Rachel's uncle always makes a toast and we then all gather around the piano for a singalong – which is a tradition that has been ongoing for 4 generations. Rachel's great grandparents were both piano teachers and taught everyone in the family how to play so this is a tradition that is full of laughs and smiles but equally so, a moment we collectively share an immense sense of gratitude for the joy we share and for the amazing supportive, loving family we are surrounded by.



**Rachel and nephew Joshua being silly at the photo booth after getting a Christmas Tree.**



**Scott's family hanging out over the holiday weekend!**  
From left to right: Scott, Rachel, nephew Joshua, Cousin Hayley holding baby Sydney, Cousins Samantha, Danny, sister-in-law Diane, baby Carter, Brian and Scott's brother Jordan.





**Scott teaching our nephew Joshua to play guitar!**



**Rachel getting serenaded by our nephew Joshua.**

As you probably know by now, music is a big part of our lives and another thing we love to do and do often is to see live music.

Music is something that has always been a huge part of both our lives from childhood and definitely a shared passion – one that Scott has turned into an incredible career. We're so grateful to have a tight knit community formed from people Scott works with. Scott is a professional songwriter and over the years so many fellow songwriters, artists and musicians have become like a second family to us.

Our gatherings with them are almost always centered around music – often going to concerts and shows and even awards shows to see artists we're most inspired by and just having a good time with like-minded, creative friends. We can assure you that your child will be surrounded by music... all types of music!



# Work : Scotts Career

Getting to call songwriting my job is a dream come true. Not only because I'm so passionate about music, but because, as mentioned earlier, I get to connect with so many different types of people from all over the world. I make melodies and lyrics and I produce music but my favorite part of the job is getting to help people tell their stories in song form. My typical process is gaining a connection with a musical artist or band and learning their story. From there, I can help turn it into a song. One of the coolest feelings I get to experience is hearing a song I've helped write played on the radio or ring out in a stadium and knowing how its touched so many peoples lives.



**Scott in the studio with friend / collaborator / artist Camila Cabello and producer Mike working on new album.**



**Scott working in the studio on a song with friend / collaborator / artist Shawn Mendes.**



# Work : Rachels Career

I am really looking forward to being a stay-home mom because I have flexibility because I own my own company!

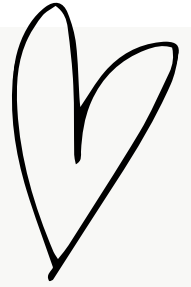
After college, I started working in advertising and public relations and stayed in that industry for over 10 years. Somewhere down the line, I realized I wanted to connect with and support people on a deeper level and while working, started taking classes to become a holistic nutritionist. A year later, I started a company developing programs around health & wellness, educating others on mind-body connection and how we can better care for ourselves.

I love that I have the opportunity to share this knowledge with others in a way that can empower others in their own lives and make meaningful connections through my work, every day.

Rachel with her business partner, Sarah, setting up for a client event about healthy eating.



Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.



We're so excited about the possibility of starting a family together and our interest in adoption comes from a place in knowing that none of us are on this journey alone. As cliché as it sounds, we're all in this together. Our commitment is to raise any child in our home with love, patience, honesty, open-mindedness and acceptance. We're so excited to continue on the traditions we've built, and build new ones with our family as it grows.

We're so grateful to have the opportunity to connect with you, here today. We also know that you are in a position that requires so much courage and is probably incredibly difficult. Whatever decision you make, we truly trust that you are making the right choice and are sending you all of our love, support and positive energy.

If you're open to it, would be so excited to learn more about you and your dreams and aspirations for your child. Thank you for taking your time to meet us through this book. We appreciate your time and we appreciate you.

With love,

Rachel & Scott