

# Hi!

We're James and Keith  
We can't wait to meet you :)



*Us on our wedding weekend in 2019 <3*  
*Keith on the left and James on the right*

Hi, we're James and Keith and we're so grateful that you've taken the time to learn more about us. We are a loving couple that met in May 2010 and we hope that what you learn about us will help you get a clear sense of who we are and the great parents that we'd be. We're hopeful to establish a connection, that this is where our paths meet, and like all great stories it seems meant to be.

In deciding our path to parenthood, we talked to many beautiful families that were forged through adoption. While we'll never know what it's like to be in your shoes, we know considering adoption can be an enormously difficult decision, one that takes next-level maternal instincts and courage. We have always dreamed of being parents, even though that path to parenthood seemed unsure and sad at certain parts of our life, we want you to know how grateful we are that you are considering making us parents.

After reading about us, please reach out if you have questions or if you'd like to start talking and getting to know us better.



*Here's us with our very big families on our wedding day - our siblings, their significant others, and our parents (nieces and nephews not pictured). We're fortunate to live close to everyone - Keith's family in NJ and James's on Long Island - and we know they'll help us raise the child in love and bring us all closer.*

### **The Beginning of Our Story**

It was May 2010 when we first met. We were both 23 years old, in our first year after college, certainly not expecting or looking to find the person we'd spend the rest of our lives with. Especially not that Sunday at a silly NYC bar out with friends. James was already at the bar, and when Keith walked in, a mutual friend turned to James and said "this guy Keith just walked in, I think you'd like him."

After that introduction, we'd love to say it was smooth sailing to our happily-ever-after. The road was bumpy, we were figuring ourselves out but luckily we were young and had all the time in the world - marriage hadn't been legalized yet for same-sex couples and we had none of the pressures to settle down. We both knew deep down even after our first couple dates our connection was special and, living in NYC where many people go to run away from their family, we both saw our future surrounded by our family.



The first photo we could find of us together - June 2011



### **Our Relationship**

Before we lived together, Keith was in a Studio in Brooklyn while James and his roommate lived one subway stop away in the Lower East Side. We went to our 9-5 jobs, spent almost every night together, got to know each others' friends and families, and fell deeper in love.

We wanted to move in together, but were scared about the tiny living spaces of the city and if we'd be able to handle it. But we got lucky and found a beautiful, affordable apartment in Brooklyn and have been there ever since.

We started talking about marriage after a few years, and at first it felt weird - it hadn't even been legalized across the country until after we were together for 5 years. Our friends already called us "married" too.

But we started to feel differently over the years, and after being together for 7 years, in 2017, I (James) proposed to Keith on a September morning. I did it while on vacation, in front of a crowd, on a microphone, at a party being thrown for a charity swim race that I used to do every year on Cape Cod. About a 5 hour drive

from where we live now, it's one of our favorite places and is just so romantic and beautiful. I said "We've been coming here every year making some of the best memories, and I want to spend the rest of my life making memories here with you - Will you marry me?"

Two years later, in the same town on Cape Cod, we got married and all of our friends and families helped us celebrate. It was a dream.

Now that we've settled into married life, we hope to become parents and build a family - and we want to build one with the love, courage, and support that we've been shown our entire lives.

### **James's Thoughts on Keith**

My favorite thing about Keith is his sense of humor; how funny he is. He always makes me laugh, even if we're in an argument or a fight. He has this ability to make life feel light, even when it's heavy. He's more adventurous than I am, but he's still reliable and loyal.

My favorite thing that we share together is our love for music - reggaeton and r&b being our favorite genres. Going to concerts together is one of our favorite things to do whenever we can, and they've been some of my most cherished times together.

I'm always impressed by how smart he is, and how successful. Every job he's ever had, his bosses and coworkers love him. He handles stress better than I do too. He loves languages and is trying to learn something new - he speaks fluent Portuguese and is taking Spanish classes now.

I dream of the day I get to watch him as a dad, because I know he's going to be a great one. I can see him being the type of dad that's a good teacher - like teaching his kid how to cook (he's an excellent chef), how to throw and catch (he played Football in high school), and how to speak Spanish and Portuguese.

I can see him being the type of dad to make his kid feel safe and protected, loved and supported, taken care of when they're feeling sick - because that's what he does for me now. He's a natural care-taker.

### **Keith's Thoughts on James**

Where to start!? It's easy to take someone for granted after being with them for so long, but I am still constantly amazed by James. He has clarity of mind and a moral compass. He's been such a force for good in my life, I can't imagine where I'd be without him. When he sets himself to something, he has such dedication, discipline, and fearlessness that it's a wonder and inspiration to me. When there's something that needs to be fixed, he'll get to it right away.

This straight-and-narrow description makes him sound dull, but he's not. Somehow, he's always the life of any party and builds time for life's joys. Always pulling me out of my comfort zone, whether it's to go to a social event or to jump into the ocean when it's freezing cold. He is the most magnetic person I know. He has superhuman stores of energy to dedicate to those he loves, and still never tires in meeting and bringing new people into our life.

In this way he'll be an amazing father. There will be more love and energy to pour into a child when they are in our life. There will always be a to-do list of things he's working on to make sure our home is a comfortable and safe environment for a kid to grow up in. He'll teach them how to swim, how to build, how to learn and grow, how to dream big. He'll keep them on the right course but let them have their freedom. Any kid - whether they're the sporty, bookish, theatrical, creative type, the list goes on and on - would be lucky and supportive to have James as a dad.



### Family + Life Growing Up

James comes from a blended family, a Brady Bunch type situation. He grew up on Long Island near the beach. Swimming and the ocean was always a big part of his life - he spent the summers working as a lifeguard at the beach and was on the swim team through college. His mom Rita and Stepdad Frank have 7 kids together - Frank's kids are Lara, Jen, Frankie, Sharon, and Rita's other kids are Doug and Alexis.



*James and his siblings (Frankie, Doug, Lara, Alexis, Jen, and Sharon)*

They grew up together in the same house and are lucky, because they loved each other, and grew very close after all moving into the same house, even if Sharon's bedroom was a hallway. Rita worked at a doctor's office, and Frank worked as a construction engineer.

We came together every night for dinner, learned what it meant to work hard and provide for your family from watching our parents, and the house was always full of laughter. We hope to create the same vibes in our home as parents.



James's parents and siblings are all still very close with each other today. He'd never even distinguish who is a step vs blood sibling because to him, they're one family.

Lara, Jen, Sharon and Doug are married with kids ranging from the ages of infancy to 14, so if you were to help us become parents, your child would have a lot of cousins ready to play with.

All of James's family, except for Doug (his job has him living overseas), still live out in Long Island a short drive away, and they spend lots of time together - nieces and nephews birthday parties at each others' houses, holidays together, beach days in the summer.

James's family is a huge, loving support system that is already raising our nieces and nephews together as one, and they'd be there for James + Keith too. Sharon likes to say "you guys are meant to be parents."



*James's family celebrating Frank's 70th birthday*

Keith is the youngest of three and grew up in a quiet town in New Jersey where dinner was always at 6pm. His sister Rebecca, a Spanish teacher, inspired his love of languages early on, practicing her lessons on him and letting him listen to her Shakira's greatest hits CD. Keith followed in the footsteps of his brother Sean in playing sports in high school. Keith's dad worked at the post office, opening the office at 5am every morning, he'd finish his shift by 1pm allowing him to be a constant presence at all his sporting events. Alongside his mom, a piano teacher, they'd be the loudest ones, sometime's to Keith's embarrassment, cheering him on from the bleachers.

Rebecca and Sean are both married with 2 kids each, ages 3, 8, 12 and 13, and both live in New Jersey not far from where we grew up. When we spend holidays together, it's usually in NJ at Grandma and Grandpa's house where Keith grew up.



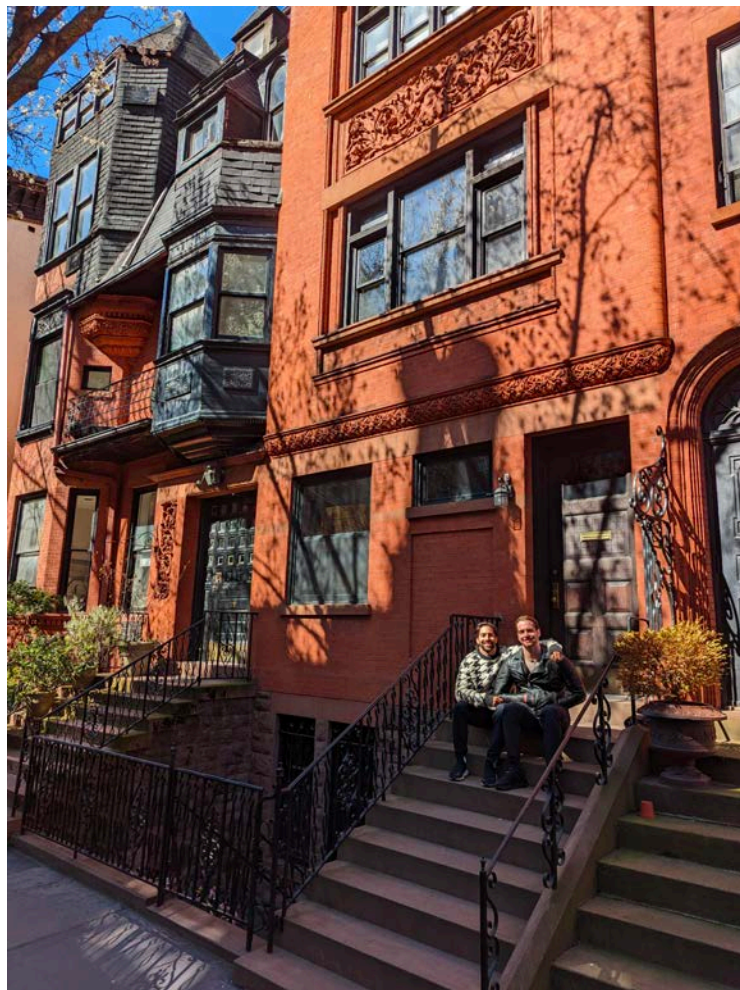
*Keith with his sister Rebecca and brother Sean*



## Our Neighborhood

We live in Brooklyn in a neighborhood called Brooklyn Heights. It's a great neighborhood to raise kids in - there are playgrounds everywhere, good schools, and lots of parks. We're probably the minority not already having kids living here - everywhere you look are families enjoying the parks, picnicking, playing sports, walking to and from school.

We live in an old house that's been split up into a few apartments, and we're close with our neighbors downstairs who have two kids. Our landlord also raised her daughter here and still lives in the building.



*Us on the stoop of our apartment building*



*Brooklyn Bridge Park, a nice park in our neighborhood*



We also have a small beach house on Fire Island, and spend our summers living there, working from home. Fire island is about 2 hours outside of the city off of Long Island, and is a beautiful beach that James's family went to growing up (and still do).

If we were to become parents, we'd love to create lifelong memories with our kids at the beach swimming, surfing, cooking meals, and playing beach volleyball. We have friends out there with adopted kids that we hangout with now, and between them and our having our families visit, we hope to create a beautiful summer life for our kids to grow up in where they can enjoy and connect with nature.



*Our place at the beach*



*James with his brother Doug and Doug's kids Heidi + James Jr on Fire Island*



*Keith with his niece Kylie and nephews Luke and Noah at the beach*



### **Our Lives Today + How We Envision Parenting**

We both have 9-5s - Keith works at a healthcare company that's researching new drugs to treat auto-immune diseases, and James works at Google on the Google Play Store product.

We're lucky enough to be able to work from home, but sometimes go into the office in the city when needed.

We both love our jobs, but we are more excited about becoming parents than we are about our own careers. If we are fortunate enough to adopt your child, we plan to take turns taking breaks from working so we can raise our kids ourselves.



### **Why We Want a Child**

For real - we want to build a family because we believe in our ability to love and raise a child and give him or her a happy, healthy, fulfilling life. We want to put into practice all the things our parents did for us, and watch them grow into their own individual selves with their own passions in life.

We feel so lucky to have built the life we have, and on top of that, we're healthy and surrounded by the most important people in our lives - our family. Because we've been given so much in life, we want to share our lives with a child.

Our parents, teachers, family, and friends gave so much of their time, affection, and knowledge to make us the people we are today, and we want to be able to do that for a child too.



**We want to know about you!**

We hope that reading about our life together has helped you get to know more about us and how a child would flourish in our care..

We'd love to learn more about YOU - your wishes for your child, and what you want us to know about your life and your hopes.

We're so grateful that you've read this far, and we admire you for taking steps toward developing an adoption plan. We look forward to hearing more about you and what you want for your child.

Love, James and Keith