

# LISA

*my journey to adoption*



# ABOUT ME

I've earned a few nicknames throughout my life. One of the names that has lasted is "The Human Intercom." I am known to be quite loud and outgoing! It all comes from a true love of life, and I constantly look for new experiences. I enjoy my work as an elementary school teacher at a local public school, and many of the things I love involve children, from my volunteer work to family time. I spend part of my summer every year volunteering as a camp counselor for children with cancer and their siblings, and it is my "happy place." Ever since I studied abroad in college, I have fallen in love with travel, especially to international destinations, and I have been blessed to visit nearly 40 countries (so far). Cooking, hiking, painting/crafting, and going to the theater (especially to see musicals) are also things that bring me joy.



## *my home*

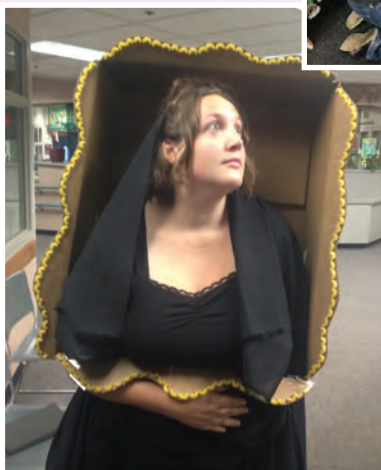
A few years ago, I bought a two-bedroom condo in a quiet, suburban neighborhood in Southern California. I can be at the beach in under 15 minutes. It's the kind of place where you meet many families and dogs on the way to the mailbox, and the whole place looks great in Christmas lights. I live in an area with one of the most sought-after school districts in the county. There is a park right across the street, and I absolutely love living here.

## *what led me to adoption*

"If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." Over the past few years, I've been shown how true that sentiment is. My younger self thought that I would be well into motherhood by now, but it just hasn't worked out that way for me. I have always known motherhood is my destiny. I tried to become pregnant with the help of a donor without success. I've come to realize it was a blessing in disguise, one more thing that led me down this path. My mother worked as a social worker before retirement and dedicated her career to helping people create families through adoption. Through her example, I became more drawn to adoption and all of its unique opportunities to build connections and help people in the process.



# MY PHOTO ALBUM



get to know

# LISA

**OCCUPATION:** Elementary school teacher

**EDUCATION:** Post-grad

**RACE:** Caucasian

**RELIGION:** Catholic



## my favorite...

**SPORT:** Anything in the Olympics

**FOOD:** Green grapes

**HOBBY:** Travel, baking, hiking

**TRADITION:** Thanksgiving family pool tournament

**MUSICAL GROUP:** All the Broadway musicals, all the time

**MOVIE:** *Labyrinth*

**DREAM VACATION:** Thailand

**HOLIDAY:** Christmas

**TV SHOW:** *Great British Baking Show*

**SUBJECT IN SCHOOL:** All of them (That's why I teach everything!)

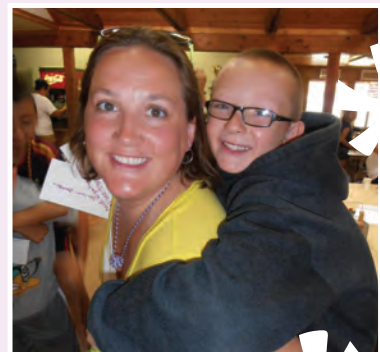
**BOOK:** *Tuck Everlasting*

# *my family and*

# TRADITIONS

I am the only girl and oldest child in a happily blended family. I have two younger brothers, each of whom are married, and we all maintain a close relationship full of laughter and support; we remain an unbeatable team in trivia games. I am also grateful to have the support of my mother and stepfather here in town as well as my father, who lives out of state but whom I talk to on the phone several times a week without fail. I have a young nephew I've been blessed to see grow up and enjoy the first few years of life. I also have a large extended family, some local, some scattered around the country. I have over 20 first cousins!

No matter how much distance there may be between the different sections of our family, we all make time to celebrate birthdays, accomplishments, holidays, and major life changes. On the flip side, we will all be there in a heartbeat for each other in the darker times. I count myself very lucky to have such a loving support system.





## DEAR EXPECTANT MOTHER,

How do I start such an important letter? I would never presume to understand how you are feeling about this emotional, delicate, and powerful process, and I've never been in your position before. If you are reading this and considering me, you are already an incredibly important person in my life. I don't know that I will ever be able to adequately express my gratitude, but I can make you some promises.

If you choose me, I promise your baby will never go a day without hearing, "I love you." I promise they will grow up knowing how special their birth story is and the selflessness involved in your decision. I promise they will live a life full of experiences: s'mores by the campfire, riding a bike, family dinners, swimming lessons, bedtime stories, and pillow forts, all while belting out Disney tunes and exploring the world and all it has to offer. I promise to instill values in your baby that will continue to help them throughout their life, especially acceptance, curiosity, and generosity. Being a teacher myself, I can promise that your baby will receive a quality education, both in and out of the classroom.

My life has the stability and circumstances needed for this next great adventure of becoming a parent, and my heart has all the love that will make our family thrive.

With love,

**Lisa**

