

RAZ & RACHEL



I N T R O D U C T I O N

We cannot begin to imagine what this experience must feel like for you. We want you to know that we respect you as a mother for weighing every option and are so humbled you have taken the time to learn more about our family. We have always felt deep in our hearts that adoption would be part of our journey, and while we don't know all the details yet, we have seen the beauty that can come through this process when we adopted our son and are hopeful to grow our family through adoption again

We can't possibly know how you're feeling right now but would like for you to know we are thinking about you and praying for you. We hope that someday you will find peace in knowing you made the best choice for you and your baby, whatever that choice may be.

We have created this book to share with you a little about who we are and would love the opportunity to get to know you.



Sam Rangel

OUR STORY



Our story is unconventional to say the least. Our meeting, falling in love and getting married, caught us both by surprise in the best way. You could say we dated long distance, like real long distance, like across-an-ocean long distance.

We met via mutual friends in September of 2014 while living in different countries, Rachel in the United States and Raz in the United Kingdom. We spent hours and hours over the next three months talking, FaceTiming, and “dating” before meeting in person that December. After a few back-and-forth trips across the pond, it became obvious that this long-distance relationship was most definitely worth all the effort, and we got engaged in April of 2015.



We were married the following Spring in a beautiful valley at the base of a mountain surrounded by our family and friends. It was one of the best days of our life together. Although our season of dating and engagement was unconventional, we’ve come to learn that most things about our life are unconventional, and we love that about us.



Get to know (told by Rachel)

R A Z

I knew from the first moment I spoke to Raz that I wanted to be in his life for a long time. He has a natural ability to connect with people and make others feel comfortable around him. He is terribly funny and keeps me laughing with his British humor and quirky mannerisms. He is strong and steady, providing a sense of safety and security in our home. When he moved to the United States, he started his own wood-working and design studio and has been committed to growing it into an incredibly successful company. He is brilliantly creative and artistic, always noticing the beauty around him.

Raz is the most incredible father and role model for our son. He is always up for a game of tag or playing catch in the yard and is quick to take him along wherever he is headed. He is not afraid to set boundaries and teach him right from wrong but is also quick to comfort him and gives his love unconditionally.

Above all, it is Raz's character that I love most. He is compassionate and kind, taking time to really see people and care for them. He is selfless and generous, making sacrifices quickly and always looking for ways to help others.



Get to know (told by Raz)

RACHEL

It's not difficult for me to find words to describe Rachel, rather it is difficult for me not to fill this entire page. Rachel is the most amazing person I know. She is honest in a kind way and challenges me to be the best version of myself. She has helped me to believe in myself and have the confidence to chase my dreams. One thing I love most about her is that she always takes the time to make our home feel safe and cozy. Rachel loves people well and is always ready to help anyone in need. This was first apparent in her career as a pediatric and neonatal nurse but has now become one of her greatest gifts in our home and her role as a wife and mother.

Watching Rachel become a mother has been absolute joy. The way that she loves and nurtures our son is second to none. She is intentional about the time she spends with him, and I have no doubt that our son knows he is the apple of her eye. Rachel is undoubtedly the more fun and silly parent, usually the one making him laugh and almost always the one reading him books at bedtime.



Get to know

O U R S O N

Where do we even begin with our son? Being his parents is our greatest honor and deepest joy; he is the light of our lives. He was born in California in 2020, and his mother invited us to be present in the room to support her when he was born. We have an open relationship with her and hold her as a treasured part of our family.

Our son is the definition of what many would call “all boy.” He loves to run fast, climb high, get dirty and squeeze every drop out of each day. His love for life and appetite for adventure are apparent in everything he does. His most favorite place to be is doing anything outside, riding his bike or scooter, throwing, catching or kicking a ball of any kind, swinging on the playground, playing tag with his friends or just making up a game with rocks and sticks. He attends a private, Christian school in our community and is currently crushing the game at T-ball and taking drum lessons.

He cares for his family, friends and pets deeply and we have seen that his heart is tender and kind. He is excited to become a big brother, and we know he will take on that role with the same enthusiasm and confidence we have come to know and love him for. We adore being his parents and cannot wait to see who he continues to become.



OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Rachel's parents have been married for 47 years and live within walking distance of us, just a few blocks over. Rachel's brother and sister-in-law also live close by and have two children who book end our son in age; his cousins are his very best friends, and we spend lots of time together. Family is a core value for us; holiday traditions, vacations together and family dinners are some of our most treasured times.

All of Raz's family lives in England. His mom and dad immigrated from Pakistan to the United Kingdom when they were 18 years old and have been married for 54 years. Raz comes from a very large family, having one brother, four sisters and seventeen nieces and nephews- yes, seventeen! It's loud and crazy when we go visit, but we welcome the craziness of a big family. We typically travel to England to spend time with Raz's family every couple of years. Our son loves it there and asks to visit more often than we can afford... ha! It's so special to us that we've been able to show him that part of the world and our family.

We have the best friends! A combination of lifelong friends that we have known since we were in school as well as those we've met at church, at work, at the gym or in the neighborhood make up our core friend group. Most of our friends have young children so it's always a good time. Travelling, going out to dinner or just are having them over for a night hanging out and playing at home some of our favorite things to do with our friends. These are the people we celebrate with and the people we go through hard times with.

Our family and friends are some of the most amazing people you could ever hope to meet and some of the biggest blessings in our lives. They are excited about our family adopting again and are eager to welcome another baby into our family and community.

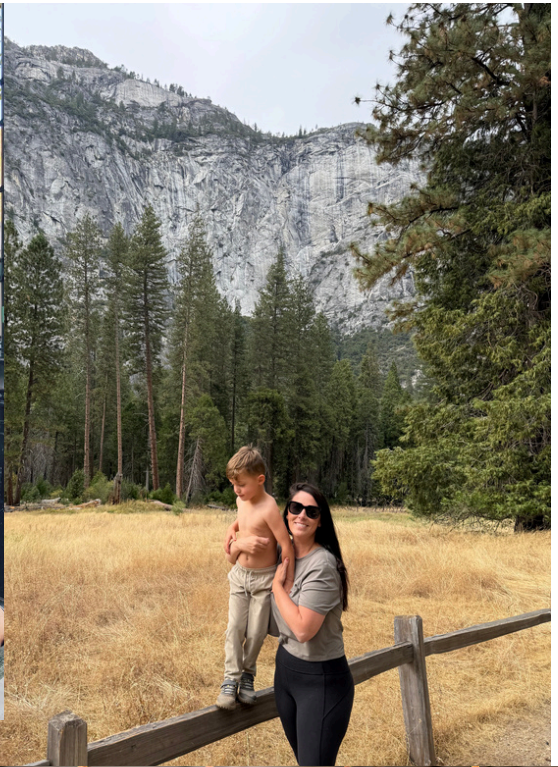


OUR HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Raz is the person in our family with the most hobbies. He is an extrovert and loves doing anything active. He is part of the CrossFit gym in our neighborhood (where our son often joins in), and enjoys playing golf, riding bikes, rock climbing, and archery. You name it, Raz is up for it. Rachel is an introvert and prefers walking, reading, a nice dinner with a friend, or a quiet night in.

As a family, we love spending time together outside, whether that is going for a walk, riding bikes to a friend's house, taking a hike, or playing in the yard. We also enjoy doing family puzzles and playing board games together. A couple of years ago we decided to set a goal of visiting one National Park a year and so far, have gone to Yosemite and Acadia. Next on this list is likely Arches or Grand Canyon.





OUR HOME & NEIGHBORHOOD

Our home is one of our favorite places to be, a place where we feel peaceful and cozy and most like us. It was built in the 1940s in a historic city in the Southeast. We both love old houses for their character and charm and the story they tell. We have a large backyard, so our home tends to be the landing pad for many of our family and friends. We frequently host family holidays, gatherings with friends and spur of the moment hangouts at our home and we love that.

Our neighborhood is filled with wide, tree-lined sidewalks perfect for walking, riding bikes and exploring. We live within walking distance of our town square where there are lots of restaurants, shops and places to hang out. Our city has a farmer's market that sells local produce and flowers every weekend and hosts holiday events, festivals and concerts regularly. Our family loves to walk or ride up to the town square to spend time in the evenings or on weekends.



OUR PETS

One thing's for sure, we are an animal-loving family! We have two dogs and a cat that we all adore, and we'd love to tell you a little bit about each of them.

Charlie, or Charles or Char Char, is our oldest dog. He is a 12-year-old black Labrador Retriever that Raz got while attending university in England. When he moved to America of course Charlie came too. Charlie's favorite things are tennis balls, walks and treats. He is a friendly old man and greets everyone with a wagging tail and whatever he can "retrieve" to present as a gift to them.

Cookie is our 3-legged cat. She is around 2 years old and came to us from a feral cat colony in the neighborhood. Rachel and our son began feeding Cookie and her very large cat family and one Halloween night, decided that it was time for her to come home with them, sorry Raz! Cookie loves to cuddle and is silly and feisty and often brings us her latest "catch" as a sign of affection.

Teddy, ohhhh Teddy, is the big, goofy, baby of the family at not quite a year old yet. He is a Great Bernese, part Great Pyrenees/part Bernese Mountain dog, and he most certainly keeps us laughing! Teddy's favorite things are people, with our son being at the top of his list, followed closely by treats, playing in the backyard, and car rides.



O U R P R O M I S E

In life there are lots of unknowns and many things we can't control, but there are a few things we would like to promise you:

We promise to always honor you with our words and actions.

We promise to have a home filled with faith and forgiveness.

We promise to laugh a lot and never take ourselves too seriously.

We promise to go on adventures and make lots of memories.

We promise to learn what your child's hopes and dreams are and to help those become a reality.

We promise to admit when we're wrong, to say we're sorry and to learn from our mistakes.

We can't promise that life will be perfect, but we can promise to always be present and to love your child whole-heartedly and unconditionally for the rest of their life.

