

# Edward *and* Stephanie





Thank you for taking a moment to learn about us. We can't imagine what you're feeling right now, but please know that we deeply admire your strength, courage, and the love behind your decision to choose adoption.

As you look through our book, you'll get to know not only us, but also *our village*, the wonderful family and friends who fill our lives with love, laughter, and support. They're just as excited to welcome a little one.

We hope the words and pictures give you a glimpse of our personalities — the joy, silliness, love, magic, and heart that make our life so full. Adoption is the most beautiful next chapter in our story, and we're so grateful to share it with you.

With love and gratitude,

*Edward & Stephanie*

# Our Story...

Some might say our story began with a pair of shoes — and they'd be right! We met back in 2011 while working together at a shoe store. You could say it was our own little Cinderella moment... except instead of a glass slipper, it was heels and price tags. At the time, we didn't talk much, but once we reconnected after I left the store, we haven't stopped talking since and the rest was truly history. We have been together for 14 years and married for 10 of them!

Edward's family is Dominican, mine is Venezuelan, and together we've built a life full of flavor, culture, laughter, and love. We're both big kids at heart and proud Disney lovers, we even had annual passes and used to visit up to five times a year! Sharing that Disney magic with our nieces and nephews is one of our favorite things to do.

We're each other's best friend, always exploring, trying new things, and creating memories together. Whether we're dancing in the kitchen, cooking up something new, playing games (and getting way too competitive), going on impromptu road trips, traveling the world, or sailing away on one of our annual cruises, we simply love doing life side by side. We have already begun planning our 2027 Greek cruise trip!

Our journey to parenthood hasn't been easy. We learned about infertility in December 2017 and have experienced two miscarriages. But through it all, our love, faith, and bond have only grown stronger. Now, with full hearts and open arms, we're ready to welcome a child into our lives — to love, protect, and share our world with.



# Meet Edward



If I had to describe Edward in just a few words, I'd say he's our family's real-life superhero, just without the cape (though he's definitely earned one). As a firefighter, he's brave, selfless, and dedicated, but his heroism goes far beyond the job. He's the most thoughtful, loving, faithful, and affectionate husband, son, brother, Tío, and Nino (that's what his godchildren call him) anyone could ever ask for.



Edward has this amazing way of bringing joy wherever he goes, whether it's cracking a joke, talking football, or starting a spontaneous dance party in the kitchen. He's always surrounded by laughter, music, and family. He loves the outdoors, especially fishing, a pastime he's shared with his dad and family since he was little. And while he loves being on the water, he's just as happy running around in the grass with our nieces and nephews, playing games, attempting cartwheels (usually ending up rolling around laughing), and making memories that they'll never forget.



He's the kind of person everyone counts on, the first to help, the first to listen, and the biggest cheerleader for everyone's dreams. Whether he's teaching his nieces and nephews to dance, helping them learn something new, or simply being there when someone needs to talk, Edward always shows up with a full heart.

I've seen him be the most incredible uncle and godfather, and I know deep down, without a doubt, that he will be the most amazing, supportive, and fun dad.

...a note from Stephanie

# Meet Stephanie

Where do I even start with Stephanie? She's the most caring, loving, and incredibly selfless person I've ever met, truly the heart of our home. She pours her love into everything she does and everyone she meets.

Stephanie is one of the most creative people I know. Whether she's decorating, crafting with our nieces and nephews, planning something special for family, or bringing her ideas to life at work, her imagination always shines through. She has this natural ability to make things and people better, and she does it all with a smile that can light up any room.

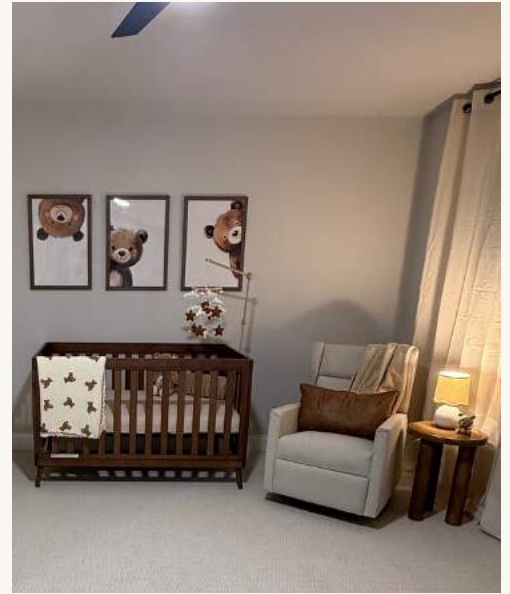
Music is a huge part of who she is. She sings, dances, and somehow knows every song ever made, from the oldies to the newest hits. But her favorite? Disney songs, hands down. You can usually find her belting out "Let It Go" at full volume or dancing around the house to anything with a good beat. And honestly, she has the most beautiful voice, I've heard her sing her nieces and nephews to sleep with lullabies that melt your heart.

She's also our family's unofficial "perfume expert", she can name a scent just by smelling it once (it's her superpower). But what I love most about her is how selfless she is. She's always thinking of others first, offering a listening ear, the best advice, or teaching our nieces and nephews something new — from the alphabet to math problems. She has patience, grace, and a heart of gold.

Stephanie makes me a better person every single day. She's my best friend, my greatest adventure, and the love I didn't know I needed and I know without a doubt that she will be the most incredible mom.

...a note from Edward





# Our Home Sweet Home

We live in a warm and welcoming suburban neighborhood surrounded by families, laughter, and plenty of children playing outside. It's a safe, friendly community with great schools, nearby parks and trails, and easy access to farms, shopping, and local restaurants, all the things that make everyday life both fun and convenient.

Our home is filled with love, a large variety of music, and the smell of something good cooking in the kitchen. It's where we host movie nights with family, game nights with friends, where Disney classics and new favorites play on repeat, and where popcorn and snacks are always part of the plan.

We've been preparing a "beary" special room, the nursery, filled with soft textures, warm tones, and touches of comfort that reflect the love and excitement we feel for the little one who will one day call it theirs. It's calm, inviting, and ready to hold story times, snuggles, and countless memories.

And then there's Mia, our 13-year-old miniature pinscher who has been with us since she was six weeks old. She still has the energy of a puppy, loves being around family, and has the gentlest soul. Mia can't wait to have a new little one to love and protect, and probably share snacks with during movie nights.

Our home isn't just where we live, it's where we laugh, dance, and make memories. It's filled with warmth, joy, and so much love waiting to be shared.

# Our Village

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and we are beyond blessed with one that's overflowing with love, laughter, and a little bit of friendly chaos. Our family and friends come from all different backgrounds; Italian, Brazilian, Colombian, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Haitian, American, and more. Together, we're a beautiful blend of cultures, traditions, food, and joy.

Our parents are the most loved and adored grandparents anyone could ask for. They are the heart of the family, always ready with hugs, adventures, and (of course) something delicious cooking in the kitchen. They spoil all the grandkids with love, laughter, and memories that will last them a lifetime.

Our siblings, cousins, and close friends are full of energy, wit, and heart. They're the kind of aunts and uncles who will be the first ones outside starting a soccer game, organizing a pool race, or showing off their best (or worse) dance moves, but they're also the same ones who will happily spend an entire afternoon building puzzles, playing board and card games, or binging TV shows and movies on the couch. It's the perfect balance of wild fun and cozy family time.

Holiday traditions are a big deal in our family, from classic Thanksgiving recipes passed down from our great-grandparents (each with their own delicious twist) to making hallacas, pasteles, and pernil during the holidays. Every celebration turns into a mix of cultures, flavors, and laughter. We even host family cook-offs, bake-offs, and outdoor relay races — because whatever we do, we do it in fun!

We've built a powerhouse of love and support, made up of people who celebrate life's big and small moments right alongside us. We take annual trips together, share Sunday dinners, and are always there for one another through every season of life. Our village can't wait to welcome a new little one into the mix with open arms (and probably a few matching family shirts, too!).



# Through Our Eyes



# Our Hopes, Dreams & Promise

Our greatest dream is to become parents and provide a life filled with unconditional love, laughter, and belonging. We can't wait for the days filled with bedtime stories, family adventures, and simple moments that make life so special. We want to raise a child who feels confident, deeply loved, and supported in every step they take.

We promise to create a home that celebrates who they are and where they come from. We will honor their story, speak proudly of their strength, and share with them how incredible their birth mom is for the love and courage it took to make this choice. Her strength and selflessness will always be remembered and spoken of with the utmost respect and gratitude.

We will teach them kindness, faith, humor, and compassion — values that guide how we live and love every day. Education is also deeply important to us, and we look forward to nurturing their curiosity and stimulating their growth from infancy through a home filled with learning, imagination, and exploration. They will be surrounded by a village of family and friends who adore them, encourage them, and celebrate every milestone along the way.

Most of all, we promise to lead with love, patience, and laughter. To be present, to listen, and to make sure our child always knows they are safe, valued, and cherished beyond measure. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for taking the time to read through our book and consider us — it truly means the world to us.

Edward & Stephanie

