

Nikki + Topin

2100313



HELLO FRIEND

Thank you for taking the time to look and learn about us and considering us for a part to play in your future plans. We know how difficult this may be and commend how brave you are for taking these steps. We know life throws curveballs, but we trust in the lord to be there to help us catch them and take them in stride. With this book we hope you will get to know about us and see the love and care we hope to share with your baby.

Adoption means much to us as Torin's little brother is himself adopted and an integral part of our family unit. Not only that, but Nikki grew up with a guardian outside of her parents and understands the love that can come from multiple different spaces and places. These experiences give us a unique insight and appreciation for adoption and all its complications. We hope within these pages you will find the family you want for your baby and once again want to thank you for the time you've taken to consider us.

Nikki + Torin

Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart

- Winnie the Pooh -



Our Story

We met in 2017 in the most unlikely of places to produce a real and loving relationship- the internet. What started out as a “eh maybe” turned into a love story we are so happy to be living. We connected over our love of comic books and video games as well as our faith and communities. We got married in 2020 during what felt like the end of the world, committing before God and our families that no matter what, no matter the darkness, we would be the light for each other. Both of us were born and raised in Texas, we chose to stay and made our home here and have no intention of leaving any time soon. Our neighborhood is calm and full of loving, helpful neighbors with friendly pets and don't ever seem to mind how often we have our friends and family over for game nights and movie nights. Torin's whole family lives here and so we are often out and about going to birthday parties or holiday get-togethers, as well as hosting for our friends every Friday night for some well deserved fun and post-work downtime.



meet

Nikki

(Laurel if you're the DMV)

Home Educator for Parents as Teachers

I grew up in Dallas, Texas with my mom and step-dad. We lived in an apartment and were happy until my mom developed an addiction that tore my family apart. Due to these circumstances I was sent to live with my maternal grandparents, there I learned the love of the lord and figured out for myself just how strong and willful I was to not grow into a person like my mother. I went to middle and high school in Amarillo where I played in the band, acted in plays and was the treasurer for the Latin club., Eventually I went to College where I received my associates in science and from there I figured out children were my passion and I wanted to be there for them in a way that I didn't have when I was young. I use my faith and my conviction to help those in need and am dedicated to growth and love.

Fun Facts

I love to craft costumes and jewelry!

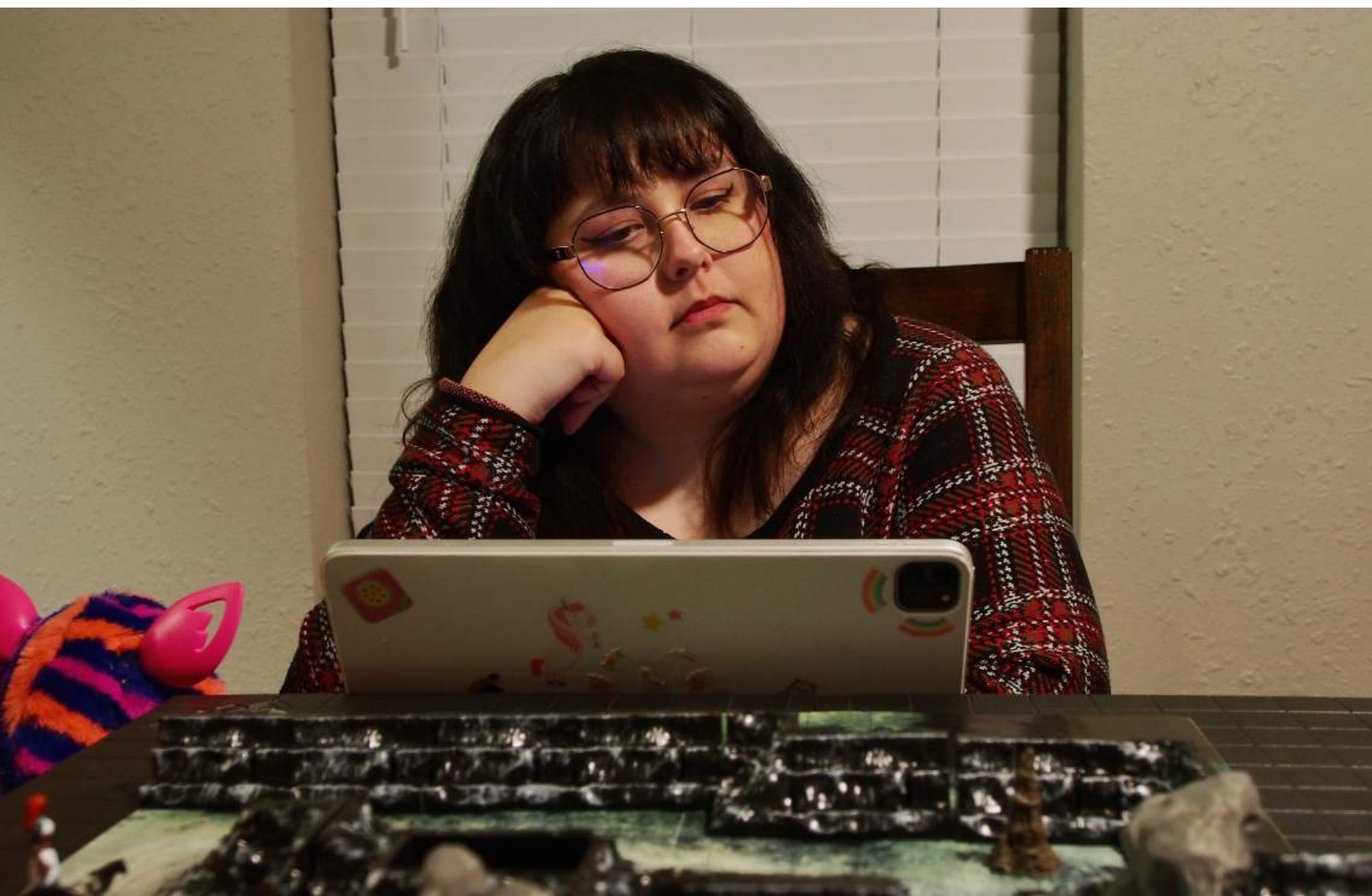
I can play 3 different instruments

I love to read and can read a 400 page book in a day with my speed reading skills



Topin loves

Nikki is the kindest and most caring person that I have ever met. The amount of love and care that she shows for everything in her life, from her pets, friends, family, and even those she barely knows blows me away every day that I get to spend with her. She has this ability with kids to be able to easily win them over and bring a smile to their faces no matter what is happening, which is why she does so well in her career in social work. This is one of the many reasons that I know will make her a fantastic mother. Her excitement when seeing any animal no matter where she is or what animal it is, her patience when putting up with me, and the love she gives to all those around her is what I find make me lucky to be able to call her my wife.





meet *Topin*

IT Technician

When I was growing up, we always lived on a tight budget. Our house was a converted trailer house that my electrician father was always working on in his spare time to finish up as it was only half finished when they bought it. This is not a complaint as I loved every moment growing up there. It taught me the value of hard work, of being thankful to everything you have, and of working together to achieve your goals. For much of my childhood, I spent so much time with my cousins who were basically my brothers and sisters. It wasn't until I was 11 years old that I actually got a proper brother, when Devin was adopted by my parents. I quickly changed from being an only child to being the protective big brother to my disabled little brother who was diagnosed with CP when he was born. As I got older I began to enjoy video games and technology of all forms. I spend my weekends with my family playing games with my brother or playing board games with our friends. I want to be able to give my children the same love and fun life that I got to enjoy.

Fun Facts

I have run a weekly dungeons and dragons game with my wife and friends for 6 years and counting.

Lord of the Rings, both the movies and books, will always be my favorite media of all time.

I have built computers for myself, my wife, and almost every member of our friend groups.

Nikki loves

Torin is the most patient man I've ever met and it's aggravating when I know I'm being unreasonable and he just puts up with it. He's such a dedicated family man that it made me realize that maybe my childhood was dysfunctional and because of this I got therapy. Torin can make me laugh, even when I'm mad at him for stealing my snacks or breaking my stuff. Torin will always make up for his "transgressions" though, which of course always makes it better. Torin also treats our friends as family, doing whatever he can to help whoever he can- even if he doesn't want to admit he does it. He will steal the check at dinner to pay for our friends and say "you snooze you lose" when they protest. He'll even sneak money into the pockets of their car doors if, somehow, they're able to pay before him. He's such a fun and great guy and I really won the lottery when I figured out how to trap him to be my husband. He'll be a great dad, I just know it.



family values + traditions

We believe that family is a term best used for the people in your life who intentionally show up for you—the ones you can call when you need help moving a couch or simply need someone to talk to. We are blessed with a supportive family, both related by blood and chosen, who are excited to welcome and love this child. We live surrounded by Torin's family, just a hop, skip, and a jump away, and we see them at least a few times a month for birthdays, graduations, and holidays. We are so excited to share all the fun things around us and the memories we will make together as one big family.

Every Friday is game night! From Dungeons & Dragons to board games to Mario Kart or Mario Party, we spend intentional time with family and friends, having fun and catching up on each other's week.

Each October, we visit the pumpkin patch to play games and pick out a pumpkin to paint for the harvest season.

Every summer, we take a big trip somewhere we have been wanting to visit. So far, we have traveled to Hawaii, New York, Australia, California, Great Britain, and Arizona. Travel is very important to us because we love exploring the beautiful world God created and experiencing the many different people and cultures within it.



Thanksgiving Dinner



Long time friends with their adopted children



Thanksgiving Family Time



Tina & our nephew Devin



Nieces & nephews at the fair



Our nieces; Kacey, Kambree and Adlie



Frends at our wedding



Family Friends at 'Gee's Family Farm'



Friends at dinner



our Home

We live in the panhandle of Texas- you know, the bit that sits next to Oklahoma. Plains as far as the eye can see are what surrounds us and just a quick 45 minute drive southeast of us is the second largest canyon in America, Palo Duro Canyon. There are so many animals around here that live in the fields in the country; rabbits, foxes, chicken, goats, cows and horses can be seen and even played with when permission is granted (and a lot of times it is) by the land owners. There are also fun things to do in town. There's Maxwell's Pumpkin Farm and Gee's family farm that offer seasonal fun during the harvest time and christmas times of year. There's also Amarillo Zoo, the Wonderland Theme park, Cynergy and Amp'd for more active play/hijinks.

Here at home we have a game room set up for board games, crafting and puzzle making. We love to spend time together whether it's just us, family, friends or a mixture of both in that room making memories and some really cool clay art (at least cool in Nikki's opinion).





our *Pets*

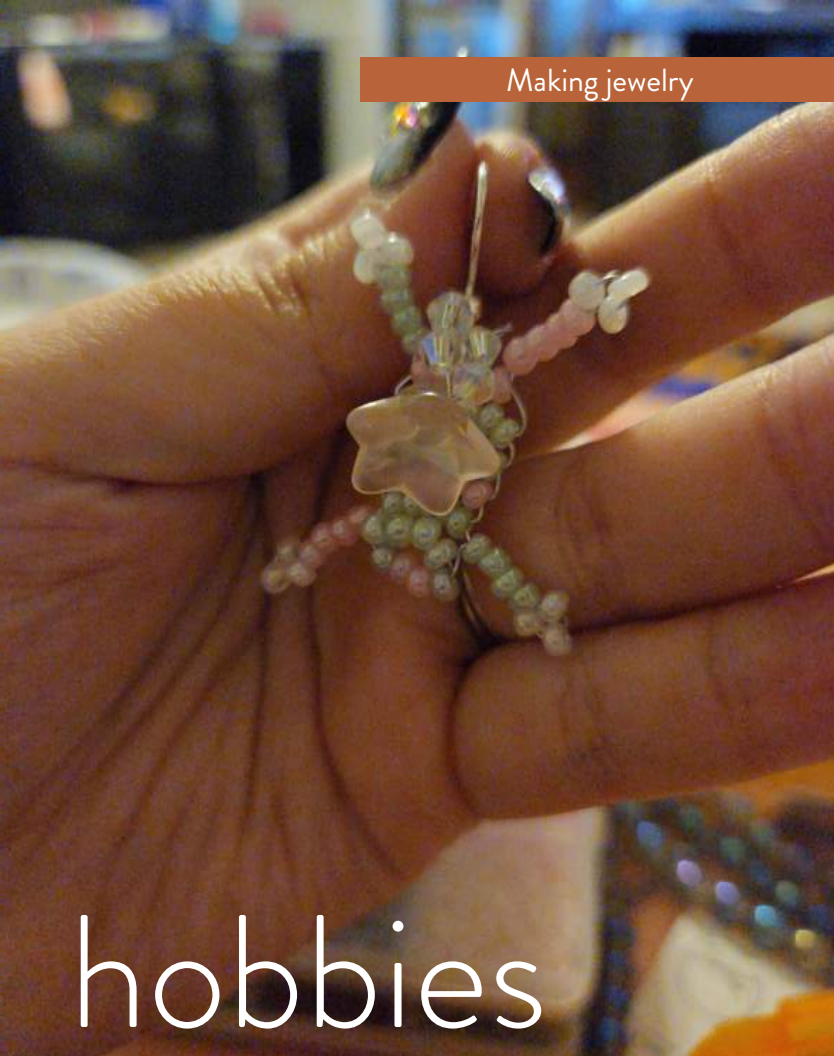
Juno: Juno is our 7-year-old German Shepherd whom we brought home at just 8 weeks old. She is full of personality and loves everyone she meets. Sweet and playful, she especially enjoys scratches (particularly on her backside) and will happily deliver a toy if you show even the slightest interest in her. For years, Juno visited local daycares to help teach children how to safely interact with unfamiliar dogs. She was a favorite everywhere she went and was always invited back. Recently, she retired after developing Pannus, a genetic condition that caused her to lose her vision. Even so, she hasn't lost her spark or her love for people of all ages.



Cleo: Cleo is our 16-year-old cat whom Nikki rescued 15 years ago, long before she met Torin. She is a sleepy, affectionate girl who loves cuddles and snuggles. Cleo is very vocal about her opinions—especially if you are the one who feeds her. She shows her affection by gently nuzzling against your leg and stretching up to be picked up and held, something she has done even more as she has grown older. We adore her warm, loving nature. When the kids in our family gather for holidays and parties, Cleo is always at the top of their list for snuggles, especially since her low-dander coat allows even the most allergy-prone among them to enjoy loving on her.



Making jewelry



Fun outside!



hobbies

+ *Activities*

We love to explore new lands both physically and through gameplay. We both grew up with vivid imaginations and a love for fantasy and adventure which now as adults we get to explore by traveling to new places and playing role playing games both on our computers and at the table with a good old fashioned Dungeons and Dragons campaign. We as a couple love to visit museums, muse about the universe and read daring stories about magic and hope. Torin loves to try new kinds of foods and dishes from all around the world and Nikki loves to (attempt) to make it and push her culinary skills to the test- sometimes for just us and sometimes for a whole group! It's never dull in the Southern household with our game nights and holiday parties we put on all year long and we truly wouldn't have it any other way.

Crafting





Video Games



More games



Game night with friends



parenting + Adoption

For us, the most vital thing our children can do is grow up feeling loved and knowing that not even the sky is the limit. That there is nothing they cannot do and that we are with them and love them no matter what. It is important for us that their childhood is filled with the love of God and that they can do anything with His light. We have so many people in our lives that understand what it means to live in this world and be uniquely them- we have friends of different religions, races and nationalities and each of them are beautiful and loving and are so willing to be in this child's life. We want the universe for this child and for them to understand that they are bright, beautiful and talented in a way that is uniquely them and unapologetically them. We want an open mind and dialogue with them about their adoption journey from the very beginning and we want them to know that it's a wonderful adventure from now until forever.

Family Information

Date of marriage: 09/12/2020

Pets: Juno the German Shepherd Dog and Cleo the cat, both are sweet and loving. Juno loves to play and share her toys with everyone she meets, Cleo is a cuddler and will tell you exactly what she wants and when she wants it. We've had Juno since she was an 8 week old pup, while we've had Cleo for 15 years.

Interest and hobbies: Torin loves to play games with Nikki and the friend group, read fantasy novels with stories of friendship and magic, build computers and fix them when they break. Nikki enjoys crafting costumes for Ren Faire's and jewelry for said costumes. Nikki also enjoys reading spine chilling novels about ghosts and playing with the pets that she loves so dearly.

Home: We live in a quiet neighborhood away from any main through streets in a 3 bedroom home. We have lived here for over 5 years now and have many friends and family that live in this same area. Our home still has plenty of room to grow and we are looking forward to finally filling the other bedrooms of the house. The panhandle is a unique blend of city and country life that we love a lot. Being able to go to a baseball game one day and then go to the canyon and hiking the next.

Why are you interested in building your family through adoption: Our experiences in life have always made adoption hold a special place in our hearts. With Torin's little brother being adopted into the family himself, we have seen first hand the beauty and happiness that adoption can bring. With our own difficulties having a child ourselves, it became a very easy decision to make.

Openness to birthparent(s): Through talking with each other, our family, friends and, of course, with God we have come to a conclusion about what an open adoption means and looks like. We feel that it is so important to not only us, but the child, to know who the birth family is and what they value. We want to keep in touch with photos, calls and emails, whatever makes you feel the most comfortable. We are even open to yearly in-person visits for a holiday or birthday. We feel that openness can bring about understanding for the child and help them learn and grow with connections beyond just us. We respect your courage and strength and want them to see that they can be strong too and build a relationship with each other and help this child understand who they are and where they come from.

Childcare plans: Both of our jobs are flexible as Nikki is able to make her own schedule and Torin's job can be done mostly remotely. So Torin will be the primary caregiver most days with Nikki being able to flex her schedule when needed. In the cases when someone else is needed, Torin's mother will be able to babysit as she is retired and lives close by.



Father's Name:
Torin

Occupation:
IT Technician

Education:
Associate's of Networking/CyberSecurity

Religion:
Christian

Date of birth:
1994

Hair Color:
Brown

Eye Color:
Brown

Height:
6' 2"



Mother's Name:
Nikki

Occupation:
Parent Educator

Education:
Associate's of Science

Religion:
Presbyterian

Date of birth:
1994

Hair Color:
Brown

Eye Color:
Brown

Height:
5' 3"

A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark blue suit, is leaning towards a woman with dark curly hair, wearing a white wedding dress. They are both holding traditional Japanese-style umbrellas. The man's umbrella is light blue, and the woman's is yellow with green floral patterns. They are outdoors, with a wooden fence and greenery in the background.

Before You Go

And finally, here at the end, we want to say a word of thanks to you for taking the time to learn about us and our lives- for seeing this snapshot into our family. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for thinking and considering us to be in this beautiful child's life.

It takes courage to do something like this and we can't even begin to understand or imagine what you're going through, but we hope you find some comfort in the fact that we will love this child and nurture this child from now until the end of time. We want to have this adventure with you and be in each other's lives throughout this child's life. No matter your final decision, we want you to know you are beautiful and brave and we love you for that.

With love,

Nikki + Torin

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