

# CODY & TAYLOR

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# 2101287

# HEY THERE

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We're Cody and Taylor Weldon. We're a young couple who loves each other and our families deeply. We're cattle ranchers and outdoor adventurers with a passion for exploring and caring for God's wonderful creation. Our greatest hope together is to become parents and share our love and blessings with a child. We are so grateful to be on the adoption path now after facing our own infertility. Taylor herself was adopted at birth, so we know the beauty adoption can bring for everyone involved. Our future child will be the first grandchild on both sides of our family, so we have many loving family members who can't wait to welcome our future child with open arms.

We've been praying for you for so long; we thank you for taking the time to read through our story, and hope we get to meet you soon and learn your story too.

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WITH LOVE,

CODY & TAYLOR





# OUR STORY

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We met in 2017 at Oregon State University. Taylor walked out of her dorm room into the hallway to ask the loud group hanging out there to quiet down. Cody, there in that dingy old hallway, fell in love with Taylor at first sight. He asked Taylor her name and in all his nerves, he immediately forgot it, but decided to find her again a few weeks later to ask her to his military ball. Cody worked up the courage to knock on Taylor's door, when instead, her roommate answered. Cody left his name and number on a blue sticky note for Taylor. Taylor agreed to accompany him to the ball as a friend, but claimed she wasn't interested in dating. Secretly though, Taylor kept that blue sticky note and still has it in her dresser drawer today. Over the next year, we became completely inseparable, spending all our time together. Slowly, Taylor fell for the man in front of her with his quiet intelligence, gentle strength, and perfectly-timed sense of humor. That next summer, Cody invited Taylor to Alaska. There, sitting on the dock of the Taku River, looking at the majesty of the towering mountains across the river and watching Cody and his brother work on an outboard motor they "may or may not" have damaged on a creek they weren't supposed to take the boat up, Taylor knew Cody was the man she would marry. Without even dating, Taylor told Cody that day, "I want to marry you." Eight weeks later, Cody bought her wedding ring and asked her father for her hand in marriage. Taylor's father of course gave his blessing, saying it was her decision to make. Three months after getting engaged, we got married in front of the Mendenhall Glacier in Alaska with only our parents and grandparents in attendance while Cody's brother officiated the small ceremony.

Many years later, we're still best friends and have only grown closer in love. Cody is Taylor's rock and Taylor is Cody's light. Being married to each other feels like our souls found their perfect match, and life's adventures just aren't quite right without the other by our side. Together, we face all of life's storms firmly rooted in our foundation in Christ.

# MEET TAYLOR

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Cattle Rancher & Homemaker

I was born and raised in Oregon. Adopted at birth, I always knew my birthmother and had great gratitude for her love for me in carefully choosing just the right parents for me. I always knew I was exactly where God meant for me to be. Growing up, I spent most of my time at my family's cattle ranch. Riding horses and ATVs with my parents all day, and sitting out on the deck together in the evenings fill my childhood memories. As I grew older, I competed in volleyball, traveling the country for tournaments with my team. Despite earning scholarships to play in college, I felt God's pull to attend college at Oregon State University. God didn't keep me waiting long to find out why. I met Cody my first night there. Despite ending my volleyball career, I made the women's rowing team and competed in the Pac-12 Championship in 2018. In 2019, Cody and I got married and thus began the best season of my life yet. I love to show my love for friends and family by cooking and baking. As a homemaker, I now have the flexibility to volunteer at church in the children's ministry, run the marketing and customer relations for my family's cattle ranch, and babysit and tutor local children.



## WHAT CODY LOVES ABOUT TAYLOR

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Taylor is witty, funny, smart as a whip, beautiful, tough as nails, kind, and nurturing. If I didn't have Taylor by my side, I would not be where I am today. Whenever I feel down, she'll pick me up with a delicious meal, a gentle tone, and a word of encouragement. Every round-up at the ranch, I fall in love with my wife all over again, watching her hair fly in the wind as she races on horseback after the herd. Her children she babysits for absolutely adore her, and it's easy to see why. She gracefully walks the fine line between structure, learning, and fun. I have never seen anyone with her talent for nurturing God's children, and I cannot wait to see her as a mother.





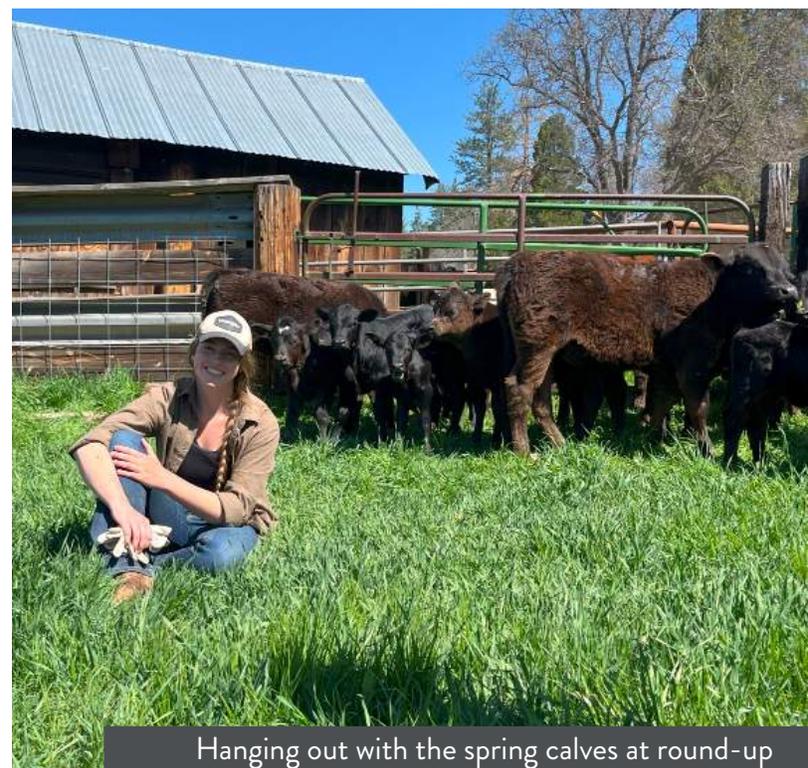
Taylor loves prepping breastmilk and baby clothes



Taylor's tattoo has the family's cattle brand on it



Victory photo after bringing in the last steer off range



Hanging out with the spring calves at round-up

# MEET CODY

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US Marine

I was born and raised in Juneau, Alaska. Growing up, my parents taught my brother and I strong work ethics and how to be self-sufficient. My brother and I were always outside exploring the Tongass National Forest that bordered our neighborhood. On the rare occasion I was found indoors, I would be reading or playing with my Legos, and my mom could usually be heard somewhere in the background reminding me to clean them up off the floor when I was done. My mom also taught us the importance of community service, which is still a value I hold strongly today, finding opportunities to serve our community through our church. As a teenager, I trained in judo, wrestling, downhill ski racing, swimming, and track and field, eventually winning a state championship in wrestling and a national championship in judo. As we got older, my dad taught my brother and I how to shoot and hunt, just like every other good Alaskan father. Between my grandfather's military service, my love for US history, and my call to serve, I had wanted to be a Marine for as long as anyone can remember. Through the Marine Corps, I have learned key skills including mentorship, attention to detail, and how to work with people from every background. While I've thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Corps, I will be leaving the military at the beginning of 2027 to spend more time with my family, live in the Pacific Northwest again, and get back to my outdoor hobbies. I believe there is no greater honor in the world than fatherhood, and I feel called to teach and pass on the lessons, skills, and traditions that my father taught me and his father taught him.



## WHAT TAYLOR LOVES ABOUT CODY

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To know Cody is a blessing. He is the embodiment of strength, love, and honor. You instantly feel safe in his presence. Most of the time, Cody is a quiet man who enjoys the peace that nature has to offer, but he is also an excellent story-teller with his friends and family. To hear Cody tell a simple story of his work, travels, or childhood is to be captivated. He turns mundane tasks into exciting adventures full of joy and laughter. Belly laughing until our stomachs hurt is a common occurrence. He is an excellent and patient teacher, always sharing his knowledge freely with those around him. To be loved by Cody is a bigger blessing than I could've ever imagined. His love is strong, pure, generous, forgiving, and thoughtful. He is so attuned to the needs of others that he seems to know what his family needs before we even know ourselves. To be loved by Cody is life-changing, and I couldn't imagine a greater blessing for a child than to have Cody as a father.





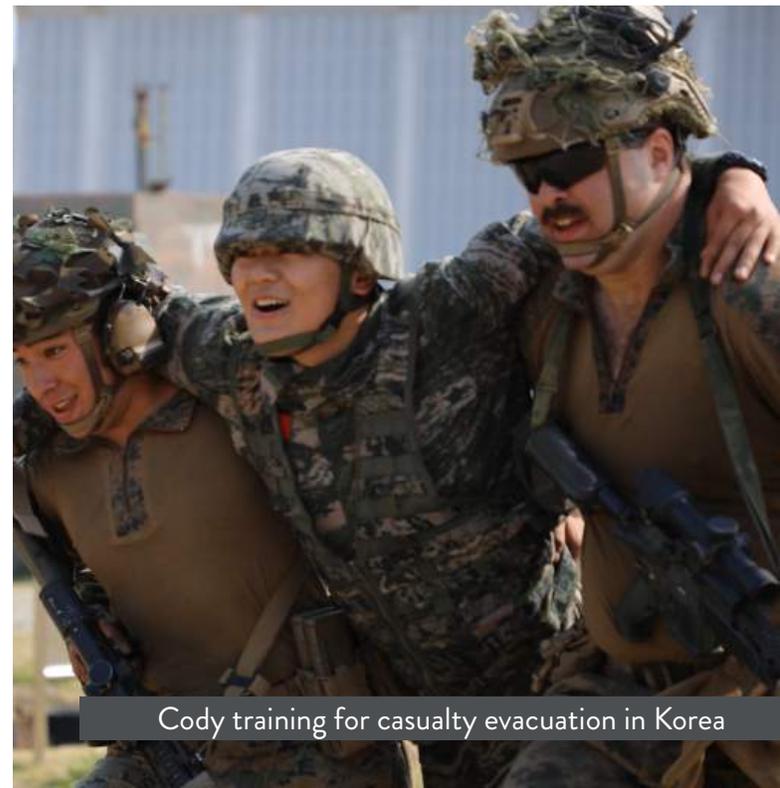
Cody working on his truck



Cody at our small wedding reception



Cody faces a 400 lb calf head-on, while others run



Cody training for casualty evacuation in Korea



Taylor and Cash on a holiday hike



Cody teaching Taylor to drive the skiff



Taylor with baby Chloe



Taylor and Olivia baking cookies together



Cash ready to play with Olivia and Chloe



Cody and Taylor go for a ride on the beach



Cash is happy after a good game of fetch



Taylor braiding Olivia's hair



Poco smiles for the camera with Taylor, Athena, and Ronnie



## CASH & COMPANY

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Cody and Taylor riding ATVs in the Arizona desert

Cash is a 6 year-old Belgian mix that came to us as a rescue puppy at 11 months old. He is a sweet dog, with a loving, playful, and goofy disposition. He loves cuddling and will do anything he can to sneak his way even closer if he gets the chance. He also enjoys fetch and playing with children. He'll play hide-and-seek, tag, or just climb play structures and slide down the slides. Wherever kids are laughing, Cash wants to be right there with them.



Cash watching over his herd

Taylor gets to spend time with family friends Olivia and Chloe (4 and 2) several days per week, taking them to the beach or the park, baking sweet treats with them, and teaching Olivia to read during Chloe's naps.

Cousins Athena and Ronnie who live near the ranch love to come visit Taylor's parents for rides around the ranch to check on water or feed cows. Here, they're seen taking a horseback ride together on Poco while Taylor leads them around.



Getting ready for a walk to the park

The ranch is filled with many cows but some of our favorites are Mildred, the wise old matriarch who calmly leads the younger ones around; Valentine, born with a white heart on her forehead, who loves to eat and will always be the first one to the hay; and Moose the bull who keeps the ladies safe and protected.

Taylor's horse, Lloyd, is a real old-school, reliable ranch hand. He knows his job, his land, and his cows better than anyone else, and he partners with Taylor to bring the animals all in safely every time.

# OUR HOME

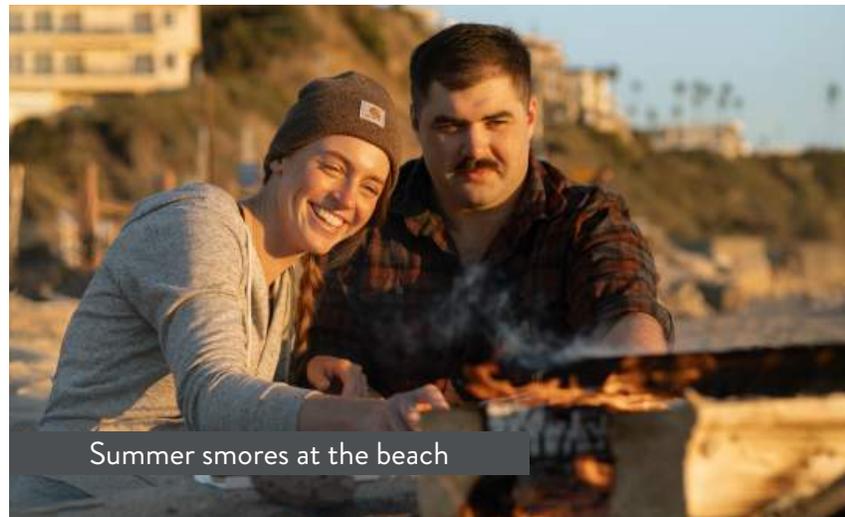
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Spring on the ranch is full of new life. Spring brings the sight of bright green grass, the scent of wildflowers covering the hills, the sounds of new calves romping through the fields as they play, the feeling of the warm sun on your skin, and the taste of garden-fresh strawberries still warm from the sun. Spring feels like a new beginning for all of God's creation living on the ranch.

Summer on the ranch brings warm pies filled with blackberries picked fresh from the wild, bareback horse rides through the cool creeks, climbing apple trees in the orchard, and late evening dinners out on the deck with Grandma and Grandpa. When fall comes around, the ranch becomes a spectacular array of colors as leaves begin to cover the ground. The slight evening chill is interrupted by waves of Indian summers bringing in those last days of jumping into the swimming holes before winter comes. The blackberry pies become apple pies and the smell of cinnamon fills the kitchen.

Winter on the ranch is cozy and peaceful. The sound of the crackling wood stove is interrupted only by the faint laughter of ranch children as their snowman building project turns into another family snowball fight. Evenings are often spent together as a family playing card games, reading books, and slow-cooking warm meals on the wood stove.

The ranch is a beautiful mecca of family and community, where Taylor's parents live, along with her cousins and their children, and where local friends and family gather together.



Summer smores at the beach

# OUR COMMUNITY

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Our ranch is nestled in the heart of the Cascade mountains, in a little community called the Greensprings. Our community is down-to-earth and supportive. If one family needs help, everyone comes to lend a hand. The heart of our community is our church and church school. Our church is small and close-knit, where the pastor knows each family in his congregation well and welcomes new-comers with open arms. Most of the children who live on the mountain attend school at the church during the week, where the community members all come together to support their school events like the Christmas concert and the spring entrepreneurial fair where the children learn about business skills by creating and selling goods.

Going to town from the ranch is always a treat. Ashland, Oregon is a beautiful town full of art, theatre, and nature. Known for its outdoor Shakespearean plays and wonderful restaurants, dinner and a play followed by a family walk in the beautiful Lithia park is an unforgettable summer treat.

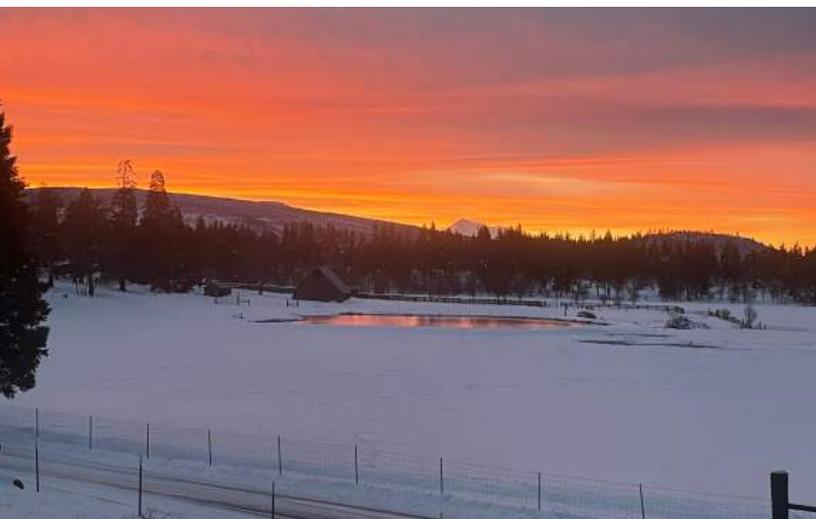




Ranch sunsets never get old



Skiing at Christmas!



Taylor helping a newborn calf





# OUR VALUES

Jesus is the foundation of our marriage and of our life, and we believe it is a privilege to one day get to raise up God's children to know their unshakable worth and identity in Christ. We want to guide our children with wisdom, teaching them right from wrong, showing them how to act with honor and humility. We want to build a foundation of trust with our kids, giving them the freedom to make their own age-appropriate choices, teaching them also that no sin can ever separate them from us or from God if they seek forgiveness. Growing up on the ranch with frequent trips to Alaska will also give our kids the same invaluable opportunities to learn from God's creation the way we both did as kids: hunting, fishing, animal husbandry and wildlife safety, all teaching us of God's character as Creator and building strong decision making skills that carry throughout all aspects of life.





Taylor's dad always makes her laugh



Cody's mom up the Taku River



Cody's family in Alaska



Taylor's parents at our wedding



Both sides of the family



Taylor's dad with his 'prize catch'

# FAMILY TRADITIONS

Whether it's round-up on the family ranch in Oregon, or a trip up the Taku River in Alaska, we love spending time with our extended families in the great outdoors. During round-up on the ranch, we ride horses out on open range to find and gather our cattle, bringing them back home to the ranch to care for. It's a huge family event that brings us all together to work side by side, before enjoying amazing home-cooked dinners out by the campfire where songs and stories are shared. Living near the family ranch, our future child will have the opportunity to grow up riding horses and ATVs, fishing in our ponds for trout and bass, spending hot summer evenings searching for fun rocks in the creek beds, and learning how to love and care for God's land and creatures.

We make frequent trips to Alaska to visit Cody's family where we enjoy hiking, skiing, and taking boat rides up the Taku River to Cody's family cabin, passing 7 stunning glaciers along the way. Every 4th of July, all the families up the river get together with fireworks and a bonfire to celebrate. The sounds of old friends laughing and children playing fill the air. Every fall, vibrant purple wildflowers called Fireweed bloom in abundance, signaling the time for the salmon to return home to their rivers from the ocean. Families come out to the riverbanks to fish for salmon during this time, catching and releasing the salmon so they can live on for generations to come. Winter visits to Alaska include family gatherings with homemade cookies and salmonberry tarts set under the most vibrant ribbons of color dancing in the sky from the northern lights.

# ADOPTION & PARENTING

Adoption has always been a part of Taylor's life. Before Taylor was born, her birthmother, Gretchen, decided to place Taylor for adoption and spent time and love hand-picking her parents for her. Taylor always felt right at-home with her parents and knew God had placed her exactly where she was meant to be. Gretchen would often come to birthday parties or special lunches, and now Taylor and Gretchen stay in contact over text message. Both Taylor's birthmother, Gretchen, and her adoptive mother, Tracie, have guided her as Taylor becomes a hopeful adoptive mother herself.

Cody and Taylor believe adoption is a beautiful story of God's redemption and love. After six miscarriages and four years of infertility, we know just how faithful God is at turning grief and sorrow into joy. We also know firsthand how God works through adoption to give a wonderful life to all parties involved, with renewed hope and joy to all in the end.

We believe children are a gift from God to be cared for and guided lovingly in the way they should go. Taylor dreams of holding her children close to her chest during the long days and nights of infancy. Cody dreams of getting to teach and model good character and important life skills for his children. Our greatest dream together has always been to have children to love, nurture, teach, and watch grow into the men and women God intended them to become.



# FAMILY INFORMATION

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Father's Name:

**Cody**

Occupation:

**U.S. Marine**

Education:

**Some College**

Religion:

**Christian**

Date of birth:

**10/24/1998**

Hair Color:

**Brown**

Eye Color:

**Blue**

Height:

**6'2"**



Mother's Name:

**Taylor**

Occupation:

**Homemaker**

Education:

**Bachelor's of Science in Kinesiology**

Religion:

**Christian**

Date of birth:

**02/13/1999**

Hair Color:

**Light Red**

Eye Color:

**Blue**

Height:

**5' 11"**

**Date of marriage:** 02/23/2019

**Children:** We have no children of our own yet.

**Interest and hobbies:** Cody is an outdoor enthusiast, loving skiing, hiking, camping, and hunting. Cody is generally quiet, preferring to listen to others or find peace in nature, but he can also find a talkative streak when one of his hobbies comes up amongst family and friends. Cody is a loyal friend and loving husband, always putting others before himself. Cody is looking forward to life after he gets out of the Marine Corps at the beginning of 2027 to spend more time with his family and enjoy his many hobbies. Taylor also shares Cody's love of the outdoors in hiking, camping, skiing, horseback riding, and working on her family ranch. Taylor also loves cooking for her family and friends, and her favorite is when she gets to combine her interests by cooking outdoors over a campfire with friends and family gathered nearby.

**Home:** There's no better place to call home than our family ranch in the Cascade mountains, except perhaps Alaska where we frequently take trips to visit Cody's family. Our ranch is full of open meadows surrounded by great cedars, firs, pines, and oaks. We have extended family living near us on the ranch who also have young kids. Our community is supportive and down-to-earth, gathering at our mountain church or at our own ranch for community events and weekend dinners.

**Pets:** We have the sweetest dog, Cash. He's a six year old playful Belgian mix, who loves cuddling and playing. Fetch is his favorite game when it's just us, but playing hide-and-go-seek or tag with kids is his truly favorite pastime. He loves camping in both the warm desert and bounding around through several feet of snow. At the end of the day, you can always find him curled up next to us.

**Why are you interested in building your family through adoption:** Adoption was always a path we considered given Taylor's own adoption at birth. After six heartbreaking miscarriages and four years of infertility, God finally opened up the doors for us to be able to adopt. We are so grateful for the opportunity to grow our family in such a special way.

**Openness to birthparent(s):** With Taylor's adoption being open, openness in adoption feels quite natural to us. Just as Taylor always knew her birthmother, we hope to foster an open and honest relationship between us, our future child, and our future child's birth family. We plan to provide updates with photos, letters, phone calls, or emails, and in-person visits throughout each year. We want our future child to know who it was that loved them so much that she gave them life and chose their parents for them.

**Childcare plans:** Taylor plans to stay home with the children, taking them around the ranch for daily adventures, and packing up with Cody for frequent family trips to Alaska. Both sets of grandparents are very enthusiastic babysitters for the occasional date night as well.

# TWO DIFFERENT KINDS OF LOVE

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A poem by Taylor's birthmother, Gretchen

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Once there were two women who  
Never knew each other.  
One you do not remember  
The other you call mother.  
Two different lives  
Shaped to make yours one.  
One became your guiding star  
And the other became your sun.  
The first gave you life  
And the second taught you to live in it.  
The first gave you a need for love  
And the second was there to give it.  
One gave you a nationality  
The other gave you a name.  
One gave you the seed of talent  
The other gave you aim.  
One gave you emotions  
The other calmed your fears.  
One saw your first sweet smile  
The other dried your tears.  
One gave you up, it was all that she could do.  
The other prayed for a child and  
God led her straight to you.  
And now you ask the age old question through your tears,  
Through the years,  
Heredity or environment,  
Which are you a product of?  
Neither, my darling, neither  
Just two different kinds of love.

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## WITH LOVE, CODY & TAYLOR

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Taylor and her birthmother, Gretchen

