



# Amanda & Daniel

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# Hi There!

Thank you for taking the time to read this book and learn about our family. We hope it can share the ways that we have sought to fill our family life with love and fun, and the ways that we are excited to share this life with another kiddo. It has been our dream for many years to make our lives richer and more meaningful through adoption—not only by bringing a child into our family but also by connecting our family to the family that brought them into the world. Adoption has been a part of our lives and our friends' lives for many years and, while we know that it can be a beautiful part of life, we also know that the decisions you are making for yourself and your child during this time are very difficult. We respect and admire your courage as you consider what is best. Hopefully, this book communicates our intentions to provide love and support to you and your child if you choose for us to do so. From us, and our family members and friends that would cherish your child as their own, we wish you strength and peace during this time.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about us, our family, and our story,

Daniel & Amanda





## Our Story

In our family, we have always valued getting the most out of life together. We met during a service trip in college and were drawn by our ability to make each other laugh, even during long days of hard work. We quickly bonded over our shared passions for serving kids and families, spending time outdoors, and having fun (normally with delicious food nearby). We married in 2012 and grew our family in 2016 when Evie was born. Along the way, we've learned that while home life is our most important sanctuary, it's also vital to nurture one another's interests. We've embraced a "yes, and" approach in our family, making space for Daniel to play in folk music bands, for Amanda to roam thrift stores around town, or for Evie to try out whatever new craft idea she has in mind. This also means that while many of our days are spent at home – cuddling with our pets, playing games, and spending time around the dinner table – we also spend a lot of time traveling with family and friends and taking advantage of the many things to do (and eat) in Athens. Our family's best adventures are sometimes exciting, like going to Scotland and Ireland, but many times they involve simple things like making a meal together or reading to Evie at bedtime. We are thrilled to bring another child into a life filled with beautiful hikes, trips with family, and the quiet moments at home in between.



# Meet Amanda

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I grew up in South Carolina with a younger brother. We had a lot of family close by and spent much time with grandparents, aunts/uncles, and cousins. We grew up going to our family lake house often and travelling a good bit. I have fond memories of tagging along on work trips to DC with my dad every summer. I loved spending time with my extended family, especially on holidays. We still get together for many holidays and other times throughout the year.

Travelling so much in my childhood really instilled a love of travelling in me. I love travelling and exploring the world. I want to see all of this world and have many places on my list to visit. One place I try to travel to often is Disney World. I love going with our daughter and my best friend. It is so fun seeing her enjoy the magic and I love riding the rides! I love baking and cooking, especially making bread. I love making things from scratch! I enjoy practicing yoga and growing in that skill. My mom is an artist and instilled her love for creating things in me. I enjoy working on a project, either a crafting or sewing project or a DIY project around our house. I have worked hard to make our home feel cozy by redoing furniture or thrifting pieces that fit perfectly. I always try to find a good deal and especially love thrifting – if I can buy something at a discount, I will!

Throughout my life, I have worked with in children in some capacity. In my teen and college years, I babysat and worked in our church nursery. From high school, I knew that I wanted to have a career that involved caring for and serving children. It's not always easy but I am thankful to be in a field that ensures children are safe and well cared for.

The most important part of my life is being a mom. I love getting to see our daughter grow and develop. I love doing fun things together and taking her on adventures. We love thrifting together, crafting together, and going to Disney together. We are very similar, which means we love so much of the same things. I am looking forward to seeing our family grow and see Evie become a big sister. I thoroughly enjoy seeing Evie learn new skills and grow in her unique personality. I can't wait to see who are next kiddo is and all the things they will enjoy in this life.



## In Daniel's Words

The number one thing that I love about Amanda is her unique ability to make our life together and the places we live beautiful. She can do little small things like organizing pretty objects on a shelf that she found at a thrift store, and just like that, our home feels a little bit cozier. She has a way of turning ordinary moments into something special, whether it's baking cookies on a rainy afternoon or surprising us with a fun family outing. She makes our life rich, comfortable, and a joy to be a part of. To know Amanda is to experience her delicious baked goods, her kindness, and her ability to make everyone laugh. She is an incredible wife and friend, and she shows her love to our daughter by always being willing to be silly and fun. But more than that, she is the glue that holds our family life together, creating stability and warmth that grounds us all. I know that she will love our future child deeply, will cherish them, and will fill their lives with love and laughter (and far too many trips to Disney World).



# Meet Daniel

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Social Work Professor

I grew up in a family that was full of love and had three main values: enjoy the things you're passionate about, show kindness whenever and however you can, and take your education seriously. I leaned hard into each of these, getting many academic degrees to become first a lawyer for children in foster care and then a professor of social work who trains students to serve others. I also have many interests that I fill my days with, including writing and recording music, running and hiking outdoors, and reading (slightly nerdy) books about things like trees or birds or the making of iconic rock n' roll albums.

Despite having many passions and hobbies, I can genuinely say that the most fun thing I have ever done is being a dad. I love being able to be a part of Evie's daily life. Going on adventures, being "hiking buddies," and even just laughing together as I drive her home from school every day makes every day feel meaningful and fun. I love watching her personality develop and having a front row seat as she becomes this unique person that I get to be with and enjoy. I cannot wait to continue this kind of adventure with another kid, to get to know them, and to learn and love the little things that make them "them" through all sorts of little moments together.



## In Amanda's Words

When I met Daniel, I loved his adventurous spirit. I have such fond memories of us hanging out by the river in our college years. I love travelling with him and exploring new places. He knows how to find unique and fun things to do in every place we go. He loves hiking and taking us to see beautiful places. He is so smart and amazes me at the things he can do with such ease. If I need help understanding something, he can easily talk me through it. He is very handy and has built so many things for me. He can learn a new skill very easily! I don't understand how he does it but he can pick up an instrument and play any song and do it well. He loves playing music and is often found tinkering on an instrument. I love seeing Daniel as a dad to our Evie. The way he talks to her and helps her understand the world is incredible to watch. He cares for her so much and looks for ways to spend quality time with her. Daniel is a level headed person and can navigate hard situations easily. He brings a sense of calm to all situations. Daniel is a great partner in this life. Together we make our house run but without him, we would be lost. Our house would be a mess, the yard would be a mess, the dogs wouldn't be fed, and nothing would get fixed.





# Meet Evie Jane

Our daughter Evie Jane is nine years old and brings such joy and energy to our family. She's a sweet, strong-willed, independent, smart, and funny little girl who always keeps us on our toes. Evie is an excellent negotiator – she can present her case for why she needs “just five more minutes” or why ice cream before dinner makes perfect sense with impressive skill. Daniel often introduces her as “the best lawyer he has ever met.”

Evie loves making things and is always working on a project. She's especially gifted with pipe cleaners, transforming them into elaborate animals, people, and imaginary creatures. Her creativity knows no bounds, and she has a particular love for little things like tiny figurines, Polly Pockets, and miniature worlds that she can arrange and rearrange for hours. She amazes us every day with her ability to focus in on the things that interest her and to get sucked in to a project.

She's a natural performer who loves gymnastics and putting on shows for family and friends, but she's equally adventurous and loves going on hikes, traveling, and exploring new places. She has been a great traveler almost since birth and has even traveled abroad to Europe with us, approaching each new experience with curiosity, excitement, and a surprising amount of patience!





We have raised Evie to value being kind and sweet, but also to feel comfortable speaking her mind and expressing her needs. She's a wonderful friend who looks out for others and includes everyone in her play. We love including her in our lives: she enjoys going to watch her Dad play music or going thrifting with mom, and she's always up for family adventures. Evie has always dreamed of being a big sister, and we know she's going to be an amazing one. She's excited to share her love of fun, her creativity, and even some of her "stuffedies" with a new sibling.



# Our Family & Values

All four of Evie's grandparents are a huge part of our family's life. Evie spends time with them often, either in person or on video calls. She has special traditions with each of them: doing art projects with Lele, going on thrifting adventures with Nonna, eating Lucky Charms (with chocolate milk and sprinkles) with Gaga, and swimming in the pool with Papa. Amanda and Daniel are close with both sets of parents and talk to them nearly every day.

Both of our extended families are incredibly involved in our lives too. Daniel's brother has two sons around Evie's age that we love like our own, and Amanda comes from a large extended family who still get together regularly. Her aunts are like second grandmothers to our daughter. Most of our families and cousins live in South and North Carolina, all within driving distance, so we travel together often. We've do annual family-wide trips with Amanda's family like running in the Cooper River Bridge Run in Charleston, and Daniel's family has annual traditions including trips to the lake and beach, "Campsgiving," and many occasions just roaming around the family farm. Our chosen family is just as important to us as well. Kelly, Amanda's best friend from college, is "Aunt Kelly" to Evie and has been there for all our highs and lows. She lives at the beach and we love visiting her there, plus we travel together often to places like Disney World and New York City. She's so excited to have another niece or nephew to love on. We're also blessed with other close friends who feel like family - in particular The Wrights, who we've known most of our lives and who have three kids (two of whom are adopted), and The Adamses, who live nearby and spend lots of time with us. All of these people and many others are excited to see our family grow and will be part of this new child's village from day one.





Faith is an important part of our family and one of the reasons both of our careers are centered on service. We've always been active in churches that value service and social justice, and this foundation shapes how we see the world and how we teach our daughter to love others and show kindness.



Family is also at the center of everything we do. We see our extended family often—whether at one another's homes, the family lake house, or on the beach—and our daughter is surrounded by a big "village" of aunts, uncles, cousins, and close friends who are part of her daily life. Over the years, we've created traditions that bring everyone together, like our annual beach trip, camping in Florida with her grandparents, and "Campsgiving," our version of Thanksgiving spent around the campfire. Evie also shares a birthday tea time with Amanda's best friend "Aunt Kelly," and at Christmas, Daniel leads the kids in making music together.

These traditions connect us deeply and remind us of the importance of quality time with loved ones—whether we're camping, sharing snacks on the beach, or enjoying a quiet afternoon with grandparents. We can't wait to welcome another child into this circle of love and share both our favorite traditions and new ones yet to come.





Daniel playing at the pub



Gardening



## Our Home

We live in Georgia with easy access to the mountains, beach, and city, but what we love most is our own community. Our town is full of character and fun, with great food, quirky charm, and events like the annual Halloween parade downtown. It's family-friendly too, with the massive World of Wonder playground, a small zoo, and scenic greenway and botanical garden trails. The community is diverse, welcoming, and always full of activities for all ages.

Our neighborhood is quiet and tree-filled, with older homes and a cozy feel. We love our big backyard with a swing set, garden, and flowers, where Evie plays with our dogs while we relax on the porch. Inside, the kitchen is the heart of our home—where we cook, bake, and play games—while the living room hosts movie nights, video games, dog cuddles, and giant pillow forts. Amanda and Evie often craft together, and Daniel's office doubles as a music room where instruments are always ready for little hands to play. One of our favorite traditions is eating at our favorite local spot, where the kids can play outside while we enjoy a meal with family or friends.





Disney with friends



Hiking in Scotland



Cousin's time at the lake



Card games at the camp site



Camping with the cousins



Evies with friends at our favorite spot



## Activities & Fun

- We're always looking for new fun games to introduce to our family game nights. It's become one of our favorite ways to spend "screen-free" evenings together.
- Eating good food: Especially tacos, Greek food, or basically anything with a good sauce. We love trying new restaurants and cooking together at home.
  - Amanda and Evie love thrifting adventures, Disney trips, and baking together.
  - "Evie-Daddy fun dates" around town, hiking on trails, and learning music together
- We love hiking together, and some of our fondest memories are from trails we've explored :
  - o Wandering in the North Carolina mountains, hiking and swimming in streams
  - o Yosemite and the California coast when Evie was just a baby
  - o Joshua Tree as a couple when we stayed in a tiny desert shack
  - o Mammoth Cave (Amanda wasn't a huge fan of going deep underground...)
  - o Yellowstone and Grand Tetons with Amanda's family
  - o Our Scotland and Ireland trip as a family this past New Year's Eve – it was so cold and icy, but absolutely gorgeous!

# Family & Adoption Values

Our main wish for our children is to prepare them to love others well and treat people with kindness and respect. We want to raise children who love life, make good decisions, and grow into independent, thoughtful, and responsible adults. We seek to fill their lives with opportunities to discover what they enjoy and care about, while teaching them that we all have a responsibility to care for those we love. We believe that love is often shown through our actions, so we make sure that we model this and give Evie age-appropriate chores to demonstrate that this can be hard work sometimes! Most importantly, we want our children to learn to respect others and live full and loving lives.

We are excited to welcome you and your family into our family. Adoption is already a part of our lives through our community and work, so we've thought deeply about what our relationship with you could look like. We want to maintain the connection you have with your child while ensuring our child knows you and understands their adoption story from the very beginning. We already have open dialogue about adoption in our home, and we're committed to ongoing openness between everyone involved. We want to empower both you and our child to shape this relationship in whatever way serves them best as they grow into the amazing and complete person they're meant to be. We believe every child needs the maximum number of supportive adults in their lives that they can have, and we hope that we can partner together with you to provide that support.



# Family Information



Father's Name:  
Daniel

Occupation:  
Professor of Social Work

Education:  
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy,  
Masters of Social Work,  
Juris Doctor, PhD in Social Work

Religion:  
Christian

Date of birth:  
12/18/1989

Hair Color:  
Red

Eye Color:  
Blue

Height:  
5' 4"



Mother's Name:  
Amanda

Occupation:  
Social Worker

Education:  
Bachelor of Social Work,  
Masters of Social Work

Religion:  
Christian

Date of birth:  
08/04/1989

Hair Color:  
Brown

Eye Color:  
Green

Height:  
5' 4"

**Date of marriage:** 05/26/2012

**Children:** Evie joined our family in 2016. She brings joy and energy to our family. She's sweet, strong willed, independent, smart and funny. She always keeps us on our toes. She loves arts and craft, performing, playing with her barbies and playing games. She is excited to become a big sister.

**Interest and hobbies:** Amanda loves travelling, thrifting, baking, spending time outdoors. She enjoys yoga and growing in that skill. She loves travelling and exploring this world. She wants to see and experience all this world has to offer. She is also a Disney adult and makes frequent trips to Disney World. Daniel enjoys playing music, hiking and spending time outdoors, playing video games, and reading. He is a runner and is always training for an upcoming run. As a family, we enjoy travelling together, hiking together, camping, and playing games. Our evenings are often filled with family time at dinner, playing games, or watching tv together. We also enjoy exploring our town and eating delicious foods. On the weekends, we love to go on a hike together or play games while at a restaurant or brewery.

**Home:** We live in an older neighborhood with lots of trees. Our house has a large backyard with lots of plants, a covered back porch, and a swing set for Evie. We have worked hard to make our home a comfortable and cozy space. We have lots of space for our family to grow with plenty of rooms for all of us to spend time together in. We enjoy going on walks through our neighborhood with all the shade the trees provide. Evie's school is a short drive away as well as the main part of town with many delicious restaurants and activities.

**Pets:** We have three pets, 2 dogs and 1 cat. We have a corgi named Kitt. She is tiny but has a huge personality. She loves hiking, going on walks, and being active. She is always so happy to greet us when we get back home. We also have a silver lab named Ella. She has so much energy and loves to cuddle. If you sit on the couch, she must sit next to you and cuddle. She is sweet and loves to play. Our cat, Ivy Jo, is a small tortoise shell cat. Like most cats, she can be sweet or she can be sour. She likes to cuddle up if a soft blanket is involved. She stays inside but loves to watch the birds out the window.

**Why are you interested in building your family through adoption:** We have always known that we wanted to grow our family through adoption, as we view it as a beautiful way to grow a family. After Evie was born, we experienced a second trimester miscarriage that was very traumatic and led us to pause growing our family for a time. After that, we knew that it was time to grow our family through adoption as we had always intended. We don't feel that our family is complete yet, as we love being parents and would love to share our family's life with another kiddo.

**Openness to birthparent(s):** We believe that openness in adoption is extremely important for our child, our family, and you. We want you and our child to always maintain a connection. Further, we want to welcome you into our family in a way that makes you feel comfortable. We are open to in person visits throughout the year, regular contact, and updates. We want to share big milestones and special occasions together. We will maintain an open and positive dialogue about you and our child's adoption story in our home. We always want our child to know their story, where they come from, and that they are loved.

**Childcare plans:** We will both share in caregiver roles for the child. Amanda will work part time and care for the child when not at work. Daniel's schedule is flexible and he will be able to care for the child when needed. Our parents will help with childcare as needed as well. If needed, we will consider an in home nanny to help with childcare on the days that Amanda is working.



# Before You Go

Thank you for taking the time to learn about our family and for considering us as you make this important decision. We imagine that it isn't an easy one to make, and we deeply respect the thoughtfulness you're bringing to this process.

If you choose our family, we want you to know that this child will be loved unconditionally and that we will do everything within our power to make sure they always feel safe and supported. We believe deeply that connecting our families together in this way can be a beautiful way of doing life, and hope we have communicated just how excited we would be to embark on this journey with you.

Above all, we're grateful for the opportunity to have shared our story with you. Whatever you decide, we want you to know that we admire the strength and the love you're showing for this child by carefully considering their future.

With respect and gratitude,

Daniel & Amanda