



Valerie + Collin

#2098825



DEAR FRIEND

Our names are Collin and Valerie. Thank you for taking some time to get to know us. We also have a four-year-old daughter named Juliana. Her fun feisty spirit always keeps us on our toes. We pray this book will reveal the love we have for each other and of the joy we have as a family. Adoption has already impacted us in the best of ways. We adopted our daughter Juliana as an embryo and could not imagine life without her. Collin's great grandfather was adopted and we have a niece and a nephew that were as well. The joy of adoption is something we hope to experience again and our hearts and home are ready for the child God has in store for us. We know you have the biggest of decisions to make in the coming days and pray you will have peace. If you were to consider us to parent your child we would be ever so grateful and Juliana would be so excited! We admire the incredible courage you have shown in pursuing this journey and are humbled by the thought of it all. May God bless you and strengthen you as you move forward in this process.

Sincerely,

Valerie + Collin

“Enjoy the little things,
because pretty soon
they'll be all grown up”



OUR STORY

We went on our first date in 2017 after meeting online. On our second date Collin's car broke down and he had to ride home in a tow truck. By our third date all was smooth sailing and within a year we were married! Over the past almost seven years of marriage we've learned the importance of pointing each other to Jesus. Both of us are imperfect but Jesus never disappoints. Church is a big part of our life as Collin works as a pastor. Juliana loves going to church, she even has her own desk in Collin's office. Valerie is a stay at home mom and since our home is not far away Collin is able to come home most days for lunch. For fun we love to go on adventures, whether that be a fun road trip, or finding a new park or trail to enjoy in God's creation. The area where we live gets four wonderful seasons but we always look forward to Summer, with picnics, gardens, and slip n slides on the lawn. Juliana loves to dance and makes for a very cute ballerina. We both have family nearby which is a blessing.



meet Valerie

I grew up in the beautiful mountains near a small town. We had a family farm. I was often found taking care of some sort of animal or playing in the woods building forts out of ferns and sticks. Anytime I could be outdoors that's where I was. I have several siblings and continue to enjoy getting together with many of them. Sister time talking or watching our children play together has continued to be a highlight for me. I love spending time with Collin and Juliana whether that's cooking, singing, reading stories, being outside, or really anything together that we do. Each day is a gift and I try to live with that as a reality.



Collin says

I am so glad the Lord saved Valerie for me. I can't imagine being married to anybody else. Valerie is passionate about loving Jesus and sharing that love with others. She is a great encourager, especially to myself, and always has a way of seeing when someone needs a friend. She is often thinking of new ways to make our home an inviting place and she loves loves loves our daughter Juliana. I am often greeted by the sound of laughter when I come home because Juliana is getting tickled by her momma or they're playing tag around the house.

When times are hard Valerie is always there to pray, share, and love.





meet Collin

I've had the privilege of serving as a Pastor at the same church for just over fourteen years. I am 40 years old and grew up in the country living on the edge of an apple orchard. Growing apples was a big part of my childhood. I got to learn at a young age the value of hard work, how to irrigate trees, and fix clogged sprinkler heads. We always had a dog or two to join me in my fun. I'm the youngest of four kids, with an older brother, and two older sisters. Now as an adult most of my free time is spent doing family things with Juliana and Valerie. I am well acquainted with Bluey, Paw Patrol, Super Kitties, and Frozen! I also get to serve on the board of a Christian summer camp which is a lot of fun. We often find ourselves up in the mountains volunteering at this beautiful camp perched on the edge of a lake. For hobbies I enjoy playing piano and guitar and singing as a family. We always have music playing in our home. My favorite way to relax would be to spend the day with Valerie and Juliana, ordering takeout, and watching a funny movie together.



Fish from a friend in Alaska

Valerie says

Collin is tall, dark, and irresistibly handsome. But aside from his good looks, what really drew me to him when we first met was his kind, gentle demeanor and his love for Jesus. I have seen this carry over in how well he loves Juliana. Still one of her favorite parts of the day is when Daddy gets home from work and gets down on the floor to play make believe or toys with her. Collin loves me so well too. There are still days that I can't believe I get to be his wife. His patience and commitment to me is such a gift. I love our long conversations about life and being his helper in ministry. I also love that he sees things like household chores as a team effort and jumps in to help.

He is quick to ask for and give forgiveness. He is my strong and steady and I love him so much!



Backpacking trip





meet
Juliana

Juliana is 4 and has an outgoing and fun personality. She just started her second year of preschool and loves it. She also loves spending time with her cousins and can often be found enjoying some sort of water activity whether that's spraying water with a garden hose on her reluctant cousins or making a mud puddle to play in. She loves to sing, play with her kitty Minnie, our dog Gibby, color, play make believe, go to the park with Daddy, and bake with Momma. She is very excited to be a big sister and can't wait to help take care of "Her baby".





Yee-ha!



Ballet performance



Crazy hair day



Our kitty 'Minnie'



Our beautiful backyard view



Patio grilling



Haircut Day

get to know our

family values + traditions



County fair



Cousins



Flying kites at the beach



Annual blueberry picking



Hiking with Gibby

We live in a valley in an agricultural town in Washington state with beautiful views of Mt Adams and Mt Rainier. The valley is filled with many grapevines and fruit trees. Spring time is a favorite time around here as everything comes to life in beautiful shades of green. Our town is located a short drive from mountains and rivers which provides many fun opportunities for outdoor activities in every season.

Our garage always has a project underway. Collin used to have a Volkswagen camper van that he would tinker on but the van has been replaced with a lawnmower. He still enjoys tinkering on the mower. We also do woodworking projects there for our home.

Collin and Valerie both have family that live close by. Our daughter Juliana loves playing with her cousins and going to Grandma and Grandpa's house. We get together on holidays and whenever one of the cousins has a birthday party, many gather to celebrate.

THINGS WE LOVE

Playing in the leaves in Fall

Winter snowball fights, sledding, and snowmen.

Summer slip-n-slides | Spring time hiking.

Christmas Eve candle light service at our church followed by games and snacks. Inviting people over who don't have a family to celebrate with.

Christmas morning spent together | Easter egg hunts.

4th of July at Grandma and Grandpas

Movie nights with pizza.

Treetop zipline



Amusement park fun



hobbies

+ *Activites*

We both enjoy travelling. Whether that be a road trip to visit Valerie's grandfather, a road trip to the beach, or flying to visit Valerie's two sisters who recently moved to South Carolina, we enjoy it all. We also both love music and love to sing. Valerie can play some Violin and Collin some piano and guitar. Juliana also has her own child size guitar and she loves to sit with us around our piano as we attempt to play and sing one of our favorite songs. We both enjoy reading. Collin's books are usually related to his current sermon series or a subject he's trying to grow in. Valerie is good at listening to books on audible and has several podcasts she enjoys listening to. She likes books on parenting, relationships, and living for Jesus. Lately we've started creative writing and are working on some fun stories for children.

Weekend mini-golf



Awana Club at church



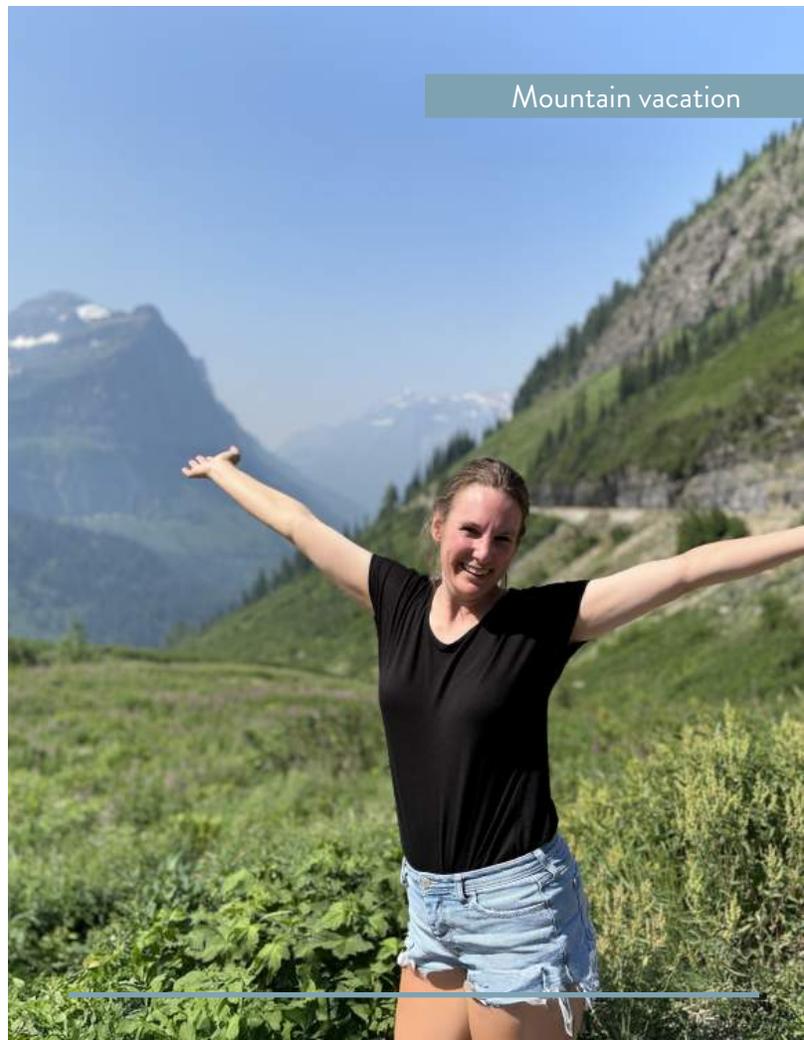
Collin trying new things



Sledding in the snow



Mountain vacation





parenting + Adoption

Parenting is such a wonderful privilege and a humbling experience. It has been so much fun watching our daughter Juliana grow up over these past four years. We strive to have a home that emphasizes God's grace and forgiveness as we raise her and as we look forward to the child God will bring into our home. All of us are unique with special personalities and talents and we want our children to grow and learn to be their own unique selves.

We have diversity in our family. Collin has a brother in law who is Mexican and a sister in law who is Chinese. Valerie has a sister in law who is Honduran. We enjoy having their different cultures represented in our family, and even getting to celebrate Chinese new year once a year with special homemade Chinese food!

Adoption has brought so much joy into our family. We have read as much as we can about open adoptions and are convinced that this is the best way to adopt when possible. You are so important. Without you this child would not have been brought into this world. We want to raise our children so that they will always know their special story. Something we have done with Juliana is to create a lifebook for her that tells her very special and amazing story. It is available to her any time she wants to look at it. She loves to look at the pages and ask questions. We would plan to do the same for this child. We want to also develop a healthy and genuine relationship with you to share with you their amazing journey through life!



Family Information

Date of marriage: 11/10/18

Children: Juliana is full of life with a personality that brings smiles to many faces. She loves family time, roasting marshmallows on our patio, playing with her cousins and friends, school, dancing, and her pet kitty. She is such a joy, and a beautiful piece of our family.

Interest and hobbies: Collin has a calm demeanor and loves to be outside especially at the beach relaxing or learning a new skill like how to surf. He also has enjoyed backpacking trips with friends, photography, playing guitar and piano, writing and cooking. Valerie loves interior design. She can often be found rearranging a room with a new idea or refinishing her newest marketplace find. She also loves to hunt for good and unique children's books and dabbles at writing some of her own. She enjoys baking and has recently tried her hand at making donuts and sourdough. We both love the thrill of finding a good deal on something. Singing together around the piano is a favorite thing to do as a family as well as cooking together. We often have music playing as we go, whether that's at home or out on our adventures. We all love the beach and it has become our favorite vacation spot.

Home: We live in a spacious home on a little hill in our town that overlooks the beautiful agricultural valley in which we live. It is a short walk to a park as well as it has a nice sized backyard complete with a playhouse and small garden, and a patio area where we like to hang out with family or friends. We also enjoy picking fruit from our fruit trees. We have a basement complete with a family room and playroom which we like to use in the evenings. It's a short drive to Collin's parents and siblings homes which makes getting together easy.

Pets: We have a sweet golden retriever dog named Gibby. She loves to be with us in our backyard playing fetch or getting a good belly rub. Juliana recently got a kitty for her birthday and the two of them are best buds. They can often be found playing chase or watching a show together.

Why are you interested in building your family through adoption: We have always had a desire to adopt, even before we found out we wouldn't be able to have biological children. We embryo adopted our daughter, Juliana, in 2020. We couldn't imagine our family looking any other way then to have her in it. The pregnancy was complicated though, making it too high risk to repeat. We see God's hand through it all and desire to have another sweet child to love alongside Juliana.

Openness to birthparent(s): We would love to have an open relationship with the birth family. What this looks like exactly could develop as we go. We are open to photos, letters, emails, in person visits etc with the goal of the child's best interests at heart. We would want the child to know her/his birth family is important and a part of their story. We want to work with you on this and see what you desire as well.

Childcare plans: Valerie will be the primary caretaker as she is currency a full time at home Momma. Collin's work is flexible though which allows for at home lunches and working from home as needed.



Mother's Name: Valerie

Occupation: Stay at home Momma

Education: Associates degree

Religion: Christian

Date of birth: 10/19/1988

Hair Color: Brown | **Eye Color:** Brown

Height: 5' 4"



Father's Name: Collin

Occupation: Pastor

Education: Masters of Divinity

Religion: Christian

Date of birth: 08/27/1985

Hair Color: Brown | **Eye Color:** Blue

Height: 6' 2"



THANK YOU

We want you to know we are praying for you as you make this important and difficult decision. We want what's best for you and your child, so know that is how we are praying. If you feel we are a good fit please know we will love and cherish your sweet little one with all our hearts!

Much love,

Valerie + Collin