

— *meet* —  
**STEPHANIE**





# WELCOME!

MY NAME IS

Stephanie

I want to start by thanking you for taking the time to learn about me but, even more, for the courage and strength that has led you to explore adoption. I look forward to getting to know you and hearing about your hopes for your child's future. I am excited to begin this process together. Please know that you will always have a special place in our hearts and lives.

**Adoption has always been my plan, ever since I was a child myself.** It has always felt right to me and I am wholeheartedly ready to begin this journey.

Thank you!



## FIVE things THAT MAKE ME HAPPY!

1. FAMILY
2. SURPRISES
3. GIVING THE PERFECT GIFT
4. EXPLORING A NEW PLACE
5. RECONNECTING WITH OLD FRIENDS



Enjoying a latte at one of my favorite places



## MY friends DESCRIBE ME AS...

CARING, SUPPORTIVE, AND FUNNY. They often say that I'm the first person they call to be cheered up or for advice.



All smiles with my niece, Harper

## A LITTLE BIT About me LET'S GET started!

**M**y name is **Stephanie** and I am from a close family. My sister and I have grown to have an even stronger bond as adults. **I have two young nieces, who are my favorite people in the entire world.** I have earned and cherish every "World's Best Aunt" t-shirt and mug! My greatest joy is having fun with Emmie and Harper and taking them on new adventures. They are eager to have a new cousin!



Spending the day with my nieces

**My love of literature and writing led me to my career as an English teacher.** I spend every day listening to the hilarious things that my students say and helping them to expand their minds and creative thinking. There is nothing better than helping a child learn something new or, even better, discover something about him or herself. **I've been teaching for over 10 years and still feel that I have the best job in the world.**

**A huge benefit to teaching is that also provides the PERFECT SCHEDULE FOR A PARENT: I will be at work while my child is in school. I have a short 10 minute commute and own a home in an excellent school district.** In the beginning, I plan to take time off to bond with your baby. I am grateful to be able to take that time and to have a job that will allow me to spend a great deal of time with a child. The hope of someday being a mother was a large part of why I went into teaching.



I love going to the book store!



Holding my niece as we go down the big slide!





We had a blast seeing Aladdin



Arts and crafts time with my niece



With the statue of the Scottish soldier at Edinburgh Castle



Taking a helicopter ride!



In front of Tower Bridge in London



Seeing a show with friends in NYC

IN MY  
free time,  
I ♥ GOING TO NEW  
YORK CITY!

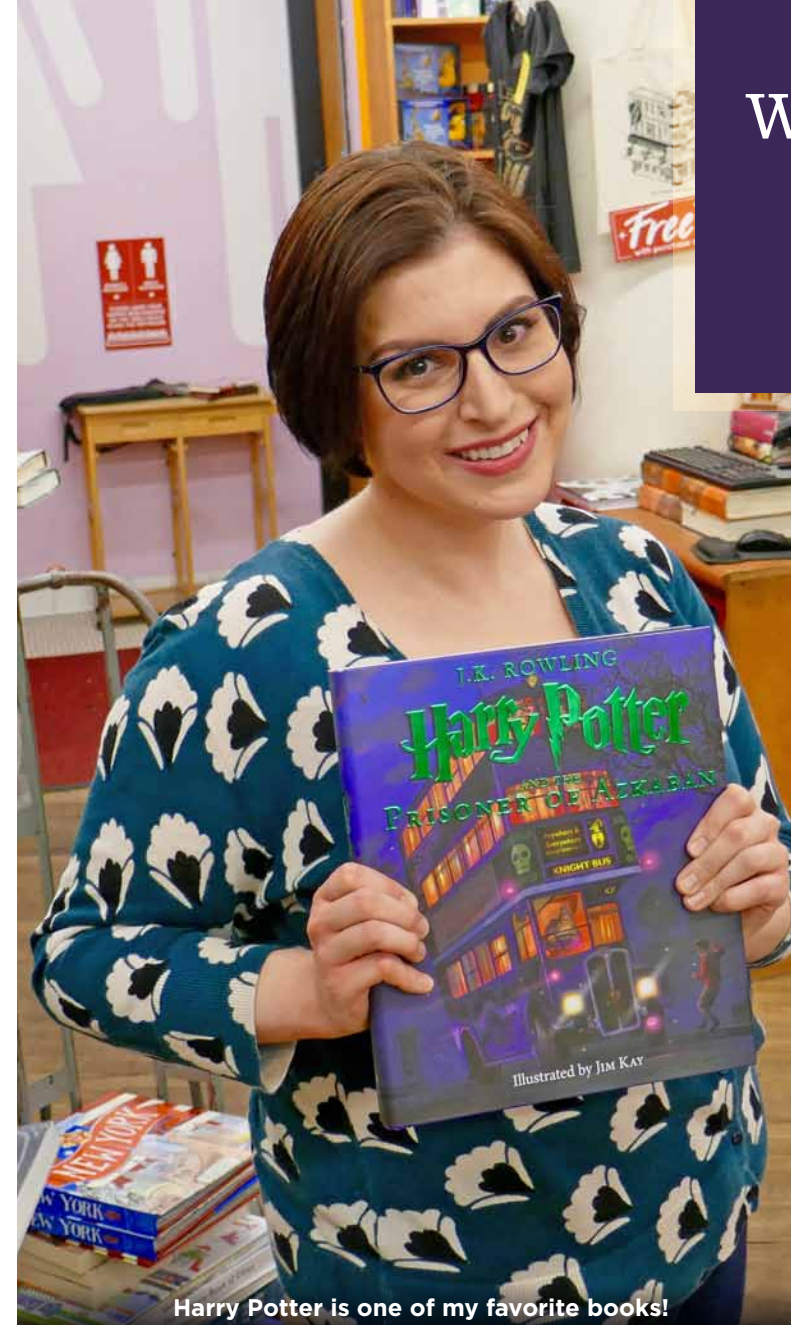
Theater has always been a passion of mine, ever since my grandmother took me to see my first show when I was six. I also loved performing and often staged shows in the living room. I recently took my nieces to see their first show and those are memories that I'll have forever.

My nieces love arts and crafts, so I often take them to paint ceramics and masterpieces. I have quite the gallery in their room in my home. It is technically the guest room but, as my most frequent guests, we all picked out the furniture and decorated it together.

When staying close to home, I enjoy reading, seeing a good movie or discovering a new show on Netflix, and spending time with my friends. You know that friend who is always recommending a new show or movie? Well, that is definitely me. I also have a knack for trivia and have game nights with friends (*I confess that can get a bit competitive with the trivia*).

Recently, I've discovered a love for travel.

Last summer, I visited Edinburgh and London. I spent my birthday exploring ancient castles and window shopping on the Royal Mile. While in San Francisco, I took a helicopter tour that changed my outlook on life. It reminded me of how important it is to have balance in life and take the time to enjoy new experiences. I look forward to adding stamps to my passport and seeing more of my own country. I'd love to share these kinds of adventures with a child someday. **First stop: Disney World! Later on, the sky is the limit.**



Harry Potter is one of my favorite books!

Teaching has also helped me to develop an endless supply of patience and true sense of humor. The next time you meet a teacher, as him or her to tell you some funny stories about their students. You will quickly realize that we are patient because our students have taught us to find the humor in daily life. I promise that you will laugh harder than you thought was possible.

WHERE  
I Work

I have the **BEST JOB IN THE WORLD:** **I'M A TEACHER.** I teach seventh grade English and spend all day reading, writing, and working with kids! *What could be better?* They truly make me laugh on a daily basis and, more often than not, I make them laugh, too.

Being a teacher has given me years to learn about caring for children and to figure out the kind of parent I will be one day. I've had over a decade as a teacher to observe all kinds of parents and see how their children are impacted by them, for better or for worse. More than anything, being present and involved—listening when he or she has had a bad day or even helping with homework—matters. It's supporting a child every day so that there is no doubt in his or her mind that I will always be there is what counts.



Helping at school on World Cancer Day

## FAVORITES

1. TV SHOW: The Office, Downton Abbey, and Stranger Things
2. FOOD: Italian!

3. ROOM IN MY HOME: Living Room

4. VACATION SPOT: London

5. CHILDHOOD ACTIVITY: Acting and Singing

6. SUBJECT IN SCHOOL: English and Drama

7. ANIMAL: Dogs and Baby Elephants

8. GUILTY PLEASURE: Binge Watching Netflix



# MY HOME & Community

I LIVE  
IN A  
*small town*  
30 MINUTES OUTSIDE OF  
NEW YORK CITY

Here, I have the best of both worlds: a friendly, quiet town with great schools and a short drive

away from the best city in the world. Even though it is a small town, it is an incredible place for families. We have multiple parks, activities for children, a tight-knit community, and an excellent school district. I also work just ten minutes from home, which is ideal. This will allow me to pick your child up from school every day and not miss any soccer games, dance classes, or just helping him or her with homework.



The Gazebo in my local park



Having fun in the community my niece, Harper, and friend, Andrea



Being silly with my niece, Emmie

With my cousin and niece



My friend's daughter Aurora feeding me lipstick!



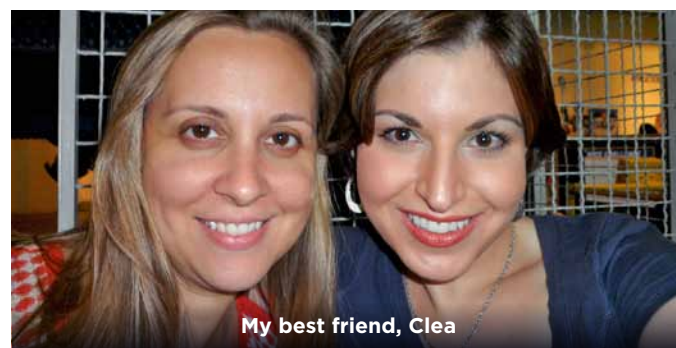
Fun with friends on stage with theater props



With my cousins



Family time



My best friend, Clea

## NOTES FROM MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY About me

**MY SISTER, DAWN:** I have known Stephanie for my entire life. She is a truly remarkable woman who is unwavering in her life's passions. She is a gifted teacher who has been an inspiration to countless 7th graders, an avid musical theater fan, and—most importantly to me—an incredible aunt to my daughters. Stephanie has always wanted to be a mother, even attempting to guide me during my rebellious phase when we were kids. **Stephanie will be an amazing mother as I have seen first hand**

**with my own children.** She balances love and generosity with setting limits through clear expectations. She's always ready to spoil her nieces, but also to dry their tears or redirect their behaviors. I'm privileged to say that Stephanie has more to give individually than any couples combined. Any child would be lucky to have Stephanie as their mom!

**MY FRIEND, CLEA:** Stephanie and I have been friends for 8 years. Though we live a few hours apart, we have remained very close and visit each other often. My son and daughter count down the days to the visits and love getting to spend time talking, playing, or watching movies with Stephanie. She has known my children since they were 2 and 5 (now 10 and 13) and I have seen her interact with them in various situations and life stages, from toddler to teen. I fully trust her with their care. Stephanie has shown them great love and patience and is always interested in all that they have to tell her. **During the time that we have been friends, I have watched her make thoughtful decisions about everything in her life, but especially when purchasing a new home.** Even then, she was thinking of the safety and comfort of her nieces and her own future children. Stephanie is thoughtful, warm, caring, responsible and reliable. She will make an exceptional mother.

**MY FRIEND, DAN:** Stephanie has been a friend and “big sister” to me for over 10 years. I have never met anyone more dedicated to her friends and family. I know how much her nieces and students adore her. In fact, she taught my own sister. Stephanie has a natural way with kids. Her patience, humor, and strength will make her an ideal mother. **Whenever I need to talk, Stephanie is my first call.** Not only does she listen and give great advice, but she can always make me laugh, no matter what. Stephanie is one in a million and will be a fantastic mom.

## THESE ARE MY PEOPLE!

I was extremely close to my mother who passed away three years ago. She taught me what it means to be a great mom: she was always there for us and we could tell her anything. Whenever anything went wrong or whenever we had great news to share, she was the first

person my sister and I went to or called. Quite simply, Mom was home. We miss her every day, but I know how lucky we were—and still are—to have had her for a mother.

**I am extremely fortunate to have my dad and a supportive extended family, as well.** Dad lives nearby and is already a wonderful grandfather to my

nieces. He is thrilled by the idea of having another grandchild! My grandmother, aunt, uncles, and cousins are also looking forward to having a new child to spoil!

**My friends are also a huge part of my life, and many of them are already parents.** They are my second family and are excited to be honorary aunts and uncles!



Holiday fun



# MY *promise* TO YOU

“No one is ever quite ready; everyone is always caught off guard. PARENTHOOD CHOOSES YOU. And you open your eyes, look at what you’ve got, say ‘Oh, my gosh,’ and recognize that of all the balls there ever were, this is the one you should not drop. IT’S NOT A QUESTION OF CHOICE.”

—Marisa de los Santos



While my chosen quote says that no one is ever quite ready for parenthood (and I believe that there will be many surprises in store), I know that I am ready to be a mother. It is my choice and I cannot wait for the sleepless nights and exhausted days. The only things that matter in life are the ones that you work for. **I want to earn every smile that this child flashes, witness those shaky first steps, and be the one cheering the loudest at his or her college graduation.**



Being a mother is a choice I made long ago and I’ve waited my whole life to take this step. I have never wanted anything more and I promise that I will always put your child first and raise him or her to be caring, strong, and confident. Your child will always feel secure and loved. They will learn to chase dreams and know that it is okay to take risks because I will be there to cheer them on and there when they fall. **To me, that’s what a parent is all about: being there and helping your child discover who he or she will become.**

**Reach out! - Call or Text:**  
**(551) 502-2099**

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