



Chad + Clifton

Hello! Welcome to our story.



Thank you for taking the time to get to know us! We greatly admire your bravery in considering adoption for your baby. We're very excited about the possibility of growing our family and are extremely grateful to have this opportunity to share our story and dreams of fatherhood with you! We look forward to getting the chance to know YOU better.

We believe that placing a child for adoption is the greatest sacrifice parents can make. We greatly admire anyone who puts the needs of a young person above all else. We consider that choice to be one of love, careful thought, and hope. We are hoping for an open adoption - contact before, during, and after birth - if that is something you would like as well. We would love to discuss with you the level of openness and contact you desire and what your hopes are for your baby.

We are incredibly excited and ready to be Dads! We hope after learning about us you can see just how much love we have to give our future child.

With love,
Chad & Clifton

Our Story...

We met online through Match.com in 2008, while both living in New York City. On our first date, initially meant to just be casual, we sat and chatted for five hours. It snowed softly on us as we headed out to take different subway trains home, both with full hearts. From the beginning, it was clear that we were very similar in our rural upbringings but quite different though complimentary in personality. (Introvert meets Extrovert!) That dynamic has kept our relationship very strong and interesting over the years. We truly do complete one another!

In 2009, when Chad's job sent him to Atlanta temporarily, Clifton came along, and we realized that a return to our Southern roots and geography was the right move for us. We've lived very happily in Atlanta ever since. In 2012, Chad proposed while we decorated our Christmas tree. Clifton cried holding a string of lights. (Typical!) We were married in February of 2013, on the fifth anniversary of our first date at the Marriage Bureau in Manhattan – because same sex marriage wasn't legal in Georgia then – and later celebrated on the very same two stools in very the same restaurant where we met exactly five years before. (The bartender was delighted and told the whole staff!)



Why We Want To Adopt...

We've been incredibly blessed in our lives so far — blessed individually as we each grew up in loving homes with small-town values, blessed in our strong love and respect for one another as a couple, blessed with two very loving families, blessed with great careers that allow us to travel to fantastic places, blessed to have ended up in a vibrant Southern city where we can relax but also have instant access to culture and historical landmarks, and blessed to be surrounded by the best friends on the planet. But, something has felt missing for a while now, and recently we realized what it was: a child! We admire our two fathers and appreciate all they have done and still do for us, and now we feel incredibly excited and ready to add fatherhood into our *own* lives.

We know a baby will be messy. We know we can't anticipate what kind of child (or adult) he or she might be. We know our seemingly ideal life (and home!) will be turned upside down. And, that's exactly what we want! A new chapter of the unknown, of living moment to moment, and of investing the extra love and energy we have into a little one whose life we can make special and filled with joy and endless happy memories. We simply can't wait to begin!





"I can't wait to expose our child to as many interests, people, and places as possible. I don't want them to become a clone of me but rather their own self with their own path, and I'll support them in whatever they love and whomever they become. I can't wait for father-child chats, home projects we do together, taking them to a rehearsal or a practice, singing to them, teaching them to love animals, watching them enjoy their grandparents, and dipping their toes into the ocean for the first time.

Plus so much more!"



Meet Clifton...

Hometown: Iron City, Georgia

Birthday: April 21

Education: B.A. in Drama (University of Georgia); M.F.A. in Performing Arts (Savannah College of Art and Design)

Favorite Color: blue

Favorite Food: seafood

Favorite Sports Team: Atlanta United (soccer)

Favorite Artist: Adele

Favorite Movie: *Maurice*

Favorite Book: *To Kill A Mockingbird*

Favorite TV show: *Downton Abbey*

I grew up in tiny Iron City, Georgia on a road named after my grandfather.

My childhood was spent reading, waterskiing, camping, swimming, playing tennis, fishing, building forts, singing in church and school, taking piano and voice lessons, gymnastics, community theatre, caring for pets, and cooking with my maternal grandparents next door. Though

always artistic, I also enjoyed science and biology, and I spent summers as a teen working in my family's doctor's office (even observing surgeries and births!). My college career began at Emory University in Atlanta where I was "pre-med," but the arts had too great a pull on me, and I transferred to the

University of Georgia as a Drama major. (Go, Dawgs!) I have been an actor, director, producer, and casting director since 2001, and have worked all over the U.S. I'm currently a freelance theatre and TV/film artist in Atlanta and am very active in local arts and political advocacy.

Age: 43

Job: Freelance theatre and TV/film artist

Hobbies: reading, home decorating, exercising, traveling, hanging out with family & friends, volunteering, "schnuggling" with our dogs



Chad says:

"Simply put, Clifton is just a good person.

He has high morals and values. He is incredibly intelligent and motivated. He loves celebrating the success of others and challenges those closest to him to continually improve. These are the kinds of amazing qualities that he will bring to fatherhood. Our child will have a great role model in Clifton, who will love them unconditionally while helping them strive to be the best person they can be."

Something unique about me: Sometimes, I have to be told to relax because I always have several projects in play, but when I do take a break, I can really let go!



"I love spending time with family and can't wait to start my own with my husband! Our careers have been our main focus over our years together, but we've recognized that something is missing in our lives, and it's become obvious to us that the missing piece is a family of our own. I can't wait to share the bond of father and child as I watch them grow and mature!"

Meet Chad...

Hometown: Rustburg, Virginia

Birthday: October 8

Education: B.A. in Music Performance (Lynchburg College)

Favorite Color: blue

Favorite Food: sushi

Favorite Sports Team: Atlanta United (soccer)

Favorite Artist: Lord Huron

Favorite Movie: any of the *Avengers* movies

Favorite Book: the *Harry Potter* series

Favorite TV show: *Big Bang Theory*

I grew up in a small town in central Virginia also on a road named after my great-grandfather (yep, just like Clifton!). Growing up, I was very close with my family and remain so today. As a kid, I enjoyed riding bikes, hiking in the woods, building forts, and running. At school, I was involved in drama, chorus, and the forensics club. Currently, I'm a Senior Vice President in Finance at one of the top global advertising agencies where I've been for almost 18 years. My career is very important to me, but I am able to come home after a hard work day and shut that part of my brain down to focus on my homelife. My hobbies are cooking (I have a lifetime membership to an accredited online culinary school), singing (I perform off and on with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus), and running. I also enjoy reading and watching sci-fi and all kinds of technology (yes, I'm a bit of a geek!).

Age: 43

Job: Senior VP of Finance at Apex Exchange

Hobbies: cooking, singing, traveling, trying new food and restaurants, technology



Clifton says:

“Chad is strikingly handsome, mature, kind, incredibly smart, tech-savvy, calm, and gracious. He’s my charming geek! Chad always reminds me to relax and simply “be” at home with him and our dogs. He’s wonderful about slowing me down and urging me to loosen up and enjoy those things and folks in our lives we love. He will instill in a child a wonderful sense of living in the present, enjoying life moment to moment, and taking the time to truly be together.”

Something unique about me: If I find a song I love, I can become obsessed with it and listen to it on repeat aloud for weeks while getting ready in the morning, which annoys Clifton to no end!



food, travel, home decorating, our dogs, movies, TV shows, the arts



Things We Enjoy Together...

Our Home...



We live in a beautiful, brand new 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo in the heart of Atlanta in the eclectic Cabbagetown neighborhood, an area connected to many of Atlanta's oldest, loveliest, and most diverse communities. Our condo building has a gym, a resident lounge/library, and a rooftop lounge. Just around the corner – and walkable – is The Beltline, Cabbagetown Park, Atlanta Dairies Market, Zoo Atlanta, and much more.

Cabbagetown is incredibly family-friendly with couples, children, and residents of all types and ages. Tons of pets too! There are two large grocery stores in the neighborhood, a movie theater, a pediatrics group, a veterinarian, several private, public, charter, and co-operative schools, many churches, festivals almost monthly, and a weekly farmer's market. Cabbagetown Park is always buzzing with families on the playground or neighbors attending a food or arts festival. The fantastic Zoo Atlanta, always full of children, is walkable from our condo, and we love the hip and trendy vibe of nearby East Atlanta Village too.

Our 4-Legged Friends...

Our two Mini-Schnauzers, Baxter and Boris, are loveable, energetic, great guard dogs, and precious members of our family. They are both 11-years old, in great health, and are spitting images of each other except that

Baxter is twice the size of Boris. We got Baxter from a breeder in Alabama when he was 6-weeks old and Boris from a rescue organization when he was 2½. We had decided to get Baxter a companion and wanted a rescue for our second dog and knew that Boris was the one when we saw a picture of him because it was uncanny how much he looked like Baxter! Baxter loves to eat, play tug-of-war with a rubber tug, and chew on buffalo horn tips. Boris is a picky eater, often likes to find somewhere to be by himself, and doesn't like most toys, but he does love to play hide-and-seek under the blankets on the bed and give (sometimes) morning kisses. Our dogs are even popular on Instagram! We know our dogs will be great with our future child because Schnauzers are incredibly loyal by nature and ours are no different. They will look over and protect our future kid with everything they have.



Traditions...

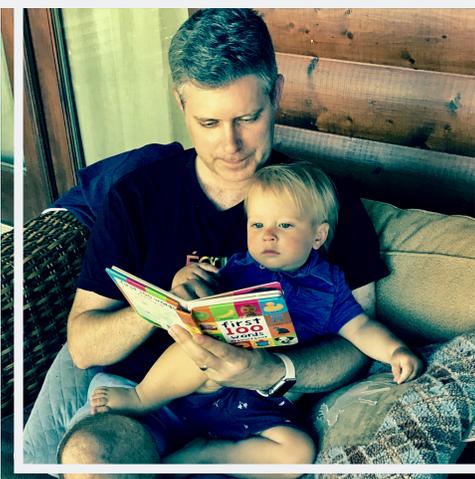
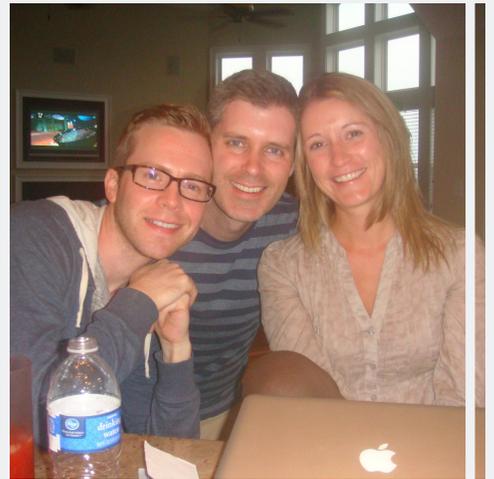
Shortly after Thanksgiving (either in Georgia or Virginia) each year, we spend a day decorating our home with a holiday music mix in the background. We always have a live fir tree very full of ornaments – a mix of vintage family treasures from our childhoods and ornaments we've collected from around the world since our time together. Our Christmas décor is traditional red and green, and we hang stockings for ourselves and our Beasties – Baxter and Boris. Each year, we go to an independent neighborhood nursery for a workshop and create our own holiday wreath for our front door. Together, we craft our family holiday card online from our favorite photos from the past year. Finally, Clifton makes a few batches of his late grandmother's fruitcake balls and cheese straws to take to coworkers and to friends' holiday parties. The holidays are very festive in our home! We can't wait to share these traditions and make new traditions (including Santa!) with our future child.



Our Families...

Chad's parents, Susan and Carlton, have been happily married for 49 years and live in Virginia. He has two older paternal half-brothers, and his younger sister, Michelle, lives in California with her husband, Lee, and preschooler, Kingston. Chad's mom, Susan, known as "Su-Su" to grandchildren, is a cheerleader, someone who always looks on the bright side, and is patient, understanding, quiet, and reserved. She taught Chad patience, empathy, optimism and frugality. His dad, Carlton, is reserved, quiet, and taught Chad to work hard and learn to do things for himself. "G-Daddy" enjoys doing projects around the house, visiting the family lake house, gardening, and being a handyman. Chad is very close with his parents and sister, and they all love getting together as adults.

Clifton's parents, Kaye and Edgar (called "Buzz"), married for 52 years, met in middle school and live in Georgia. He also has a brother, Brett. Clifton's mom, Kaye, is called "K-K" by nieces and nephews and is active, chatty, smart, and loves to learn. A lifelong educator, she was very involved with Clifton's learning and taught him to be organized, responsible, and grateful to those who have helped him. His dad, Buzz, is outgoing, a jokester, and affectionate. He taught Clifton to accept people for who they are, have a sense of humor, finish what you start, and work hard. Clifton's family still lives on the rural corner where he grew up surrounded by grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Many children in the extended family adore going home to very quiet, very green, very calm Iron City, Georgia.



“Chad and Clifton have so many great qualities that would make them amazing parents. They are both genuine, compassionate, empathetic, and responsible. They are witty and have a great sense of humor. Their long and thoughtful process in choosing to become parents is commendable - something they’ve taken very seriously. I am overjoyed in their decision, because any child would be so lucky to have them as parents.” -Michelle (Chad’s sister)

From Our Hearts To Yours...



Thank you for taking the time to get to know us! We can only imagine how hard this must be for you. We offer you all the love and support as you decide on the best future for your baby. We cannot express how grateful we are that you are considering us as adoptive parents for your child since, as gay men, we are unable to physically have children.

We both grew up in stable households with loving parents who instilled a sense of integrity and high moral values. We'll show our child that a family who respects one another, is always honest, and listens can do anything. We've taken on many challenges together, always coming through them stronger. We're rarely on opposite sides of a decision, but when we are, we explore all angles and collectively move forward because we're great friends who have huge mutual respect.

We hope to instill these qualities with our future child as well.

We believe we can offer a child an immense amount of love, an extended community of family and friends, exposure to the cultural landscape of Atlanta, travel, a great education, financial stability, a life lived with pets, and the freedom to evolve into themselves.

We'll tell our child they are adopted as soon as they are mature enough to understand and ask questions in return, and we'd love for their birth parents to be a part of their life as much as they'd like. We'll explain to our child early on why they live with us, why we wanted them, and why they are loved very much by so many people.

Honesty and clarity from the start is our goal.

We know having a child will be challenging, but it also will be the greatest joy of our lives! We are highly practical and organized men who delegate well and work beautifully as "team CGCG," never bearing the weight of anything too large alone. We're incredibly adaptive and strong, and we are so ready to take the leap into fatherhood! We would be hugely honored to receive and love your child for the rest of our days.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for considering us.

With Love,

Chad & Clifton





book created by:



PERSONALIZED
ADOPTION
PROFILES
by Kate