



Gretchen & Jared



DEAR BIRTHMOTHER



HELLO & WELCOME!

we are

Jared and **Gretchen**

and along with **our son, Rob,** are

FROM | BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND



^ Rob loves when we swing so high!

HI! We are deeply honored that you are considering including our family as part of your life journey, and giving us the gift of adopting your child. While we may be starting to learn about each other right now, we can say with certainty that you are brave and strong. We can also say with certainty that **WE WILL LOVE YOUR CHILD UNCONDITIONALLY** and **RESPECT THEM FOR ALL THAT THEY ARE**, while honoring your courageous strength.

» **WE PLEDGE** to raise your child in a home filled with laughter and hugs, summer days at the beach and winter mornings on the ski slopes, Christmas cookie baking and

campfire S'mores making, lazy days in the yard and after school library trips, and most importantly endless love and affection.

While we are anxiously waiting for the call to say that we have been chosen, all great things happen to those who wait. We hope that you choose us and we can all travel down this path together, learning about each other and providing a **WARM, SAFE, and LOVING HOME** for our child.



Jared, Gretchen & Rob



^ A sunny winter morning just being together in Maine

Jared will say that he saw Gretchen at the beginning of his Senior year at the beach amidst a bunch of their friends. Gretchen would say that she had her eye on him **THE YEAR BEFORE**, but clearly he wasn't getting the hint! Regardless of who, where or when...something stuck all those years ago and we have been together ever since. You might say it was fate since unbeknownst



^ Enjoying a beautiful view ^

— So... —
here's the
Story

We met at Connecticut College in 2000.

to us, our mothers grew up a few miles from each other in Stamford CT and went to the same high school. In fact, Jared's aunt and Gretchen's mom graduated in the same class. Fast forward past numerous rental apartments in Boston and the surrounding area, a marriage proposal in Paris, surfing in Costa Rica, a drive across South Africa, a 2006 wedding in Block Island, career highs and lows,



^ Taking a walk in the nearby park ^

an MBA for Jared, plus many other trips, laughs, friends, and family get together and you will find us settled into our "forever house" in Barrington RI. All of our years together helped us get through a tough pregnancy in 2012 and the premature birth of our son Rob. Four years later, Rob is a healthy active little guy, and we would love to complete our little family with another child.

our **work/life** balance! »

"For us, adoption means that we can fill our house with more **sounds of laughter & the pitter patter of feet, & an ENDLESS STREAM OF LOVE.**"



Gretchen works as a Financial Advisor, and co manages a team with another mom. Needless to say, work life balance is the number one for both Gretchen and her work partner! She doesn't really have a boss, so flexibility is key and allows her to make school plays, parent teacher conferences, soccer practice, and stay home at the first sign of a cough or snuffle.

Jared is a close second with his work flexibility. He runs a team at one of the larger banks in the country and is blessed with a corporate culture that emphasis working from home and generous vacation.

WRITTEN BY  GRETCHEN

meet Jared

OR AS I CALL HIM, "SLIM"



Jared checking out the view in London

GRETCHEN MAKES ME A BETTER PERSON. She is strong, and not just because she is in good shape. She is strong in a way that I am not. She is dedicated. When she puts her mind to something, it happens. She is confident, yet self-deprecating. She has an infectious laughter that makes me giddy. She is more introverted and thoughtful than I am, and that provides a great balance. I don't always look before I leap, but she makes sure there's a safe landing spot. She keeps our family on track, whether it's planning the next vacation, or planning a great place for Sunday breakfast.

Gretchen is someone who spends more time thinking about others than she does thinking about herself. She's smart, but not just because she's good at math. She understands what makes people tick, and what people need. When Rob spent almost 2 months in the hospital, I saw her rise to the challenge, even though she was exhausted. When we first met, a long, long time ago, I never could have imagined that she would become the person she is today. **AND I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER TO BE HER HUSBAND.** We've been to amazing places together, on crazy journeys, and I can't imagine doing it with anyone else.

LET ME TELL  YOU A LITTLE

about Gretchen

WRITTEN BY JARED

THE PERFECT YIN TO MY YANG. It sounds so cliché, but 10+ years of marriage and 16+ years together have proven that being married to my best friend is the more than I could ask for. Of course there is the romantic comedy piece of finishing each others sentences and knowing what to order at a restaurant for each other...but beyond that, there is nothing I wouldn't tell him, nothing that I couldn't ask for help on and no one I would rather call my partner in raising our family with.

I KNEW HE WAS A "KEEPER" after many moves in Boston after college, and I knew he was a keeper after purchasing our first home and fixing it up together, weekend after weekend. I knew he was a keeper after our first rescue dog fell very ill and we visited him in the vet's office after work, worried that we couldn't help him anymore. I knew he was a keeper after driving for hours after visiting family in NY and being caught in a snow storm at midnight trying to get home. I knew he was a keeper after many trips to foreign countries navigating signs in other languages and driving on the wrong side of the road. But after a very difficult pregnancy, I really knew he was a keeper when our son was born prematurely and we worked as a team for months while he was in the NICU. On my hardest days, Jared was my beacon and rock all in one, staying strong but loving through the whole ideal. I want no one else in my corner on the best days but most importantly on the worst, and I know that he will lead our family through joy and tears for years to come.



Sunset relaxation in Maine



Swimming fun with Rob



Hiking with Rob & Fifi

JUST FOR FUN

Fresh Air Fun:

- Surfing
- Hiking
- Gardening
- Making Sandcastles
- Family Walks with the Dog
- Skiing
- Cookouts
- Making Snowmen
- Riding bikes/scooters/anything with wheels
- We love to get outside A LOT

Quiet Time:

- Working on the House

- Reading
- Yoga
- Playing with cars/trains/blocks/magnatiles/anything!
- Family Movie Night
- Baking
- Playing Board games
- Reading the paper
- Knitting
- When we come inside we love to be COZY together



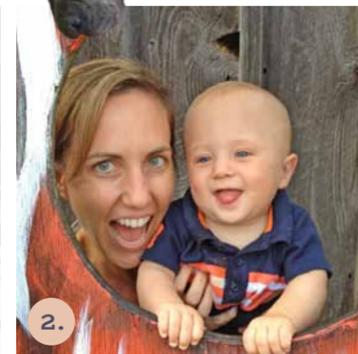
Catching some lobster out on the boat



Loungin' with Fifi, the best cuddler



1.



2.

OUR FAVORITES

Dessert:

- Jared doesn't eat dessert! Crazy, I know. Gretchen would eat it everyday, as long as it was chocolate!

Room in our Home:

- Great Room aka Pool Room, when we moved in there was an Indoor pool in it! We filled it in because it was basically in our kitchen!

Hobby:

- Being outside, together!

Animal:

- We are super dog people!

Sports Team:

- Jared is a Washington Redskins fan...but he is converting to the good side, GO PATS!

Place to take a Child:

- Our house in Maine or any beach in the whole world!

Time of Year:

- We both agree, Summer!

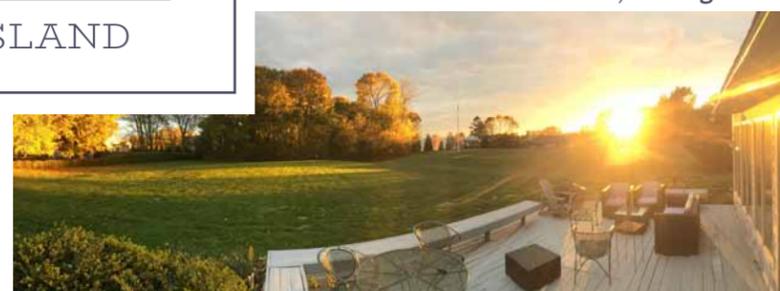
ABOVE CAPTIONS: 1. Gretchen sporting her Christmas jammies; 2. Peek-A-Boo with Rob at the park



Our kitchen & dining room



^ One of our favorite hobbies, hiking!



^ A sunset view from our back patio

WELCOME TO OUR Neck of the Woods

IN BARRINGTON | RHODE ISLAND

Barrington became our home in 2011, although Gretchen could say that it's been her home since 1979! Our love of the ocean drew us to our current, and hopefully forever, home plus the best school system in Rhode Island doesn't hurt! IT IS ONE BLOCK FROM THE BEACH WITH A GREAT OCEAN VIEW. Both of us wish we grew up in such a neat, kid friendly house. It has wide open spaces to come together as a family, but also cozy nooks to read quietly. We recently turned one downstairs room into a kids art space for painting and drawing and all things creative. The third floor is a teenagers dream, with a big sectional couch and TV and the neatest pool table ever. Since we are such an outdoor family, we are out in the yard the second it gets warm. We have about an acre of yard with a garden and swing set to enjoy, and walking distance to the local elementary school!



Fifi watching over Rob as he naps

In England, pit bills were called the "nanny dog" and she is certainly trying to win the award for Best "Nanny" Dog. She keeps watch over our whole family and has enough love for everyone.

meet **Fifi** | AKA FIONA

Jared and I have always had dogs, in fact we have rescued 4 in the past few years and **FIFI (FIONA) IS OUR FIFTH. She is an amazing 55 pound lap dog that loves a good cuddle.** Our number one fan, she is always there with a tail wag and some drool and sometimes when we are walking as a family and split up to go separate ways before regrouping at home, she waits (or refuses to even walk!) until she can see us all again. We love to take her for walks on the beach or romps in the snow, but at the end of everyday, she climbs up on the couch in the den and snuggles.



Our son Rob was born prematurely at 32 weeks in 2012. After a relatively tough pregnancy of gestational diabetes, he was born around Labor Day. Fast forward 4 years and he is doing great, all caught up with his peers! We knew that he was dying to be a big brother when his nursery school teacher asked about his brother! He doesn't have a sibling **YET!** He had created a brother and told his class all about him, and at that moment I knew that he would be a great big brother to some awesome younger sister or brother. His love for the world and excitement to have a sibling is infectious and **WE CAN'T WAIT TO COMPLETE OUR HAPPY LITTLE FAMILY!**

— a big — brother anxiously waiting!



Rob can't wait to teach his little brother or sister about soccer, and construction, and play kitchen and restaurant!



^ Fun in the snow with cousins



^ Out on the family boat

LOVE MAKES A FAMILY

One of the reasons our hometown appealed to us, is that we have a great family network here who makes our little family even stronger. There are cousins 3 miles down the road that we see weekly, in fact, our son Rob's Yoga teacher is his aunt! And grandparents who host every holiday and a spend special one-on-one time with Rob and all his various cousins. We head up to our vacation house every August with Jared's sister, husband, and two boys to spend a week eating lobster and heading to beach. His cousins from Denver come out for 2 weeks every year too! Last year we spent part of Fourth of July at our pool club and then watch fireworks!

FAMILY IS GREAT, BUT YOU DEFINITELY NEED FRIENDS TOO. We have many great friends in our town, and luckily even though we moved to a new neighborhood last year, we met an awesome family with 2 girls around Rob's age. We get together at the beach in the summer and go sledding in the winter, and in between have cook outs and take out pizza movie nights.



^ Vacation dinner with California cousins!



^ Jared's dad Bob visiting from Washington DC



Family time on the coast

ONE LAST



THANK YOU

It is hard to summarize our whole lives in one booklet, but we hope that we gave you a glimpse of us, our home and community, our dog and some of things we hold true. **From the bottom of our heart, WE THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING US** and giving us the time to learn a bit more about more about us. It is our deepest hope that you share some of the same passions and values, like kindness and love and spending time away from the television outside together and family dinners,

and choose us...but no matter what, we know that you make the absolute best decision for your child. **WE HOPE THAT WE CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT YOU AND EVENTUALLY SHARE A PRECIOUS BOND.**

If you have any questions for us or would like to speak to us about becoming adoptive parents to your child, please contact your adoption advisor at **AdoptHelp**, toll-free at **1-800-637-7999**.

