To A Very Special Someone,

 Thanks so much for reading our letter. We are Aubrey and Kelly and are so excited to start our family through the beautiful process of adoption. Your decision to take this path is one we do not take lightly and it is so courageous and admirable. You have the ability to give us the greatest gift in the world and, if you so choose, your child will know about you and your loving decision from the beginning. The two of us hope for the opportunity to provide your baby a life of love, laughter, discovery and stability as part of a very close-knit and large family.

 We have been together since 2011 and had an intimate backyard wedding in October of 2014. It was a five day gathering of our loved ones in a beautiful town on the California coast and we loved every minute of it. Our marriage is one based on warmth, honesty, respect, fun and acceptance. This is what guides how we treat each other, our loved ones and others, and the foundation that we will use to build our own family. Your child will have a secure sense of community and acceptance and will know that he or she is loved and will be cared for unconditionally. Both of us come from families where an ongoing sense of support and closeness is very important and luckily for us the two sides have come together in such a fun and rare way.

 Our two-bedroom condo is very spacious and homey in a building of only four units. The oversized sofa that sits in our living room is a favorite spot of many of our family and friends, people always comment on how homey and cozy our place feels. There is a beautiful pool downstairs from our unit where many Sundays are spent with a crossword puzzle being passed around. Aubrey has also created a very peaceful outdoor space with seating and greenery, she is just starting to have success with a green thumb and is excited to watch our plants grow. Our three very sweet cats that we rescued ourselves – Motor, Kit-Kat, and Shoaks – love any chance they get to do some sun-bathing on the balcony with us.

 Baby’s room is being painted a soft shade of green and lots of fun decorations and touches will be added. Colorful pictures, quotes, pillows and a rocking chair will add comfort and lots of stimulating things to look at. The two of us are always so excited to babysit or spend time with our friends’ children and are constantly fascinated at the pure joy and desire to learn that comes in different stages of childhood. The presence of a child is something incredibly special and unique and we are very much looking forward to having that presence enrich our everyday lives.

 Kelly is a native of California as are both of her parents. She grew up with one younger sister and two younger brothers, one of whom shares her love of sports. She was part of the Olympic Development Program for soccer in high school and continues to follow the game avidly. Aubrey attended her first professional soccer game at the Rose Bowl with her in-laws recently and enjoyed every minute of it.

 Kelly has always loved to be challenged and work hard and that is part of what eventually brought her to culinary school. But more importantly she learned a love of food from her Italian great-grandmother. There was always a pot of sauce on the stove, fresh herbs growing in the garden, and every Sunday Kelly would watch her prepare a great family feast and see how it brought everyone together. After nearly ten years in the hustle and bustle of the restaurant industry she is now a private, in-home chef for a local celebrity. She prepares breakfast, lunch, and dinner for about 12 people each day and has really become like a member of the family.

 A California girl to her core, anytime we visit the ocean Kelly will be the first one to dive in head first, jumping over waves and staying in the water until her fingers and toes start to wrinkle. She is an adventurous and fun-loving spirit, in many ways a big kid at heart. Her parents did an exceptional job of teaching her how to be open-minded, free-spirited and how to enjoy life to its fullest potential.

 Aubrey definitely has a generous and welcoming nature as well. She has worked in hospitality in several parts of the country throughout her career and has been a Sales Rep for a well-known fashion jewelry company for the last five years. People are drawn to her warm and nurturing personality. As one of four siblings, she has always been the caretaker in the family – the one you go to when you need an aspirin or a band-aid or someone to lend an ear.

 That is not to say that Aubrey’s New England upbringing hasn’t left her with a quick-wit and awesome sense of humor. She is a combination of sweet and gentle but tough when the situation calls for it; she stands up for what she believes and isn’t afraid to get her hands dirty. Her upbringing was simpler and more do-it-yourself and that’s how Aubrey continues to live in many ways. While Kelly got her bumps and bruises from athletics, Aubrey got hers from running around barefoot, building furniture with her father, and climbing trees.

 Aubrey was also very focused on school growing up and studied French, Latin and Spanish from middle school into college. She has always enjoyed exploring words and language. In combination the two of us have traveled throughout the United States and internationally to Italy, Germany, Greece, France, Mexico, Canada, Spain, England and Morocco. Aubrey spent several months in Paris with her older sister who lived there for six years and helped her learn the language. We plan to take family trips to these and other countries and introduce our children to different cultures and experiences.

 As we have found our way into adulthood and then marriage, our dreams have continued to change and evolve. Each of us has always had a deep longing to become a mother; to help a child find all the joys life has to offer as well as being there to help them through the challenging times, just as our parents did for us. As a happily married and stable couple we have now reached the point in our lives where we are well-equipped to make this dream a reality with each other. Our daydreams now revolve around building forts out of couch cushions in the living room, having movie nights with a projector screen in our backyard, planning birthday parties, finger painting and getting messy; even the late night feedings and temper tantrums – we are looking forward to every bit of it.

 Once a child enters the picture the two of us will be taking considerable leave from work. Beyond that point Aubrey plans to work from home most of the week and we will have child care help from our parents as well. Every single member of our family is beyond excited about our adoption journey and cannot wait to welcome this new addition into our circle. The grandmothers-to-be are already knitting blankets and buying clothes!

 This is understandably a difficult and overwhelming decision for you. If there is anything we can do to help you get to know us better please do not hesitate to ask, we respect your decision process no matter what. If you would like to meet in person we will make ourselves available to you. Thanks so much for reading our letter. Both of us genuinely hope to hear from you and wish you all the best on this journey.

The first time we met (which Aubrey claimed was “not a date”) was a casual dinner that turned into a long hug goodbye after hours of talking and exchanging stories. There was definitely a feeling of comfort and ease from the very beginning, which actually took us both a little by surprise since this was both of our first experience meeting someone from a dating website. Our connection grew quickly and we knew before long that our lives had become so much better since we met, and that we wanted it to stay that way.