



We appreciate your courage in considering adoption for your child. If you choose us as parents for your child you will be part of our family in spirit, and you will have a place in our hearts. We will make sure your child feels connected to you, and we will be totally committed to giving him or her our love, security, and understanding.

Ben

Katy

Job Description:

History Professor

Charity Director,
Future Stay-at-Home Mom

Education:

B.A History, Yale &
PhD History, Harvard

B.A. English Literature, Oxford
& PhD Comparative Lit,
U. of Alberta

Favorites:

Children's Book
The Lion, the Witch & the
Wardrobe

Children's Book
Winnie the Pooh

Dream Car
Silver Jaguar

Dream Car
Pink Convertible

Hobby
Sailing

Hobby
Writing

Musical Group
Coldplay

Musical Group
Rolling Stones

Quality About My Spouse
Imagination

Quality About My Spouse
Understanding

Children:

None

What It Means to Be Parents and Our Strengths

We believe that being parents is about giving unconditional love, nurture, encouragement and practical support. It's about bringing out the best in your child; his or her capacity for love and kindness; talents and potential; curiosity and confidence. We also believe that parenting is about being firm, having clear boundaries and rules around certain things in a home which provides a calm and structured environment - but not so calm or structured that there is no room for mischief, fun or spontaneity! This is why we also believe in free expression and creative games. Our strengths will be having a sense of fun and also being devoted and stable. Katy is an extravert and spontaneous and Ben is calm and gentle. We are a good balance for each other and we both absolutely love children.

Education We Will Provide

We both believe very strongly in education as a means of developing a child's natural talents, confidence and discipline. In the first instance a wide variety of play is the basis for a child's learning, and we both look forward to playing with a child too, as learning is and should be fun. We believe that encouraging children to do the things that interest them, which they enjoy and are good at, gives them the confidence to learn the things that don't come as easily as well. The education we give our child will depend on the child's talents and interests rather than our own, but fortunately we have community schools that are multicultural and diverse places with high standards of care and a lot of individual attention. These are near to home so your child will grow up with many friends nearby. We will do a lot as a family that is educational - shows, galleries and museums for children (there are some great ones in London which have many kinds of entertainment and activity available).

Our House and Neighborhood

We live in a big old Victorian town house with wooden floors, a fireplace, and tall windows. Our fireplace is a great place to curl up with books and play backgammon. Our open floor plan is great for entertaining our friends and their children to delicious food and fun. Ben's study is upstairs, a sanctuary full of books, prints and pictures of boats; this is where he does all his writing. As he works from home he will be a very hands-on father and is excited about sharing in the care of the baby. Katy loves to put flowers in all the rooms. We already see our living area strewn with toys and have a spare room which we are planning to convert into a playroom. The baby's bedroom will be right next to ours and is one of the sunniest rooms in our house. We are painting it yellow, with matching curtains.



Our Home

Our House and Neighborhood, continued



Family Cottage in Maine

While **Ben's** family is in the USA and **Katy's** in Britain, Ben's family visits London frequently (Ben lived in this city for two years as a boy). We visit Ben's parents in their houses in Maine and New York at least once or twice a year, there we get to eat delicious foods we can't get in London. We have roots and relations in both places and there is always some visit or other to look forward to. Katy grew up in a big family with five siblings, all of them talkative, affectionate and competitive. Her brother and niece now live down the road in west London, and both are keen to babysit and get involved with the newest member of the family. Katy's mother lives very close for weekend visits, in a seaside resort where we spend most weekends in the summer, and when all the siblings get together the party includes seven dogs. We love theatrical games such as charades, which we all played when we were kids, and go for long walks on the beach.

Our Extended Families



Ben and His Family

Our Cultural Heritage

Ben is Jewish-American and grew up mostly in a suburb of New York City. Though he's not religious and wasn't raised in a religious household, he identifies with Jewish culture and history. That's one of the reasons why he now writes and lectures on the importance of religious toleration. Part of being Jewish - and American - also



Vacation in Sicily, Taormina

means sympathizing for the underdogs of history and the oppressed, and that feeling has always affected Ben's political viewpoints. He can remember, when he was little, his father marching in civil rights demonstrations. Growing up in the New York area meant growing up with people of many different backgrounds and cultures, and Ben has always felt most comfortable living in diverse cities. He loves ethnic foods and music, learning different languages, and exploring the wide world through books and travel - when he was a child, his family (like Katy's) travelled a lot, including to Europe. At the same time, Ben feels very keenly how American he is at heart; there's nothing like living abroad - even if you're very happy there - to make you feel your roots and realize where home is.

Katy is British but was born in India and her first memories are of Ghana. She travelled to lots of different countries when she was little and so grew up with a very open temperament and a sense of the richness of different cultures. She had black African and black British friends at her school, which was very multi-ethnic, and also close Arabic and American friends. But she retains a particular love for Africa, as the home of her happiest childhood memories, from when she was two to six years old. She remembers the food vividly and the wonderful beaches. Katy's family moved back to England when she was 9 years old so most of her schooling was in the United Kingdom. Her parents are quite traditional people though Katy was always a bit of a rebel. At school she played soccer (a boy's game), sang in the choir at her local church and read a lot of books, her mother was an English teacher. In her twenties she got to know and love the United States, as she worked for a charity which did theatre in prisons across the United States and then lived in Canada for three years.



Katy's Family Portrait

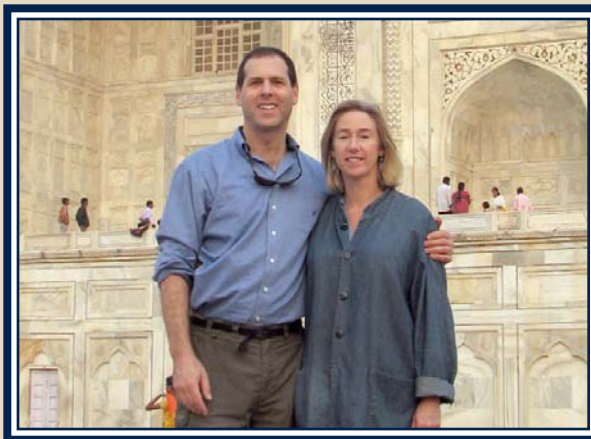


GP14 Worlds, Abersoch



Hiking Switzerland

Ben & Katy



Trip to India



Katy with Edie, Rovanie, and Tabby



Kayaking in Maine



Vacation in Sicily

Dear Birthparent(s),

We appreciate your courage in considering adoption for your child. If you choose us as parents for your child you will be part of our family in spirit, and you will have a place in our hearts. We will make sure your child feels connected to you, and we will be totally committed to giving him or her our love, security, and understanding.

We are absolutely thrilled to be given the opportunity to be parents. Early in our relationship, we discovered we were both interested in adoption. When we were dating, and were already aware there might be problems in conceiving, we discussed adoption and our positive feelings about it. We have adopted friends and god children, and are close to several very special adoptive families. We believe we are fair and kind people and we long for our strong mutual love to embrace and include a child.

Our names are Ben and Katy. Ben is American and Katy is English, and both of us feel most at home in lively places with lots of interesting things to do and a wide range of people. This means our home in London, England, suits us well, as it is one of the most tolerant and multicultural cities in the world.

We think this place could also suit your child and be a good base from which they could learn about their links with different cultures. We believe it is profoundly important that they should feel self confident and proud, and be able to explore their richness of identity.

We have both lived in other countries before settling in London - Ben in Holland; Katy in the United States and Canada as well as Africa and India when she was a child. We do also have strong links to the United States and go back to visit family in New York and Maine every year. We are planning to return to live in the United States later on and our determination to keep our links there alive will be immeasurably increased by adopting an American child.

As parents we will teach your child to be loving, tolerant and kind, and to have the confidence to follow their own dreams. We value creativity, compassion, honesty, and respect for others. We will nurture curiosity in this child as well as his or her own special interests and talents. There will be chances to discover London's parks and playgrounds; city farms full of animals; street fairs; galleries and kids' shows. The child will also visit Katy's mum, frequently, who lives by the sea in Sussex, will learn to sail with Ben as well as visiting Boothbay in Maine each summer, which is where Ben spent his childhood holidays and where most of his family still lives.

Your child will know from the start that he or she is adopted and has a birth mother who loves them and is an important part of them. We will want to know your own dreams for this child, as this will be important to him or her in the future. We will also share letters and photographs with you so you can be reassured that your child is doing well and be proud of their development. Your child's "adoption story" will always be acknowledged as part of what makes him or her special and we will answer all questions with love, care and respect for you.

Ben and Katy

