



Veronica and Tom
Cora and Liara



Hello!

We appreciate you taking the time to get to know us! We don't know what you're going through, but we imagine the decisions ahead of you must be very difficult and heavy. We sincerely hope that, should you ultimately choose adoption for your child, you are able to find the kind of parents you hope for. If we are those parents, we want you to know that we would be so excited to welcome your baby into our family and we would love your baby with all our hearts. We would speak about you to your baby with sincere honor and respect because you are an important and beautiful part of your baby's life story. We are truly thankful that you would consider us, and we pray that you find peace and confidence in whatever decisions you choose to make.



A Little Intro...



We share a love of learning that has become a central part of our relationship. There are so many topics we find intriguing. Tom has always had an interest in economics, so last year Veronica read a book on economics to learn more. We both really enjoyed being able to discuss the concepts Veronica was reading about every evening. Even though Tom already understood most of what was in the book, he would listen while Veronica explained what she had read so that she could see how well she had learned it. One evening we even had a debate about the pros and cons of having a fractional reserve system. We know we probably would have bored most other people to death, but we had a lot of fun!

We take our health seriously and one way we do that is through food!

Veronica developed a food sensitivity to all processed foods in pregnancy that hasn't gone away. It was pretty overwhelming overhauling our diet so drastically, but in some ways it was a blessing in disguise. We still are able to eat all the foods we love, but without all the added chemicals we used to eat so food actually tastes even better now. We all love burgers, so Veronica has started making homemade ketchup, mustard, and fresh sesame buns! She was scared to taste the mustard at first because it wasn't as yellow as what we were used to, but it ended up being so good!



Veronica is a stay at home mom. Quitting her job as a mechanical engineer was an easy choice for her because her mom also stayed home when she was growing up. When she was little, Veronica and her siblings wanted to make clothes for their dolls. They all made sketches of what they wanted their doll clothes to look like, and Veronica's mom explained to them the basics of how to make a pattern. She also taught them all how to thread and use the sewing machine. Veronica's first doll outfit was a disaster and didn't fit the doll at all, but with practice and continued guidance from her mom, she became good at making all sorts of things. Your baby will have a mom who is always there to teach them and guide them whenever they come up with their next cool idea.

Get to Know Veronica ^{by Tom}

Veronica is very **talented musically and plays many instruments**: piano, Irish whistle, French horn, trumpet and guitar. Many times throughout the day she will play music and sing. One evening recently, she was creating some new music on the piano. When she started to play, the girls ran over to sit next to her at the piano. Then they sang along and danced. She has such a soothing style that I usually lay on the couch next to the piano and relax there listening to her. It often puts me to sleep like a lullaby. Your baby will grow up surrounded by music.



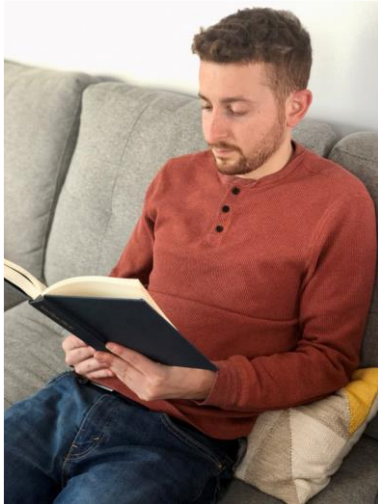
Veronica **has a super power**...she can cook. But not just cook in the normal sense, she can create recipes in her head and she knows exactly what each spice will add to or take away from a dish. Then, she goes into the kitchen and makes it all from theory. She calls these dishes “experiments”, but they almost always come out as if they are a meal that has been refined over a decade. However, one time she made some Indian food that I felt didn’t quite live up to her normal delicious fare. To this day we joke about it when she says she is going to experiment. I always say, “as long as it’s not your Indian food”.

Veronica is very **mechanically talented**. She will often design things for us to use around the house. One time we needed a key hook, so instead of buying one from the store she went on the computer and designed it from scratch. She played around with the design for a couple of hours until she had something she thought she’d like. After her design, she asked for some feedback from me and then she 3D printed it for us to use that very same day. It basically looked like a clothes hanger with some “hooks” on the sides to put our keys. It ended up working so well in our closet that we printed a second one!



Get to Know Tom

by Veronica



Tom **reads tons of books** and will go for anything non-fiction that piques his interest. Recently he read multiple books on adoption so that he can be as prepared as possible to welcome your child into our family. The other evening, I loved watching Tom get all animated and excited as he shared with me what his book was discussing about how God's heart has always been for loving and protecting children. Tom's highest goal in life is to be a good dad, and he is always excited when he learns more about God as our father so that he can try to emulate those characteristics.

Tom **loves to goof around** and it adds a lot of laughter to our home. Last time we saw the girl's cousins, Tom started to challenge the kids to see how strong they were, and the cousins proceeded to pile up on top of him trying to prevent him from moving. He got them all laughing and riled up, it was so fun to watch! If I'm ever having a rough day, life just gets so much brighter the moment he walks into the house after work. He can get me laughing no matter how I'm feeling. Your child would grow up with a dad who can bring smiles to even the hardest days.



Tom is very **athletic and loves playing sports**. He's played soccer, ultimate frisbee and spikeball competitively. This year at our family reunion someone brought Spikeball sets. I loved watching him do dive rolls over the net to keep the ball in play and seeing how he became so immersed in every moment. I was really surprised that even when playing on a team with someone that had no idea how to play the game, Tom was able to work with them and was so in tune with how they were playing that they still came out winning the game!

The start of Our Relationship



How we first met is a bit confusing, but basically **we got introduced to each other by a stranger** at an event. We got to talking and we found out we had gone to the same college, at the same time, and had both studied engineering! At the time, though, neither of us had any interest in each other. In fact, Veronica emphatically told her sisters after meeting Tom that she would never date someone like him because she was afraid that they would be too similar to each other.

A few months later, **we both just so happened to sign up for a bible study** at a local church, **and we were placed in the same group**. It didn't take long for Veronica to change her mind about Tom when she realized our dynamic was actually very fun! Tom hadn't thought of Veronica as more than a friend either until a mutual friend told Tom he thought we would make a great match. That's all it took for Tom to start feeling intrigued. It didn't take long before Tom asked Veronica out and we started dating!



Our greatest passion in life is caring for and raising children, and it's something we deeply desire to pour our hearts, energy, time and resources into. We have always been very open to adoption because **adoption has already played a big role in forming our family**, we believe all children are gifts from God, and we do not feel that it is important for our children to be genetically related to us. We believe that God loves children even more than we do, so we trust that He has a plan for when and how to bring children into our family. We've chosen to pursue adoption at this time because we believe God is leading us in this direction.

Our Daughters

Cora and Liara



Cora's favorite thing right now is **learning about animals**! We have a huge book about animals and we spend time reading it with her almost every day! Tom was very excited when he bought season passes to the zoo for our family recently. He loves to see Cora experience seeing in real life all of the animals she reads about in her book. There is a page about gorilla's in our book, and we had watched videos of gorillas beating their chests. So, last time we were at the zoo, Cora started pounding her chest when she saw the gorillas! Your child will be supported in whatever interests them.

Your child would never get bored with **two older sisters that would do anything to see him or her laugh**. The other day, Cora was on the toy piano, and she would play a random note and then scream. Liara was just sitting there watching Cora intently, and then would start laughing hysterically as soon as Cora screamed. Cora just kept going at it over and over and did everything she could to keep Liara laughing!



Your baby would always have a **'team' to go through life with** with two older sisters! For Veronica, growing up as one of 7 kids was the greatest gift she ever received because no matter what game she wanted to play, she always had a playmate! Her favorite game was Knockout as a kid, and she used to practice for endless hours with her siblings. They were determined to have one of the siblings win whenever they faced their cousins or friends in the game. A win for one sibling was a win for them all!

A peak into Our Life



We spend every Sunday morning at church! We are active Christians and **we love the amazing community at our church!** When we were in the hospital with Liara after she got very sick at 3 weeks old, we not only had church members praying for her, but the pastor's wife even offered to babysit Cora! It meant a lot to us that people were so ready to help us during a very stressful time. We try to give back to our church as much as we can, so Tom helps with the tech ministry, and Veronica helps in the nursery and with leading worship!



Veronica has gone to a coffee shop nearby every Saturday morning for 8 years, so when the girls were born it seemed only natural to bring them along. They know all of the regulars, many of whom are young families with children. Recently, **Veronica met up with two of her sisters for coffee and the girls got to see their cousin Joseph.** Even though Veronica and her sisters have a group text that gets used extensively, they still love getting together in person and never seem to run out of things to talk about.



As long as the weather is good, almost **every day after dinner we go for a walk** and stop at one of the many playgrounds in our neighborhood. The other day at the playground, another little girl kept trying to befriend Cora even though Cora was feeling shy. Eventually Cora warmed up, though, and had so much fun going down the slides with her. Your child would have lots of opportunities to get to know other children in their neighborhood.

Every month we spend a Saturday **hosting close friends at our home**. We've done bible studies together and right now we're reading a book on parenting and discussing it as a group. One of the best things about our get togethers is that everyone is willing to share their mind, really challenge each other, and help each other thrive as parents. Recently, the book we were reading recommended regularly journaling about your child's growth. So we all had a discussion about how we can best observe and take note of where our children are at emotionally, behaviorally and developmentally. The goal is to always be aware of how they are doing so that we can strategize the best ways to help them. Discussion like these have really given us great ideas for how to best parent our children in every stage of growth.



We make fresh bread from freshly milled flour 4-5 days a week! The other day, like usual, Cora was helping Veronica measure and mill the wheat for the flour, and she insisted on mixing the dough together. Cora also asked Veronica to let Liara take a turn mixing the dough, so Veronica helped Liara hold the spoon and showed her how to mix. While Veronica was focused on Liara, Cora grabbed the dough, stuck a glob of it in her mouth and started loudly saying "mmm! mmm!" Veronica told Cora that we can't eat raw dough, but it was hard not to laugh. Your child would grow up finding fun in every moment.



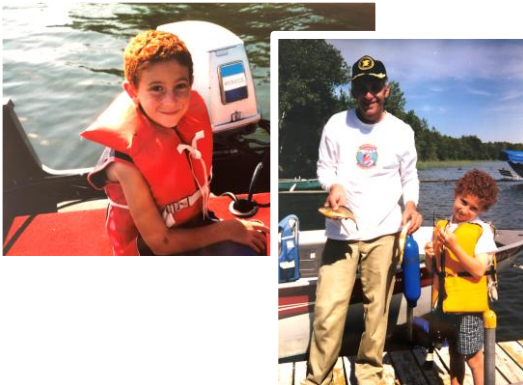
We loved pizza night growing up, so once a week we have pizza, and Veronica makes it from-scratch and tavern style. **You can't go wrong with good pizza**, so it's a meal we love to share with other people! Recently, Grandma and Grandpa came over to join us! After eating dinner, Grandma and Grandpa took the kids to the park nearby to play. The girls love the park and when they came back they had huge excited smiles about the time spent with Grandpa & Grandma.



Introducing Our Big Family

If you chose us your baby would have 2 sets of grandparents, 7 aunts, 4 uncles, and **42 cousins!**
Our family is growing rapidly, though, so that number could be even bigger by the time your baby is born!

Veronica's side of the family is like being part of a **huge cheerleading section**, and a lot of the time that is quite literal! Even as adults, Veronica's siblings would go to their youngest sister's high school track and cross country meets, and they were the loudest people in the stands, whether she came in first or last! She is in college now, so recently she had a college track meet that was out of state, but we all had the live stream from the meet on our phones and were cheering her on through a group text! Someone even sent a text to everyone updating us on what the weather was like at the meet so that we'd know what she was experiencing on her run! Your baby would be surrounded by tons of encouragement and support!



Tom's family **loves to fish** and they've done it every summer for his whole life. One of Tom's favorite memories was the time he was on a fishing trip when he was little, and Tom's mom has retold it to Veronica on multiple occasions because she loves the story so much. Tom caught a big fish and told his dad, but his dad didn't believe he'd actually caught a big one because he had been catching weeds all day thinking they were big fish as well. When Tom pulled his fish in all by himself, his parents were so surprised because typically he would have needed help bringing in such a fish.

Adoption has played a big role in forming our family. Veronica has 4 cousins adopted from Russia and two cousins adopted from Mexico. They were adopted together as a sibling group when Veronica was still young, so she never remembered a time they weren't in her life. Her favorite memory growing up with them was when they would all play at the playground across the street from their cousins' house. As a child, even though Veronica always knew her cousins were adopted, it was so normal to her that it never occurred to her to talk about their adoption with them. They were all far more interested in playing games together as family *and* friends.



Our family all lives close by, and we have both sets of grandparents a short drive away. It seems like we have family members at one of the grandparents' houses all the time. The other day, Veronica's cousin was at her parents house so we all went over to hang out with her! Her cousin is a birth mother herself, and is also in the process of becoming a foster parent, so we had such a good time catching up with her and her husband and hearing her adoption story. Another time recently, Veronica was dropping off Cora and Liara to be babysat and was surprised to see the girls' aunt and cousin were there as well! Your child would grow up regularly seeing their family.



Our family really looks out for each other. The other day Veronica was talking to her sister, and her sister was telling Veronica that she wished she could meet a guy that cared about people the way our family cares about each other. She reminded Veronica of the time she was having terrible cramps in the night and ran out of Tylenol. A different sister voluntarily got up in the middle of the night to drive 30 minutes one way to get pain medication to her. It really made her appreciate how lucky she was to have our family. Even though there are a lot of people in our family, no ones needs get overlooked, and everyone matters. Your child would grow up with family that wants to know about their struggles and help them through it.

Having many different cultures in our family keeps life fun and interesting! Tom is half Puerto Rican, so we have lots of family from there and some who are still in Puerto Rico. Veronica has a Tanzanian uncle and cousins, an aunt from Germany, and we both have friends from African, east Asian, and Middle Eastern countries. Growing up, Veronica loved learning Swahili words from her cousins. One time in particular, they taught her what all the names in *The Lion King* translated to in Swahili, and then Veronica went to school to show off everything she had learned.



embracing Our Traditions

Tom's extended family gets together for Thanksgiving and Christmas eve and it's always **a Puerto Rican feast**. Tom's mom and aunts start off busy in the kitchen making things like arroz con gandules, empanadas and tostones or salsa while they chat with each other. Veronica enjoys hanging out in the kitchen to watch how they cook everything, and the girls get to play with their cousins. Last Thanksgiving, someone even stopped at a Puerto Rican bakery to pick up guava pastries and coconut pudding, neither of which we had tried before! We would love to know your background so that we can have fun exploring your child's culture with them. We'd also love to learn any of your favorite traditions so we can help your baby experience some of the things that have shaped who you are.



Every year we have **a huge family reunion weekend** and the girls get to see all of their first and second cousins! The aunts and uncles always do **a fun live music session in the barn** and the kids have a dance party. There is usually some combination of guitar, mandolin, flute or Irish whistle, a bodhrán (Irish drum) and plenty of people that jump up on stage to help sing! Grandpa took Cora onto the dance floor this year and she really let loose dancing to every song!

Abuela (Tom's mom) makes cookies for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas!

This year Cora had a lot of fun decorating Halloween cookies with her! They made ghosts, pumpkins and acorns. Abuela loves filling up her grandkids with good food so made sure to send Cora home with a big container of the cookies. When Cora got home that day she wouldn't stop talking about Abuela and the cookies, and even when we put her to bed that night she was still excitedly telling us about how she had used sprinkles to decorate the cookies. Abuela also keeps a bunch of child-sized aprons at her home so that she can get her grandchildren involved in holiday baking as they get older.



welcome to Our Community



We live in a suburban Illinois home. **Veronica's favorite part of our house is our kitchen.** It's not as big as we'd prefer, but we've put a lot of work into making it a place where we have all the tools we need. We also have a stool with rails at the counter so that the girls can be with her when she cooks everyday! The other day, the girls just wanted to be near Veronica while she was making dinner, so they emptied all of the food storage containers from a cabinet and played with them on the ground together. Your child will make many memories with family throughout their home.

We have a frozen custard place nearby that we love to go to. We'll often meet up with family there and we regularly run into people we know from our town. The owners recognize Veronica and used to call Veronica and her sisters 'the running club' because they would go on runs past the shop regularly. One time **we ran into Veronica's orchestra teacher from high school.** It was crazy seeing her after so many years, and it was really nice to catch up with her and have her meet Tom and our girls at the same time!



When the weather gets too cold for the playground, **our local library is the ideal backup.** There is a large play area for kids and the girls always get to interact with other kids when they go. Last time we went, Liara and Cora spent most of the time playing with a big toy train set and got some good practice sharing when another little girl wanted to join them!

A Typical Weekday



Tom works as an electrical engineer designing robotic systems. He gets **home from work every day at 3:45** so that **we can spend long evenings together**. The other day, as soon as Tom walked in the door, Cora ran to get a game out and asked Tom to sit and play with her. Tom gladly got down on the ground and played the game with her before we ate dinner as a family. Your child would get to spend quality time with both of us every single day.

Veronica quit her job after Cora was born to be a **stay at home mom**. She loves that she has the time to notice every little thing that makes them smile and every little thing that makes them scared as well. At one point, Cora developed an intense fear of noises. Car doors closing in the distance, a plane overhead, or even footsteps upstairs were terrifying to her. Veronica was always there to comfort her and gently help her overcome those fears. Veronica would also take joy in focusing on your child individually to make sure they get to learn at a developmentally appropriate level just for them.



Every night before bed, we all read bible stories together. The other night, we read the story about when Moses held up his staff and then God parted the sea. Cora found a pretend staff and held it above her head just like Moses did in the picture book. Then we read about Moses hitting the rock in the desert when they were thirsty and the water came out of it. Cora hit the ground with her “staff” while Veronica pretended water was pouring out of the ground. Your baby would have fun quality time as a family reading bible stories at night.

with our sincere
Gratitude

Thank you for taking the time to read about us. We know it's not ideal to get to know someone through a few pages, but we hope that you feel you know us a bit now. We would consider it an undeserved honor and privilege to dedicate our lives to caring for your child. We deeply respect your desire to sacrificially choose what is best for your baby, and we trust you to determine whether or not we can meet that need. If you choose us, we would always tell your baby about you, and **we'd love to maintain contact with you throughout the years** if that is something you are comfortable with. We hope we can get to know you better and support you and your baby. We pray you find strength, peace, and tangible solutions to whatever hardships you face.



