



LAUREN & SCOTT

Dear Birthmother,

Our dream is to welcome a second child into our loving family. We can't wait to shower him or her with love and attention and to watch both our children enjoy the playful and tender moments of childhood together. We're eager to give your child a wonderful life. Your child will always know how much you care and how difficult a decision this was for you. Together, we will make sure your child will grow up knowing how much you care.

Hopefully, our letter will help you know our family and what we would like to offer you and your child. We hope we will get a chance for a conversation with you and perhaps to meet as well, if that's comfortable for you.

We are a couple who are lucky enough to have wonderful chemistry together as well as shared perspectives on just about everything, from how to parent to similar work interests. We have found that a great sense of humor, together with overlapping views on both the small and big things in life have helped make our lives "click".



A kiss after our wedding on the beach



A recent visit to Disneyland



Lauren and Sonya greet a gorilla at the zoo

Fertility treatments were able to help us conceive our daughter, Sonya. However doctors advised us that further fertility treatments will not help us conceive a second child. Adoption has always been a positive part of our life. We have a number of friends who were themselves adopted and who have shared how adoption has been a very positive and meaningful part of their lives. And we have other friends who have adopted children and are having a wonderful experience with their children. Their children enrich our lives regularly. They have been inspiring for us as we look forward to growing our family with the help of adoption.

Our families and friends are enthusiastic about our adopting and can't wait to welcome our next child into our family and friendship circle.

Our lives are perfect for parenting. We both have flexible work schedules that allow us to spend lots of time together as a family. Scott is a professor in the sciences and his office is within walking distance of our home. Lauren is a doctor at a hospital, also very close by, and she sees patients one day a week. We both are researchers and this allows us a great deal of flexibility in shaping our hours. Family is the first priority for both of us. We have the financial security to guarantee both a comfortable, secure life for our children and funds for college should they wish to go. Our home is full of love and laughter, and we are excited to share our home and hearts with your child.

Our strengths as parents are also the gifts we have given each other – playfulness, a love of exploration, and a commitment to honesty. We met through work when Scott visited the science lab in which Lauren was working. He had just finished training for a triathlon and Lauren was struck by how handsome, fit and energetic he was. Scott thought Lauren was one of the most beautiful and kind women he had ever met. We really got to know each other when we were assigned to do a research project together.

Outside of the lab Scott was teaching a free beginner swing dance class once a week; Lauren decided to sign up to learn. Sure enough, his energy and confidence in the lab translated into his being a great, fun dance teacher as well. Lauren soon invited Scott to join her for tango lessons. Within a few months, we enrolled together in an advanced swing class and ended up performing together less than a year later. When swing dancing, we both have extra fun when Lauren takes a turn leading while Scott swivels his hips and spins around hamming it up as the “girl”. It always gets lots of laughs from onlookers as he is usually the tallest man in the room. Thus our work partnership led to a dance partnership and a life partnership. In fact, our wedding rings have “Always Partners” inscribed in them.

Our love and respect for each other grew and, after two more years of shared work projects and free time spent dancing, sailing, traveling and snorkeling together, we realized we really wanted to start a family together. We got engaged on Valentine's Day and had a small family wedding in a beautiful beach setting in Florida.

LAUREN:

I grew up in a Boston suburb and both my parents still live in the area. My brother, David, and I are four years apart but we always played together when we were kids. We are still extremely close, talking to each other on the phone at least weekly and spending Thanksgiving, Christmas and other holidays together. He lives in New York which is an easy distance for either of us to travel.

After college, I was first a high school science teacher. While I loved being in the classroom teaching science, I realized that what I liked best about being a high school teacher was the science itself and the personal connections I developed with individual students. I realized I wanted "more science". So, after three years of teaching I decided to go to medical school. I can't imagine a more rewarding job than the one I now have. I am regularly moved when patients express their gratitude that I listened to them carefully and asked the right questions. I am often the doctor who is able to solve the medical puzzles that other doctors find difficult to solve. They sometimes even hug me on their way out of the office. When not seeing patients, I am focused on research aimed at expanding medical knowledge. I am grateful to have a career that is both deeply satisfying and also very flexible in terms of my schedule so that I can make our time together as a family a priority.

MORE ABOUT LAUREN (BY SCOTT):

Lauren is one of the most caring, thoughtful, and social people I know. She seems to always know what is going on in a room, even when there are many people doing lots of things. For example, we visit Lauren's uncle in Philadelphia every Thanksgiving. The celebration includes Lauren's brother, mother, and various cousins (as many as 18 people). Lauren loves such events as she has close relationships with most of the people there. What I always find amazing is that Lauren is somehow tuned into all the conversations; her style of connecting with everyone seems to be a key part of why everything goes so swimmingly at the party. She is extremely dynamic and loves to have fun with me and our daughter, Sonya. She can be heard singing songs and can be seen dancing around with Sonya on a daily basis. When Sonya begins an imagined activity, like Mickey Mouse visiting for lunch, Lauren is right there, spreading imaginary peanut butter on Mickey's bread.

Based on these descriptions, it may not be surprising that Lauren is the "caretaker" and organizer for our family. She is the one who generally plans meals, initiates baking projects, and schedules doctor visits. She is the epitome of a loving, nurturing parent. This, together with her energy and willingness to play, makes our home such an enjoyable place to be.

I love coming home to her every night and being together on the weekends.

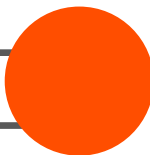
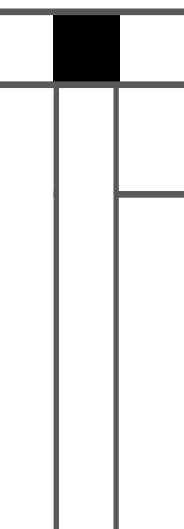
SCOTT:

I was born in southern California, but much of my childhood was spent in a rural area of Washington State where I spent lots of time exploring the woods that bordered our backyard. I am very close to my older sister Heather who lives in California with her husband and four daughters. My father is deceased and my mother, Jan, lives near Heather.

I first became an engineer but changed my professional focus and I am now a science professor at a college in the Boston area. I am truly energized by standing in front of a room and lecturing to my students. The other part of my job is doing science research. I often compare what I do to solving a



Making jello (a family favorite)



complicated puzzle or playing a video game. My favorite part of science is designing experiments to answer questions no one has ever been able to answer before. I brainstorm, explore different perspectives, and fiddle with the experimental design until I think it's perfect. A very important part of this to me is the dynamic exchange of ideas with bright students in my lab and with Lauren. After an experiment is complete, we have created new knowledge, an answer to a question that helps science move forward. It is a complete thrill for me.

It's funny that I love school now but actually hated it as kid. To me, school was boring and I wanted to explore the world and go play outside rather than be cooped up inside. When I got to high school, my mother informed me that my performance would now "count" to get into college, so I did eventually become a good student. It was hard to do well at the beginning though, particularly that first year, and I am lucky it worked out. Through my experiences, I have learned to value education very highly and will pass the importance of education on to my children. I have also learned that it's important to be patient with children while they find the path that is right for them. I was never shamed for not liking school as a kid. With my own children, I will do my best to make learning fun and rewarding. But, above all, I treasure appreciating each child's unique feelings about what they find interesting, challenging and worth pursuing more.

MORE ABOUT SCOTT (BY LAUREN):

Scott is one of the brightest people I know and is so fun to hang out with that his students hang around his lab chatting and laughing with him for hours. His huge smile is infectious and his big laugh carries throughout our apartment. He is always happy to go out to eat, to take a walk around a nearby park, or to help plan an upcoming vacation. Scott is also incredibly thoughtful and empathic. Scott is a real morning person, bounding out of bed early and immediately awake and full of energy. I, on the other hand, am a night owl and don't really get going until I have had my morning cup of coffee. Scott doesn't complain about my sleepiness or push me to wake up when he does. Instead, he brews a pot of coffee and brings me a mug in bed!

Scott is a very playful parent. He is always down on the floor playing legos or building forts and is happy to have another round of pretend "tea". He's willing to dress up as a pirate or a ghost and play hide and seek for hours. Scott is also the more adventurous outside – walking to work even in a downpour, building snowmen no matter how little snow there is, snorkeling for hours. And because he is big (6'5"!) he also makes a great indoor jungle gym and has a big lap for cuddling while watching a Disney movie on a rainy afternoon.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER:

Sonya was born in 2005 and enormously enriched our life together. Lauren badly strained muscles in her neck during labor such that, for the first week or two after



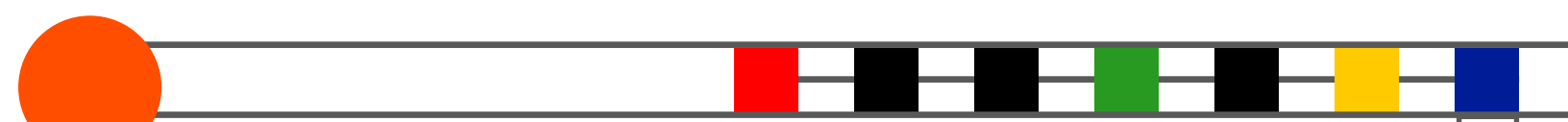
Scott and Sonya exploring



Lauren with her brother, David



Scott with three of his nieces



delivery, she couldn't look down or really carry Sonya around. Scott came to the rescue doing all the swaddling, diaper changes and shuttling Sonya to Lauren to nurse. To keep Lauren from feeling too badly that she couldn't spend her every waking moment smiling down at the baby in her arms, he would take lots of pictures with the digital camera and then show them to Lauren so she could admire the baby while looking straight ahead!

Once her neck was recovered, Scott demonstrated all the swaddling and comforting tricks had had learned on his own. Perhaps because of that early contact and Scott's having to take care of her from day one, Sonya has always been very attached to both of us. After a 10 week maternity leave, Lauren returned to work part-time. Scott cut back on his work hours too, so he could have one day a week home alone with Sonya.

On days that we are working we are always home before 6pm and we are committed to having breakfast and dinner together every day. We try to do some fun family activity every weekend and have well-used family memberships to the Boston Children's Museum, our local zoo, and the New England Aquarium.

Perhaps because we are each so close to our siblings, we are eager for Sonya to have a brother or sister and not be an only child. Whenever we are out, we notice that Sonya is very social with other children and plays well with other kids, especially littler ones. She is a very kind little girl and other parents often comment on how good she is at sharing and taking turns. When we are out, she always wants to peek in strollers to say hello to babies because she thinks they are "so cute!" We can't wait to be able to tell her that her dream of becoming a real big sister is coming true.

We continue to travel every year including beach vacations and visits to family in Philadelphia and California. Even the few times we have to travel for work related conferences we all go together and extend the time to make the trips family adventures in cities like Orlando, San Diego, Washington D.C. and Atlanta. No matter where we are, we try to look for opportunities for exploration and fun. Sometimes on the way to the park next door, Sonya will want to stop and float leaves in a puddle, for example. Rather than insist on continuing to the park, we are always happy to let her experiment and figure things out on her own as long as she is safe.

While Scott has many nieces, Sonya is the only grandchild on Lauren's side so she gets showered with love and attention by both her local grandparents. Both sides of the family know about the plan to adopt and are excited to welcome another grandchild into our family. Early on we learned that we have slightly different family traditions but instead of picking between them we have blended them to make traditions of our own. For example, Scott always opened Christmas presents Christmas Eve while Lauren's family opened presents Christmas morning. So we now have two rounds of Christmas presents – some Christmas Eve and more the next morning! Lauren's family's fall apple picking and Scott's family's regular trips to Disneyland perfectly compliment each other. We look forward to including a new child in our family traditions and adventures.

OUR HOME:

We live in a beautiful home in a residential section of Boston known for its focus on family life. Families are often seen taking walks together, playing in the parks, walking their dogs and otherwise enjoying the community. It has one of the



Our yard and the playground next door



best public school systems in the state. Our home has open space for cooking together, quiet space for studying or having time alone, a marvelous play area in the living room and lots of nooks and crannies for playing hide and seek. Thanks to Sonya, we are already baby-proofed!

Where we live affords us the best of both worlds as we are right next door to a great playground that we visit many times a week and we are also an easy trip downtown on the trolley to the Public Garden to ride the swan boats or to admire the ice sculptures on New Year's Eve. A 30 minute drive takes us to rural areas for apple picking or swimming in a friend's pond, while a 15 minute walk takes us to nearby shops and restaurants including pizza, burritos, and café's with yummy hot chocolate. Our home will be a place of happy memories for our children.

OUR PLEDGE TO YOU:

We will always be unspeakably grateful if you choose us to be the adoptive parents of your child. We will make sure that he or she knows you made your decision with love and hope in your heart. We will teach them to respect you and to honor you and the choices you make. We will raise your child with strong values, teaching them to be open-minded, compassionate and responsible world citizens. As we are both professionals and academics, we are very committed to providing a top notch education, including college if they want, for our children. We understand that every child is unique and we will honor both of our children's particular learning styles and try to help them develop their particular skills and interests. We will provide a home with two loving parents who have flexible work schedules and who make family their first priority.

We both believe in establishing a safe, loving home in which your child can grow, blossom, and feel rooted as they explore their world. We are happy to send you regular photos and letter updates so you will be able to see your child is happy and thriving. We are open to learning about the ways you might want to stay in touch over the years as well. We want you to be assured that your dreams for your child are being fulfilled, and we want your child to know how much you truly love them.

If you want to learn more about us, please call Full Circle Adoptions at 1-800-452-3678. We'll be happy to talk with you and meet with you as well, if you'd like, so you can get to know us a little better. Whatever your decisions are, in the days ahead, we wish you well and send our good wishes that your dreams for you and your child are fulfilled.

Sincerely,

Lauren and Scott

