SFLY051114-347

MAYA & SAM

A Little Bit of Our Story

We were friends from the moment we met at 18 in 2003. We started dating five years later and have since gotten married, moved cities, hiked mountains, and become a loving aunt and uncle.

I'm Maya and I've spent the last ten years working as a therapist, social worker and nanny. People describe me as easygoing, thoughtful, and easy to make laugh.

I like trashy movies and art movies equally, same with books and music for that matter. Generally, I try my best to find enjoyment where I can and not sweat the small stuff.

Some things I enjoy are meeting new people, taking things slowly, and feeling surprised.

MAYA GROWING UP

I was a very social and imaginative kid and would describe my family environment as supportive and a little hippie.

Growing up we moved between Tennessee, Guatemala, New York, Austin and Massachusetts. My parents divorced when I was in elementary school and I got to have two step-sisters and a step dad later in childhood. From moving so much I learned how to make friends fast and as a relatively outdoorsy kid gave me more places to explore. Holidays were spent with our large extended families in upstate New York which was wonderful for me - I felt surrounded by loving aunts, uncles, and cousins.

My name is Sam. I've worked in software for ten years. I recently left a start-up to begin my own company so that I have more time and flexibility to explore other areas of life – including parenthood. The people close to me describe me as generous, open, and accepting. I try to live by my values and keep busy, and I like to think I have a sense of humor.

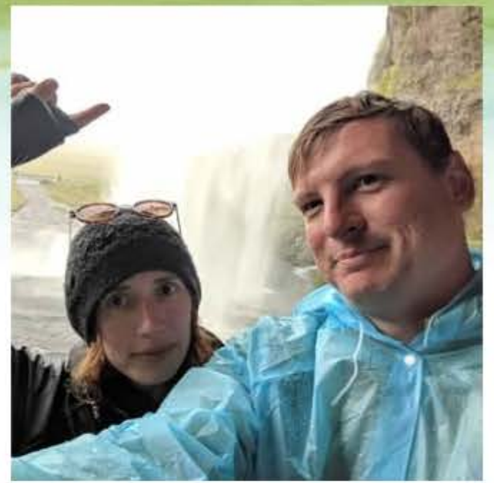
I'm most comfortable and in my element hanging out with other people.

SAM GROWING UP

Even as a kid I liked to do everything with other people.

Growing up in the New York City suburbs, I was pretty typical in my interests - particularly baseball, Star Wars, and being liked by other kids. I have strong memories from childhood of my maternal grandfather visiting nearly every Saturday morning, and Bob (a friend of my parents) visiting Sunday night for dinner, bringing a different cake each week. We took a family trip every summer, often seeing my paternal grandparents in Syracuse.

Sam appreciates how Maya exudes compassion towards those around her, whether it be her family, friends, or housemates. She excels at building community and maintaining close bonds with friends spanning the globe. She easily develops deep academic interest in far-flung areas, whether it be moss, religion, poetry, or disease, and enthusiastically explores her ideas with anyone willing. Her imagination and playful nature can turn any activity into a game, often a cooperative one that invites everyone in. She is remarkably uncompetitive, uninterested in efficiency and tends to prioritize the thoughts and feelings of those in her company. She doesn't do well at trivia, but she is well-liked enough that she is always invited.



Maya thinks of Sam as a giving, sincere, and very open person. He has a lot of humility and the sort of patience and care that defies logic. He's goofy (but only with trusted folks) and enjoys doing sweet things for people. He believes in optimism - believes people can change, nothing is too emotionally hairy to handle, and he can always do better. It's deeply a part of him to see his loved ones as the coolest most lovable people in the world which Maya is perpetually grateful for. When we're together he is a careful listener, and endlessly helpful.

Some Things About Maya

Values: Gentleness, Patience
Often Heard Saying: "I think we could wing it"
Will Cry: When given gifts/at nature
Surprising Talent: Pie Making
As a Kid: Most Varied Pets
Well Loved Book: Frog and Toad Together
Odd Habit: Eating straight slabs of cheese in the middle of the night

Some Things about Sam

Values: Honesty, Curiosity
Often Heard Saying: "I don't know what you mean - this is going great!"
Will Cry: At Sappy Films
Surprising Talent: Making up Screenplays
As a Kid: Loved Hats!
Well-Loved Book: The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy
Odd Habit: Makes a little hiccup sound when he gets a chill

WHAT WE DO FOR FUN

-Backpacking
-Bowling (Sam)
-Painting (Maya)
-Theater
-Trivia (mostly for the friends)
-Looking at Art (but not knowing much about it)
-Lake swimming

OUR FAMILY

Sam's parents and Maya's mom

Maya's mom and brother

Sam's dad, sister, niece, and sister-in-law

OUR NIECE

We are so lucky to live right next door to Sam's sister, their wife, and their amazing daughter - who is an affectionate and dearly loved little one who loves Moana, swing rides, and hugs. We get to be Auntie M and Uncle Sam with her and see each wonderful new discovery through her eyes. Our family is still somewhat bi-coastal with our parents living on the East Coast (but visiting often!) but we are so happy to have both of our siblings (Maya's brother and his wife too) here in California.

OUR FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY

We have lived in the Bay long enough to be embraced by so many hilarious, strong, beautiful people who we have relied on like a family for the last ten years. We see our friends often, hosting movie nights together, putting on murder mysteries, hanging out in the backyard, and being around to lean on when we need some support from each other. Our friends are a source of love, change, hope, and joy for us.

We love the energy of big gatherings, the singing, and silliness and feeling like everyone is engaged and content.

OUR LIVES TOGETHER
(Our neighborhood)

The Patio Between Our House and Sam's Sister's House

Sam Reading to Our Niece in the Living Room

The Amazing Park Down the Street

Valentine's Day Fun Run

Cooking Competitions

Hiking with Friends

Our Yearly December Art Exchange

HOPES FOR OUR CHILD

We both hope to be parents one day and already feel a welling of love and tenderness for the idea of a child we may someday have in our lives. Of course we have thoughts of the things we can show them, making tree forts, forming friendships, and the opportunities we want to make sure they have in the world - but more important than any of that is the hope that our child feels supported in exactly who they are. The best we can imagine is that our child knows they are deeply loved, feels the freedom to grow and change, and finds happiness that is uniquely their own.

VISIONS FOR OPEN ADOPTION

Our vision for an open adoption is one of comfort and inclusion and that our child feels loved and a part of their entire family. We want our child to know where they came from, and still be part of their biological family in their heart and in their lives. We hope to have a relationship with our child's birth family that is warm, welcoming, sincere, and ongoing. This feels important not just for creating a sense of belonging for our child but for everyone to know that we accept one another as family.

Thank you so much for taking the
time to read through our story.
~Maya and Sam