



Anna & Víctor



Hello!

We are Anna and Victor. We are so excited about starting our adoption journey and are so grateful that you have taken the time to see our photo book

Our Origin Story



We have been together since August of 2018. We met climbing in Juarez, Mexico when a mutual friend brought both of us to the mountains. Anna was living in El Paso, TX at the time and Victor in Juarez, MX. Hiking up the mountain together that first day, we realized we saw the world in very similar ways. We both care deeply about family, being outdoors, exploring new cultures, and languages. Victor was trying to learn English at the time, and Anna was trying to learn Spanish. Despite not always having the perfect words, we spent the whole day making jokes and laughing. We became an official couple three days after meeting.



After we had been dating for a while, and when Victor knew it was serious, he introduced Anna to Sue, his six-year-old daughter. Anna and Sue bonded right away and realized that they both loved being silly together, making up languages, pretending to be explorers in the mountains, and of course, ganging up on Victor.

Engagement

We met in our early thirties. Right away, we were very serious about each other. Seven months into our relationship, we decided to quit our jobs and take a road trip starting in Baja and working our way down to Chiapas, Mexico. Not only did we have a blast traveling together, but we quickly realized that we loved each other deeply and wanted to spend the rest of our lives together. Halfway through our trip, Victor proposed to Anna while hiking up to the top of Pico de Orizaba, which is the highest mountain in Mexico. Anna quickly said yes!!!



Wedding

Anna's brothers flew all the way from the Netherlands to be with us, and her parents came down from Santa Fe. They crossed the bridge from El Paso to Juarez where we were waiting for them with Victor's family. Both families drove together to the mountains in Juarez and hiked to a small old chapel built into the side of the mountain. There

Anna's father officiated our wedding. We then went for a big family dinner in Downtown Juarez at an old historic restaurant. We still look back on that day in awe of our families, the distances they traveled, and their unwavering support of our relationship.





Us with Victor's sisters



Our mothers



Our family dinner after our wedding



*Us with Sue, our Nieces and nephew
on Victor's side of the family*



Us with Anna's three older brothers



Our Parents



Victor and our fathers

Anna's Story

I grew up in Santa Fe NM, where my parents live to this day. My father grew up in El Paso, Tx, not far from where we live, and my mother grew up in the Netherlands. They met when my father was stationed in Germany during Vietnam. My mother moved to Santa Fe, NM to be with my father who moved there after college. Eventually they got married and started a family. I grew up with three older brothers, who I am still very close to. With my father's encouragement, I grew up taking lots of art classes which gave me an important creative outlet. I also grew up playing a lot of sports, trying to keep up with my brothers. To this day, I love outdoor sports, skiing, climbing, and swimming. Being that my mother is from the Netherlands, we went to Holland to see our extended family and my grandparents when possible. Being in a bicultural household was also a significant part of our upbringing. As a young family, we lived in the Netherlands for one year, attending primary school to learn Dutch which we used to communicate with our family. I currently have two brothers that moved back to the Netherlands with their families. We were always encouraged by our parents to learn from different parts of the world, learn new languages, explore new foods and experiences. I think those values played a significant role in me finding Victor and Sue.



Anna and her cousins in Holland



Anna with her brother, Chris



Anna with her middle brother, Nick



Anna, her Brothers and her cousin Laura



Anna's childhood friend Riley

About Anna

In high school, I became really interested in international public health. I chose to pursue a career in nursing as a result, and then later a masters in Nurse Midwifery at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. I have always been passionate about working with individuals who have little to no healthcare access, which brought me eventually to El Paso and southern New Mexico, where I now work as a Midwife with a small public practice. I love working with women, helping them to transition through pregnancy and birth. I have learned so much as a midwife, seeing the many different paths we take as women, understanding that pregnancy and family building is never linear and is always multifaceted.



Family dinner in Santa Fe.



Us on Halloween with Sue and her cousins



Anna and some of her favorite outdoor activities

Victor's Story

I was born in Juarez, Mexico. My moms side of the family is from the copper canyon area in the Sierra Madres. She is a mix of Spanish and Indigenous heritage. When my mom was young, her family settled down in Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua where most of the family still lives. My father is also a blend of Spanish and indigenous heritage from Aguascalientes, Mexico. He moved to the border when he was a newborn. I came from these beautiful humans, Rosario, and Victor. I grew up in Juarez, on the border with El Paso, TX with my parents and my two older sisters. I have family on both sides of the border and spent most weekends crossing to El Paso for a carne asada with my extended family. My childhood was a mix of two countries and cultures with the addition of spending some time in South Chihuahua with my mothers family and Dodge city, Kansas. As a child, I always played sports like soccer and baseball. I used to listen to cowboy music, and with time, I become a big fan of classic rock music. I also discovered skate boarding which was a big part of my identity in my teen years. I always was very interested in science which led me to study Biology. I also discovered that I liked to write poetry and study philosophy. As an adult I discovered climbing, which has become a central part of my life.



Victor and his dad



Victor senior and all his grandkids



Victor and his mom



Victor and his sisters



About Victor

When I was younger, I worked in construction with my father in El Paso, learning electrical work among other things. My father always encouraged me to pursue a career. I eventually decided to study Biology and then Urban Planning for my masters at the University of Juarez. I worked as a Biologist before immigrating to the US with Anna. I now write for an independent magazine in Spanish, focusing on issues along the US/Mexico Border.



Victor and Sue



Climbing in Juarez



Cooking



Us with Victor's grandfather, mother, sister, nieces and Sue



Kayaking in Baja

Fun Facts about Us

We both love to joke around, making each other laugh. Victor loves to cook; always trying to mimic his grandfathers cooking from Cuauhtémoc. Anna is the baker of the family, baking bread, and different types of desserts for celebrations. We both love climbing, camping, surfing, trail running, playing in the snow and rivers of northern Mexico and the southwest of the US. When we are out exploring, we collect natural objects like seed pods, rock slabs, tree trunks that we now have as decoration around our house.

In our adventures, we have also collected folk art, textiles, and masks which we love. We both love being creative. Victor loves writing and photography. Anna likes ceramics, painting, and weaving. We love traveling, together, we hope to continue traveling in the future, trying new foods, visiting museums, learning from other cultures and languages. We love listening to music in Spanish and English, anything from boleros, rock, Mexican 80's and punk music. Victor loves collecting desert plants for the garden, right now we are very proud of our chiltepin, fig, and pomegranate tree. Victor loves classic cars and we often cruise up to scenic drive in El Paso with family and friends to see the view of the city.



Sue

Sue is now 12 years old. She is a bleeding heart, caring deeply for all those around her, especially her family. She is very funny and creative, editing videos and pictures, making very cool special effects. She also loves drawing, painting, listening to music, climbing and camping when she gets the chance. Sue is very excited about the idea of our family growing and can't wait to be a big sister. Sue lives mostly with her mother in Juarez right now. Despite not being together all the time, we and Sue find that being part of a blended family is a beautiful thing as Sue is surrounded by two loving families.



Family and Friends



Left: nephews and nieces
from Juarez: Above:
With Anna's Brother and
sister in law



Anna's Aunt, Cousin and Niece

Victor, his parents and nieces heading to
Cuauhtémoc

Good friends from Santa Fe

Anna's brother and nephews



Victor's grandfather to the left; His cousins in photo above



Anna's two brothers and their families visiting from the Netherlands



The whole family in Cuauhtémoc

Our family and friends are very important to us. We have an incredibly supportive community that is very excited about our adoption. We have family in Juarez, Santa Fe, NM, Dodge city, Kansas, Denver, CO, Cuauhtémoc, and the Netherlands. We try to visit them as often as possible.



With Anna's oldest friends



Us with Anna's parents



Our Home and Neighborhood

We live in a very safe neighborhood, one block away from one of the favorite parks of El Paso. We also live in walking distance to a very good elementary school. Our neighborhood is very diverse, bringing families from all over the world. We also live close to the mountains where we run, ride our bikes, and walk Okochi. El Paso, TX and Juarez are very family friendly cities with many fun events for kids. We spend many weekends at El Arco, which brings together our whole community of friends and their families each Sunday to climb.



Us with our friends in the mountains

Okochi

Okochi is a fun-loving dog. He loves running with us in the mountains, hanging out in the sun while we are climbing. He makes friends easily, often sprinting circles around to see who will chase him. He loves kids, and often finds a way to play tug a war with whoever is around. He loves to go on walks with Victor's mom and her friends in the neighborhood. He also loves to cuddle up, especially when it little cold.





Dreams for Our Child

We are going to provide a loving supportive environment for our child that allows them to explore who they are in the context of their adoptive journey. Being part of a blended family with Sue, we have grown so much as individuals and as a family. We have seen the beauty that comes from a child who has two families that they can look to and truly rely on. We want our child to feel loved by all their family members, birth family and adoptive family. We hope to always explore with our child in our everyday lives, showing them that beauty can be seen in most places. We will always pursuit laughter and be silly with our child, showing them that creativity and fun can always change a moment for the better. We will help guide our child's spirituality, advocating for good values embraced by both families. Encouraging our child to always follow their heart, we will trust them to know what will bring them happiness and fulfillment in this world.