



SECHIN & KATIE



SFLY051114-347



Hello! We are Sechin and Katie. We hope this book shows you a little piece of who we are. Thank you for allowing us to share our story and lives with you.

Our Relationship

We met through a mutual friend at a Halloween party in 1996. Katie dressed up as a low-budget Tigger. (Unbeknownst to Katie, tigers are Sechin's favorite animal!) We began dating and Katie knew very soon after, that she and Sechin were perfect for each other. "If he had asked me the to marry him the week after we met, I would have said yes!"

On July 25, 1999, we got married in the chapel at Lakeside School in Seattle, WA. We honeymooned in Southern California, spending a lot of our time at Disneyland and Universal Studios. We ate lunch one day a restaurant called "The Blue Bayou." It is a very special place for us and we eat there every time we visit Disneyland.



After graduating from CWU in 2002, we moved to an apartment. A couple years after we were established in our teaching jobs, we bought and moved into our first--and only!--house in 2004. We moved in with our first cat, Phoebe, who sadly passed away in 2011. In 2006, we adopted our second cat, Nirja.

We love hosting all types of parties at our house: Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Oscars viewing parties, and our "Week of Geek." Together, we like to attend conventions and meet celebrities from our favorite shows and movies. We also like to game together and go wine tasting at the local wineries.

We go together like peas and carrots! Sechin keeps Katie grounded and Katie helps Sechin be more social.



Meet Sechin



High School Assistant Principal

Hobbies: running, bicycling, drawing, painting, comic books, table-top games (especially Dungeons & Dragons)



Fun Facts about Sechin

- *Sechin means "Wise Counselor" in Mongolian. (My father chose that name because he was studying the history of Mongolia when I was born.)
- *I wrote Mad Science Institute, a series of young adult science fiction novels.
- *I live close enough to my work that I get to commute by bicycle.
- *I am a former table-top game designer (lead writer and assistant producer for Hollow Earth Expedition)
- *I lived in China as a student for 6 months.
- *My family pets have included cats, dogs, fish, parrots, and even a rescued baby crow we nursed back to health.

Sechin's Story



Sechin and Optimus Prime

I had a fantastic childhood. My parents always made it a high priority to provide me and my sister with opportunities for creativity, learning, and adventure. We went camping, attended sports camps, took art classes, bicycled all over the neighborhood, and traveled the west coast. I also spent a lot of my young life exploring my inner world of fantasy and imagination. My love of reading started early, especially science fiction and fantasy books, and my toys became actors in complex and action-packed dramas that played out throughout the house!

One of my favorite childhood memories was when I was in kindergarten and my mother created for me a home-made Halloween costume of a Jawa from Star Wars. She sewed together the brown robe and even wired two light bulbs to a battery pack so that I would have glowing eyes. I think this was one thing that led me to a lifelong enjoyment of Halloween, as well as doing crafty things like creating your own costumes.

I am closely in touch with my inner child, but I also take my responsibilities very seriously and I always want to contribute more than I take. A few years ago, when I was thinking of switching from being a teacher to being a principal, I did some soul-searching and discovered that my core values are love and learning. When I have love and learning and can share these things with others, I feel satisfied in life. Love inspires learning, and learning leads to love, and the point where the two meet is my source of creativity and joy!



Sechin's Story, cont'd...

Outside of my family, the most significant people in my life are my group of friends. We are a tightly-bonded group of four couples, and I have known most of them for nearly 30 years. We gather once or twice a month to share games, food, and conversation. The highlight of the year is a thing called KrisKon. Every year in the week between Christmas and New Years Day, we gather and live together, doing what we love the most. For the past few years we have rented houses for the week so that we could have a place big enough to host us all, and it is truly something to look forward to all year long.

I was a teacher for 16 years, and then recently made the transition to becoming an assistant principal at a large high school. This is a very challenging job, and I enjoy the challenge. I view my work as a chance to help others, to share my love of learning, and to break the cycle of poverty for students who have traditionally been left out of the benefits schools can offer. I recognize that not everyone has been given the privileges that I have had in life, so I've made it my mission to help people reach their potential and move into a brighter future.



Sechin and his dad



Sechin and his sister dressed up for Halloween



Baby Sechin and his grandmother



Sechin and a couple of authors he sells his book with



Sechin and the team of administrators in front of the high school he works at.

Meet Katie



Substitute elementary school teacher

Hobbies: Baking, crafting, wine tasting, listening to music, watching favorite TV shows/movies



Fun Facts about Katie

- *I began playing the flute in 5th grade and continued all through high school
- *My favorite Marvel characters are Captain America and Loki.
- *I love all kinds of music, but my favorite singer is Elton John.
- *I have a collection of 78 "You Are Here" mugs from Starbucks. 24 of them are from outside of the USA.
- *I love Harry Potter, Marvel, and Lord of the Rings.
- *I enjoy watching ALL sports. Go Hawks! Scarves up, Sounders!

Katie's Story



My parents still live in the same house my brother and I grew up in. My brother and I were fortunate enough to have at least one of our parents home all of the time. My dad worked M-F at a family-started business, while my mom worked weekend nights at a children's hospital. I am lucky that I grew up with a stable home life and hope to provide that for my little one.

I didn't participate in many sports outside of school. I ran cross-country and played basketball in 6th grade. Once I got to junior high, I joined the drill team, which I really enjoyed. I was also part of the band and, in high school, joined the marching band. We performed at the halftime shows for all of the home football games. Even though I consider myself to be both an introvert and an extrovert, being a part of a group or team always makes me feel more confident with myself. I have their back and they have mine.



One of my favorite memories is going to the beach as a family--my family, my cousins, and my grandparents. We would caravan down to Centralia, stop for a meal, and then the cousins would get into my grandparent's car to finish the trip. We all stayed at the same hotel. We would play on the beach, swim in the pool, and fly kites. We would also take day trips to the aquarium and get some salt water taffy! I loved those trips and look forward to making new beach memories with my child.

Katie's Story, cont'd...

My fifth grade teacher was a big influence on my life. She was a good teacher, with a nice balance of fun and strict. I wanted to be just like her when I grew up so I went into the teaching profession! At the end of the school year, she gave out awards to each student. I got the "Looks Most Like the Teacher" award. I'm still in contact with her today. Whenever I go into a classroom I've never been in before, I try to make the kids feel comfortable and welcomed, just like my 5th grade teacher did for me.

One of my favorite books/movies is 'Anne of Green Gables.' There is a quote from there that I like to live by: "Tomorrow is always fresh, with no mistakes in it...yet." We all make mistakes and as long as you can learn from them, you will live a happier life. I am not a perfect human being and I will make mistakes raising a child. I can promise that I will ask for help when I need it and learn from any mistake I may make.



Katie and her parents



Katie and her brother. The start of my mug collection!



Our Home and Neighborhood

We live in neighborhood of diverse ages. We see kids walking/bicycling to one of the local schools, as well as older families walking their dogs or doing yard work.

It's a quiet neighborhood with the occasional firework celebration on the 4th of July or when the Seahawks win.



We have wonderful neighbors that live across the street that are always willing to watch our sweet Ninja when we head out on vacation. It's so nice to know that our house is in good hands and under the watchful eyes of our neighbors.

Halloween!

Halloween is our FAVORITE holiday. We met at a Halloween party, so it's very special to us. Full disclosure, we "may" have started thinking of family group costuming!

Our love of costumes spills over into our everyday lives when we attend conventions or play role-playing games.

David S. Pumpkins and one of his dancers



Kate the Daredevil Pilot.
(From the role-playing game we helped write/sell)



Prof. Scrumtumbler (From the role-playing game we helped write/sell)



"Big Bird"
Katie - Halloween 1980



Dr. Evil





Katie's brother
sister-in-law, and
niece



Katie's parents



Sechin's sister, brother-in-law,
and 2 nephews



Sechin's dad and step-mom



Katie and both of her
grandmothers



Sechin's grandfather,
step-dad, sister and
mom



Many of our "geeky" friends



Friends and Family



Friends and Family

Sechin's grandparents



Our Favorite Places to Visit



GenCon in Indianapolis



*Universal Studios & Disneyland
(Raptor Encounter, Minions Ride, and Cinderella's Castle)*



*Las Vegas
(Waiting for the volcano show at The Mirage and
renewing our vows with Elvis!)*



*Oregon Coast
(Right next to Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach, OR)*

Dreams for Our Child

We hope to provide a loving, nurturing home where we teach the child to become an independent, caring, and confident individual. We want to share our creativity and curiosity through art, music, science, and sports. Being educators, we can help the child get the most out of school, while we also recognize that the most important learning almost never comes from just books. We believe that there is no one set path in life, but there are many ways a person can lead a happy life, and that it's always about seeking progress rather than perfection. We also look forward to having fun by playing games, watching movies, visiting comic conventions, vacationing on the beach, occasionally traveling to Disneyland, and always finding ways to take joy in the people (and pets) we love.



The world is a wonderfully big place that requires each person to explore it in their own way, so we want to give a child everything an explorer would need. We want to share a map of what we know about the world, including how to navigate school, work, finances, personal relationships and more, all the while knowing that the child will someday have to travel beyond where we've ever been. We want to give a compass to guide the way, which means having a strong set of values that includes showing kindness to others and always seeking to make the world a better place. We also want to provide a basecamp, which means a loving home where the child will always be welcomed and cared for. Our ultimate goal is that someday we will no longer be needed, but we will always be wanted.

Open Adoption Aspirations

We are seeking an open adoption because we believe it's good for everyone when a child is connected to many caring adults, and when those adults are connected to each other. No one can replace the birth parents in the child's life, and one reason is that a child needs to be connected to his or her birth family's identity, background, and heritage. We feel we have many good things to offer a child, but we also want to celebrate the birth family. Family connections could look different from one adoption to the next, and we look forward to hearing the birth parents' wishes for finding the best way to include each other in our lives and the life of the child. Depending on what the birth parents want, we would love to welcome the birth parents into our lives through visits, video chats, pictures, and perhaps even game days, holidays, or family gatherings. All of us have a desire to create the happiest, best childhood possible, and that is a strong foundation for a relationship.



Together
we're
stronger

