

Hello...



Thank you so much for taking the time to get to know me a little bit.

Thinking about being a mom fills me with excitement, gratitude, and most of all, love. I already love my future child so much! I can't wait to meet them.

I also love adventures, and this feels like the most important and life-changing adventure ever. After a long time of dreaming and planning for this, I feel ready to be the mom I want to be.



My Pathway Here

I grew up on a farm in Iowa with my mom, dad, and older sister. We had lots of corn, cats, dogs, and a small flock of sheep.



That's me on the left, rocking the pink pants.

I went to college in Illinois. I studied philosophy, Spanish, and did a lot of writing. I worked in a radio newsroom, learned how to play guitar, and sang in the choir. After college, I spent most of a year in South America before moving to Chicago.



After three years of big city life, I moved to Montana. I made my living as a musician for a while, and now I work as a journalist. Being in nature is really important to me. I spend as much time as I can outdoors. I like to hike, ski, and backpack, but I also like just to relax and soak in the beauty.





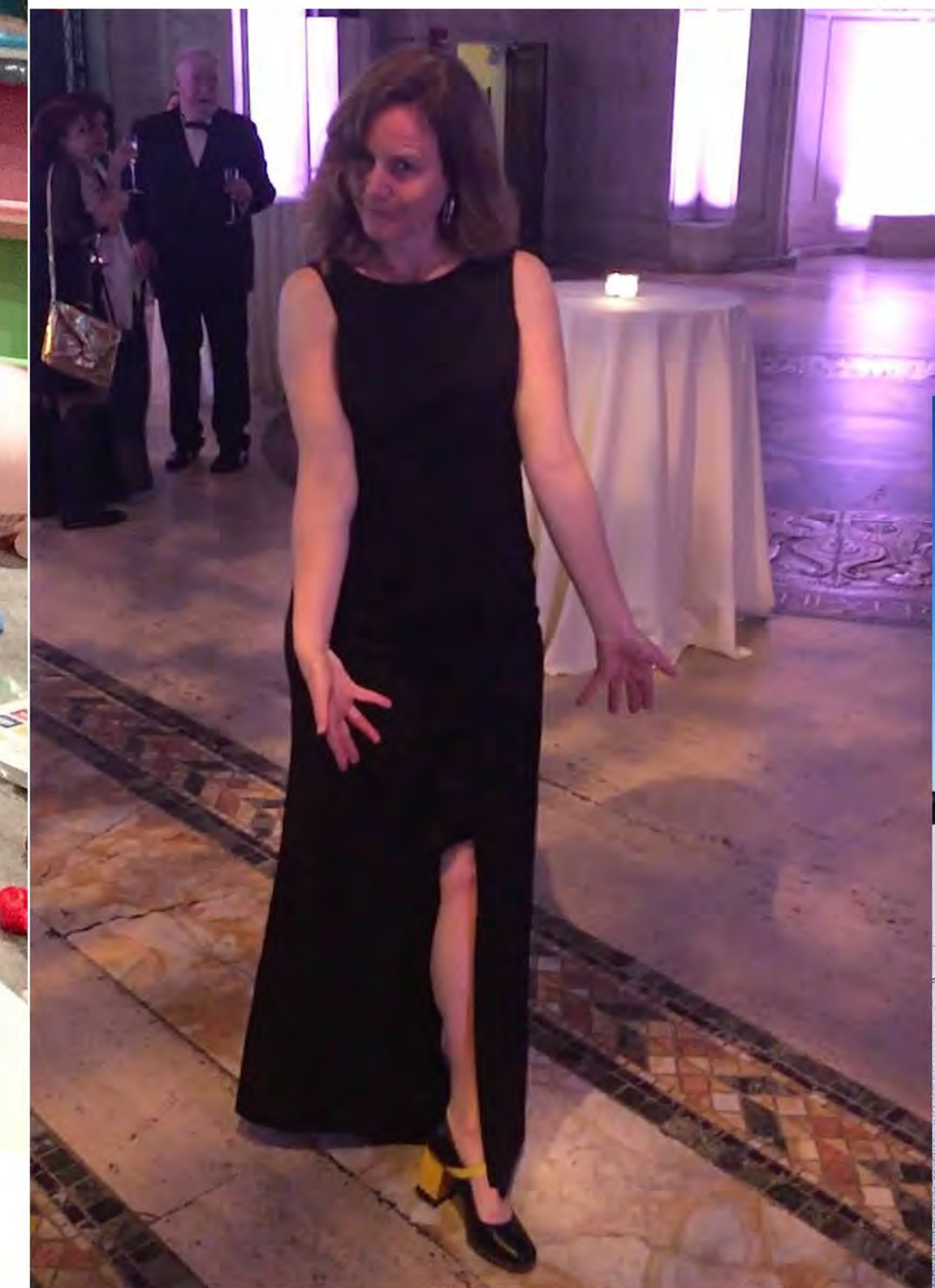
This is me, my sister, my mom, my brother-in-law, my stepdad, and my two sweet nephews. I am so lucky to have a supportive, loving family. When I told my nephews that I was planning to adopt, they burst into cheers and applause, and couldn't stop smiling.

Everyone in my family is waiting to treasure my child!

Fun Facts

I play the piano, guitar, trumpet, and I love to sing. I've also started and led several music groups for kids.

I work as a reporter, and it leads me to lots of interesting places, like this museum in Nome, Alaska.

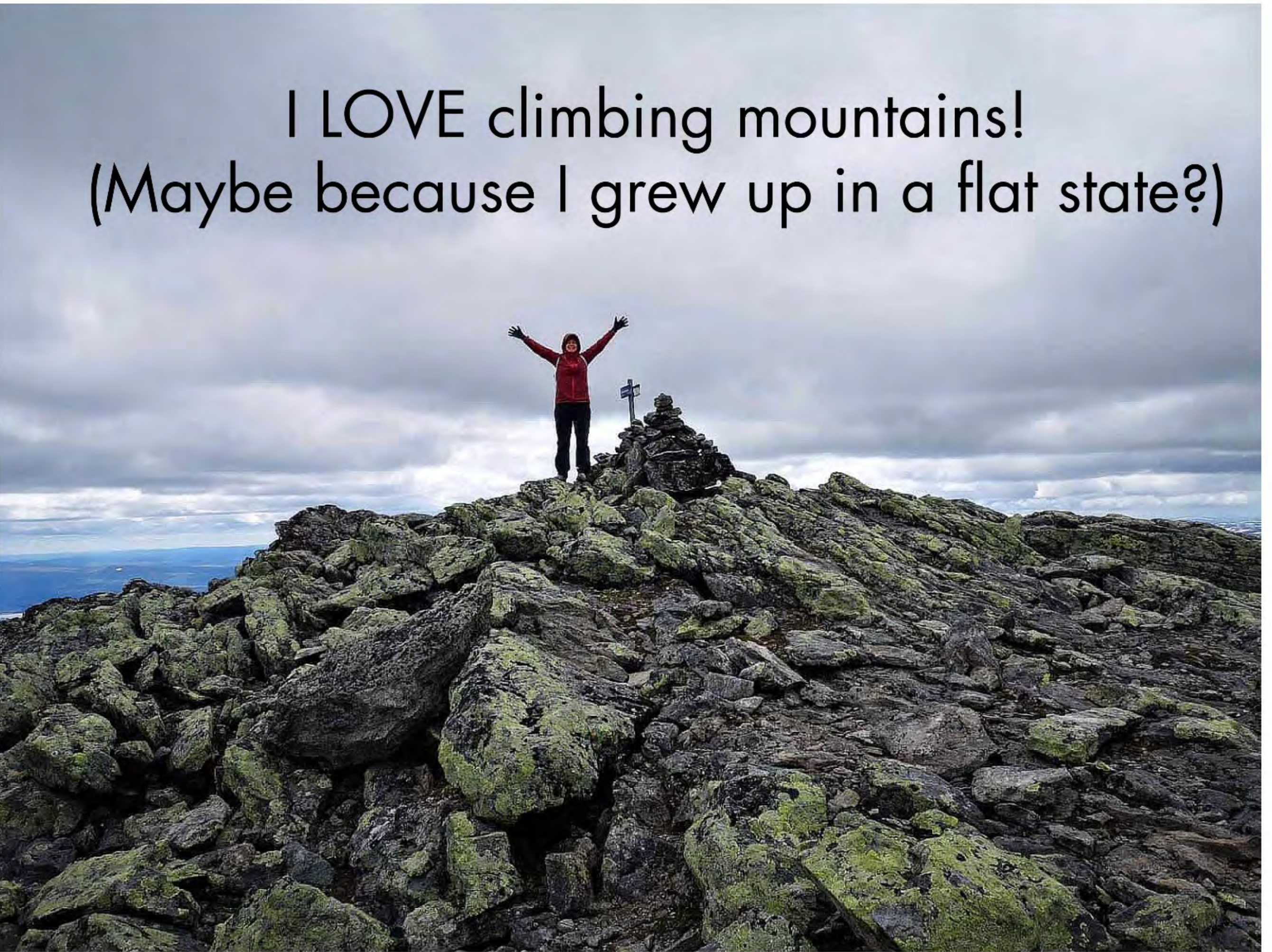


Wearing fancy dresses tends to bring out the goofball in me.

Skiing in shorts can be fun!



I don't think I've ever had a bad time while wearing a wig.



I LOVE climbing mountains!
(Maybe because I grew up in a flat state?)



I write songs and have recorded multiple albums.



I love both cats and dogs.
(Why are we supposed to choose?)



I take myself very seriously.

Family

My family is loving, open, and down to earth. Both my mom and dad were born and raised in Iowa, and my mom and stepdad still live there. My sister and her family live in California. We do a good job of staying connected despite living in three different states.



My mom (Gaylen) has always made me feel like I could do anything I set my mind to (and then she's helped me do it). She's also always offered me unconditional love. I hope to pass on those same things to my child.

My sister (Audrey) is one of the biggest influences on my life. She's a therapist, and she has a lot of brilliant insights into how people work. She's a wonderful mother to her two boys, and a role model for me on how to parent. She knows me better than almost anyone, and she has my back 100%. Some of the deepest belly laughs I've ever had have been with her. I also love her husband Francis.

My nephews are really important to me. They are full of personality and ideas, and I love watching them grow and change. Being part of their lives feels like a huge privilege.



My parents divorced when I was in my 20s, and a few years later my mom married my stepdad Tony. They love being grandparents to my nephews and can't wait to add another grandchild to the mix!



It's such a gift to have a sister who's also one of my best friends.



My dad passed away in 2017. He was a loving presence in my life. I wish he were here to be part of this exciting journey.

Loving kids comes naturally to me.

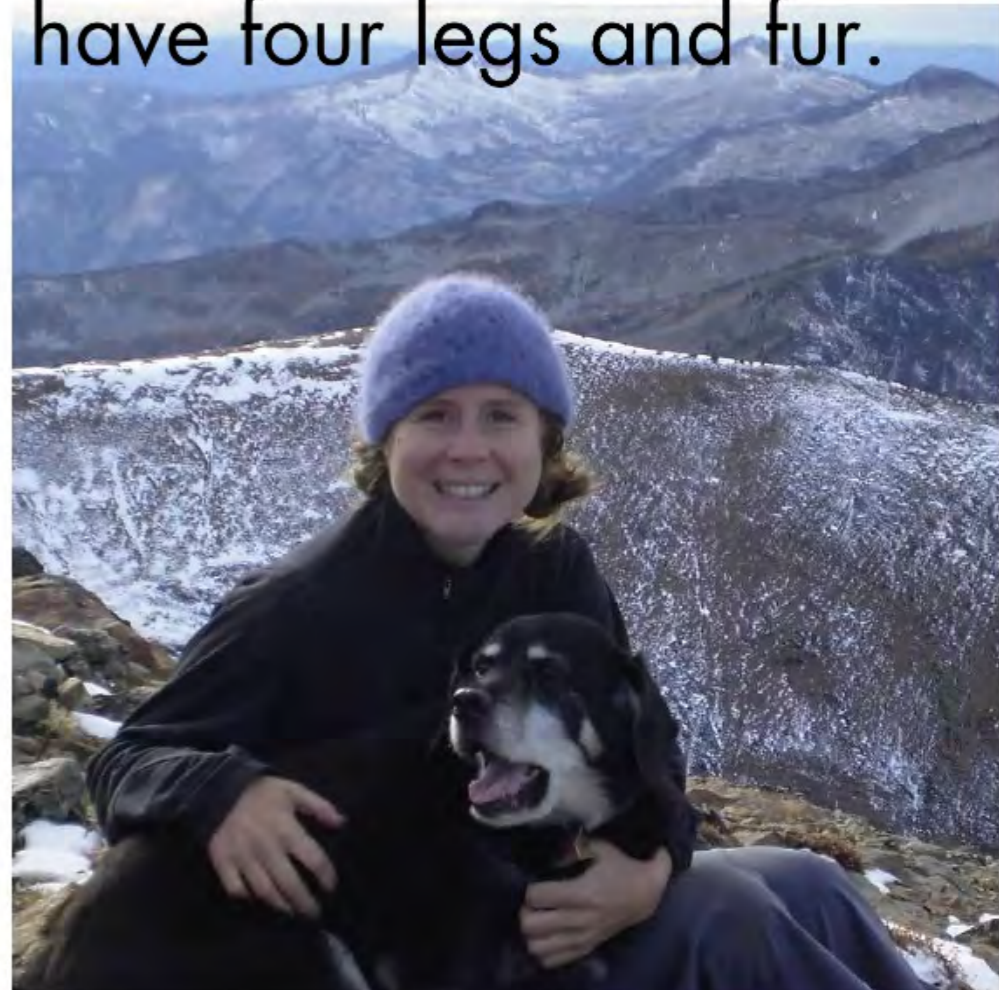
In addition to being an aunt, I'm lucky to be part of many of my friends' kids' lives. What a gift!



Through these experiences, I've learned how easy it is for me to love little ones, and how much joy it brings me to be with them.



Some of the "kids" I love have four legs and fur.



Friends

If friendship was measured in dollars I would be one of the wealthiest people in the world. I'm surrounded by friends who are eager to meet and love on my kiddo. These people are more than friends, really. They're extended family.





I know I can count on all of these friends for advice, support, and arms-wide-open love for my child.



My boyfriend, Ulf, is sweet, smart, funny, and loving. He lives in Sweden, where he works as a nurse, a researcher, and a teacher at a university. I met him in 2017 when I was on a work trip there. We love to go on outdoor adventures together, and when we're inside, he cooks one amazing meal after another. I spend part of my time in Sweden, and he's been to the U.S. many times to visit me. He really likes Montana, and we really like each other.

My home

This is my home, located in a small city in Montana. My house is just a few blocks away from an elementary school and a park with a nice playground. I've often walked through it wondering what it will be like to take my child to play there.

One of my friends has already set me up with a crib and lots of the other things I'll need. The baby will have their own room, and there's a nice fenced yard for us to play in.



Dreams for My Child

I plan to give my child every possible opportunity to learn, explore, and form meaningful, healthy relationships. I hope to go on lots of trips, sing and play instruments together, welcome animals into our lives, and teach respect for our planet and other people. I want to model an open, optimistic approach to life, with care for and connection to others at the center.



My biggest dream for my child is that they can feel free to be themselves, and follow their own path wherever it leads.

It all starts with love. That's the most important thing I can give to my child, along with time, thoughtful attention, and unwavering support. I want to make a solid foundation for them and infuse them with a confidence and inner sense of security that they can draw on for the rest of their lives.



I value...



COURAGE



LOVE



GRATITUDE



ADVENTURE



LAUGHTER



KINDNESS



PEACE



HONESTY



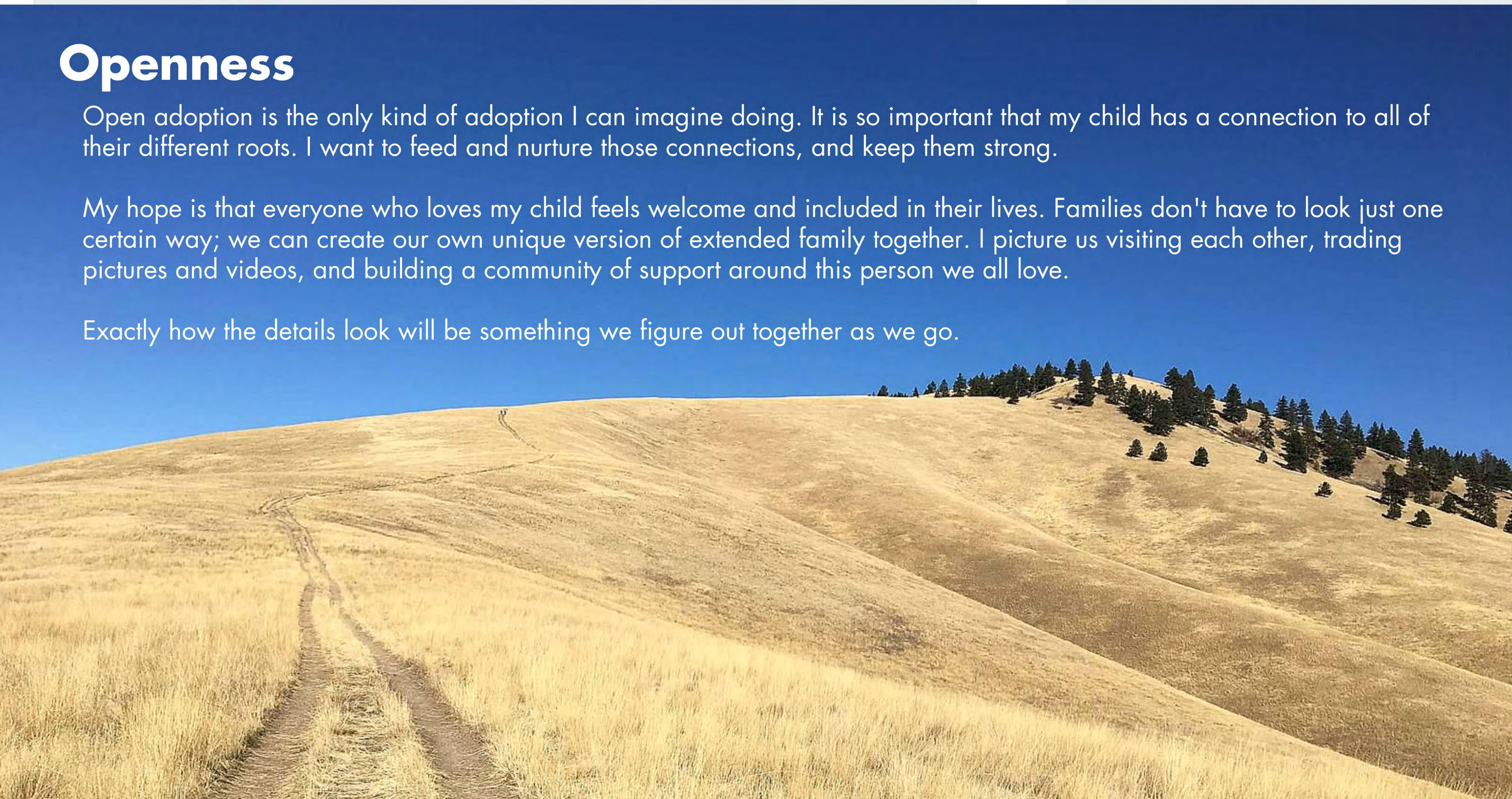
COMMUNITY

Openness

Open adoption is the only kind of adoption I can imagine doing. It is so important that my child has a connection to all of their different roots. I want to feed and nurture those connections, and keep them strong.

My hope is that everyone who loves my child feels welcome and included in their lives. Families don't have to look just one certain way; we can create our own unique version of extended family together. I picture us visiting each other, trading pictures and videos, and building a community of support around this person we all love.

Exactly how the details look will be something we figure out together as we go.



The bottom line for me in this process is respect. I come into the role of an adoptive mom with utmost respect for the birth family and I am committed to passing on that respect to my child.



I hope you feel free to ask me anything. I'm eager to listen, and wide open for sharing. I thrive on honest, in-depth conversations, and no question is too big, too small, or too personal for me.

I'm so grateful for the time you've taken to look through this book!

~ Amy

