



Saswata & Sumana



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Greetings from
Saswata & Sumana



We are excited to embark on our journey of open adoption and thank you very much for reading our family book.



Our Story: Saswata and Sumana

We met online back in 2010. Sumana was in India and Saswata was here in the USA. We immediately grew interest for each other and started talking. Within a few days we started talking for hours, and didn't run out of things to talk about! After six months of phone and Skype calls we decided to meet in person. Saswata flew to India to meet Sumana (and our parents) and we went bowling on our first date. It didn't feel like we were meeting for the first time. We were so comfortable and understood each other.





After a month filled with romantic dinners and fun dates we decided to get married. Saswata flew back to the USA for paperwork for Sumana's arrival, and Sumana started to make arrangements for our wedding. On May 5th, 2011 we married with a small gathering of friends and family. One week later, Sumana wrapped up her whole life into a large suitcase and moved to the USA with Saswata.



It's already been ten years as a couple and we still enjoy our conversations about important and not so important things. Together, we became the best versions of ourselves.

Saswata has a passion for his computer related work and Sumana loves interacting with people in her professional life working as a medical receptionist. Our professions fit our personalities very well.

Sumana sees Saswata as loving, caring, and balanced like a calm river who has patience and support for her. Saswata sees Sumana as full of life, emotional, talkative, kind-hearted and someone who always has space for everyone.



We have a small group of very close friends with kids and we are their favorite uncle and aunt! They spend time with us for holiday sleep overs or we just casually meet up. We enjoy their presence and they want endless sleep overs! Because we all live far away from our own families, we have created a family with our friends here. We support each other, and have lots of fun together! We are in the process of gaining permanent residency in the U.S. and are looking forward to raising our family here.

In 2015 Sumana's dearest friend was blessed with a baby boy and again in 2018 her brother was blessed with a baby girl. Through these family additions, we felt that something was missing in our lives and want to be blessed with a bundle of joy for ourselves. We are choosing to grow our family through an open adoption with the child's best interest in mind. We want our child to know their story, and to be surrounded by people who love them, including their birth family.

All about Sumana



Hobbies

- Cooking
- Watching movies
- Trying out good restaurants and different cuisines
- Sewing
- Hiking
- Traveling



Fun Facts/Sumana loves

- Cooking and trying new dishes - she particularly loves to cook chow mein
- Romantic movies & shows - she loves "Friends" and has watched it probably 10 times already
- Baking and decorating cakes
- Babysitting
- Hosting parties
- Karaoke
- Cookware (probably even more than jewelry!)

Sumana's Story

Childhood & Family

I grew up in Kolkata, India with my parents and older brother, lots of cousins, uncle, aunts, and grandparents. My favorite memory from childhood was playing with cousins all day during summer vacation. I loved dancing and drawing, and my father took me to attend those activities. Every summer break we went to our other grand parents house. It was like all day play and no homework!



One of my favorite parts of childhood was my dog Tom. We were inseparable!



My brother lives in Canada now with his wife and daughter, and my other cousins are living in different states in India or other countries, but we all keep in touch. We talk in video chats occasionally and share our life from afar.



With Sumana's parents



With Sumana's brother & his wife

Education and Career

I attended public school until 12th grade and then started helping my father with his business, which piqued my interest in going to business school. I earned my bachelor's degree in Business Administration. I now work for a small primary care practice as a part-time receptionist. I love my work, and I especially like to interact with people every day, as I am a very social person.



All About Saswata



Hobbies

- Photography on vacations, and taking good pictures
- Biking
- Hiking
- Playing video games
- Watching movies



Resting point in a hike

Fun facts about Saswata

- I love playing Xbox and video games - recently I have played Witcher 3, Diablo, & Halo
- I occasionally bake a delicious chocolate molten lava cake
- I am the barista at our home, and I love to make cappuccinos & lattes



- I am the best chef for homemade biriyani in town
- I think I am a pretty fun uncle for our friend's kids! Every time I meet with friends kids, I play games with them. This usually includes more than one activity since they are different ages.

Saswata's story

Childhood and Family

I grew up in several different parts of the West Bengal state in India. When I was very young, I was raised by my grandparents in a small village called Kotasur. My grandparent's house had lots of trees and gardens, offering plenty of space to roam around. At age 5, my parents made plans for me to go to a good school and I moved with my parents to a small town called Rajjanj.



I have one sister who is two years younger than me. She works in India and she has a daughter. Though we live in different countries, we talk regularly. Every few years when I go to India, I visit her and her family.

My father was an eye doctor. Later we moved to Barrackpore for my dad's work. This is where I completed high school, and was the last place I lived in India before moving to the U.S. when I was 27 years old.





For every vacation we used to go to my grandparent's home where my uncle, aunt and cousins joined us. My grandfather made me a makeshift bow and arrow from bamboo sticks which was one of my favorite toys for a long time.



With Saswata's mother, sister and her daughter

Education and career

During my time in school I became interested in computers, and started learning programming in 8th grade. After high school I got the chance to study in Computer Science. I finished my Bachelor's in Computer Science in 2001 and joined an IT firm in India. After a few years of working there I got an opportunity to work in the U.S., and moved here in 2005. I was able to complete my Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Washington which has helped me a lot in my career.



Graduation ceremony at UW

Our traditions and holidays

We enjoy taking vacations every year, whether it is going to India to see family, or somewhere that our hearts desire. We recently visited Hawaii, and we love road trips!



Every summer we take a road trip to Banff to see Sumana's brother and niece. Every year we also book a vacation rental and spend time with our friends for 2-3 days. It's all-day fun, no work for us and no homework for the kids!

We celebrate all major holidays, and have loved learning new traditions here in the U.S. For us holidays are fun with lots of food and gathering with dear ones. We give presents, cook traditional meals, and play games together.



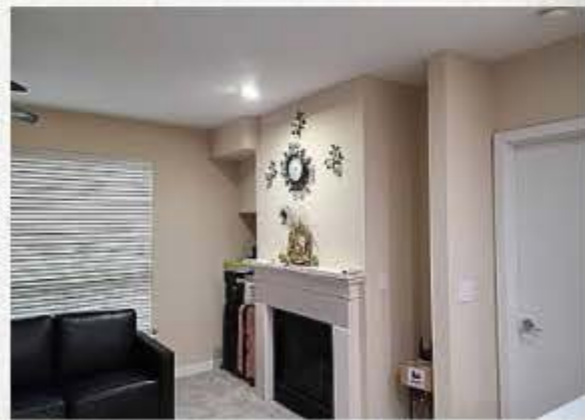
We celebrate a few Indian traditions like Diwali. Diwali is the festival of light and is a major festival in India. We decorate our home with candles and lights.

Another popular tradition is Holi. Holi is the festival of colors. On that day we play with colored powders.



Our Home and Community

In 2011 we bought our condo in the downtown area of a big city near Seattle. Even though our condo is in the downtown area, there are lots of kid friendly places close by. There is a nice park and library across the street from us, and a children's museum nearby. A little further away we have a nice big park. Last but not least, we live in a great school district, something that is important to us when we think about raising our child.



During the Christmas holidays we decorate our balcony with lights. Some of the streets around us are also decorated with lights, and the whole downtown looks nice during that time of year.



Dreams for Our Child

We hope our child will feel incredibly loved. We will create an environment of trust so that they should not hesitate to talk about anything that they might face. We hope they will be a healthy, joyful, well-adjusted person. We hope to raise our child with values of kindness and respect and with pride for their origins, including their adoption story.

We understand the importance of education in life. We will encourage our child's studies, and will support them to pursue their own dreams and interests.



Open Adoption Aspirations

We believe in honesty and trust. When we heard about open adoption, we liked the idea that our child would be part of both their adoptive family and their birth family. This will help them to have access to information about their history and origins, and to stay connected to their birth family.

We hope to have a warm and welcoming relationship with our child's birth parents and birth family where we share mutual respect. We hope our child's birth family will feel like a part of our extended family, and can be a source of support if our child is ever in doubt.

Thanks for reading our family book
and we wish you all the best