

WELCOME!!

Our door is always open...



SFLY051114-347

Amy and Brandon

Welcome to the life of Amy and Brandon. We have an open-door policy as the most important thing to us is family, friends, and our animals.

We are extremely close with our families. If you've ever seen the movie, My Big Fat Greek Wedding, Amys family is a lot like that (only Catholic). Large, loud, and full of love and laughter.

Amys parents are a big part of our lives. Amy also has three sisters, who are all married to great guys. We talk daily.

Brandons parents were still together up until his dad passed away from cancer this past year. We are very close with his mom, older brother & sister-in-law, and six older nieces and a nephew.

We adore our young nieces and nephew. Mae and Silas are twin toddlers who will soon be three. Our place is a second home for them. Our niece Aoife is seven. She had her first sleepover away from home four years ago. She did great! We just cant get enough time with them.

We love to get people together. The more the merrier. Kids (and grown-ups) love to come to our place.

We love life and we love everyone in it.

Welcome to our book.



Our Pets (oldest to youngest)

Jade is going on eighteen and sleeps right next to Amys head. Jade follows Amy around like a dog.



Lilly 12 and is the gentlest and sweetest soul ever. The ferret pushes her out of her food dish.

Sadie is eight. Her nickname is Thunder Paws..



Tar Tar Fairy Pants is the pride of our family. She is the boss of the other animals (including Lilly).



Our Relationship

We were lucky enough to have met later in life. We both had been in other relationships where we learned valuable life lessons which we believe help us function as a loving, supportive couple today. We fell in love hard and fast in the spring of 2012.

We had a long-distance relationship at first. Amy lived in Albany. Brandon lived in Central Oregon. It really gave us time to get to know each other and not feel rushed.

A little after a year of dating, Brandon proposed to Amy.

We got married March 25th, 2014, in Amy's parents backyard at their winter home in Queen Creek, Arizona.

A memorable wedding day event that was a sign: all of our phones started sending us emergency warning sounds. A haboob (a huge dust storm) was headed our way.

We stopped getting ready and sat down by the pond. The sky grew black. It was like the movie *The Mummy*. It hadn't reached us yet. It was such a beautiful moment.

Brandon reached his arms up towards the sky. Please God! Show me a sign!

We got married an hour later. It was a perfect day.



After the wedding we moved to Southern Oregon for a few years. We loved our new place. Brandon hung white lights outside, Amy decorated. We built a garden, found our favorite hikes and swimming holes. Lilly, our dog, picked out her favorite closet. We had a revolving door of company.

Brandon got a promotion that led us back to the Willamette Valley.



Liechtenstein, the smallest country in the world.

We love to camp. Brandon built a ramp so Jade and the ferret can go from one end of the camper to the other. Sometimes in the middle of the night we feel the ferret doing a drive by over us.

We met when we were older, which helped us feel like we truly knew ourselves when we became a couple. We are each other's best friend and always support each other.

We feel very blessed to have found one another. We are still very much in love.



Fun Facts About Amy

I am an expert sniper on the game Call of Duty.

I always throw a little kids birthday party on my birthday (with balloons, and cake) for my niece Aoife.

I am good at poker. We went to a poker game at Brandons coworkers house. I won.

I am deathly afraid of spiders but will still put them outside (I wave to animals on my walk).

Im afraid of the dark. If Brandon is gone for work, I sleep with a light on. I also like cartooning.



Meet Amy

I grew up on a farm. I loved all the animals. I felt like my horse was a dear friend. I babied all the kittens.

I have three sisters (one older and two younger). We had two bedrooms for my sisters and me with one bathroom. My older sister and I shared the upstairs room (to this day we all believe its haunted). The two younger sisters shared downstairs. I found strength and comfort in companionship. We are all very close.

We used to play tag on our horses. We also used to take our horses swimming in the pond. The horses loved it as much as we did. Mom and Dad didnt want us to get hung up in a stirrup of a saddle, so we learned to ride bareback. Occasionally we would dress up the dog or a chicken.



I have twelve first cousins on my dad's side and six first cousins on my mom's side. I am close with all of them. Holidays were loud with laughter and lots of food. We always prayed before dinner.

My Grandpa had a huge cattle ranch in Brothers, Oregon (26,000 acres butting up to BLM land). We would have a Round-Up at the end of summer.

There was no TV up at the desert. Grandma taught us how to play cards at a young age.

Mom and Dad wanted to make sure that we experience life off the farm. They took us to operas, plays, traveled by motorhome and plane.

In high school I got into cheerleading, tennis, journalism, and AP English and History. I really loved to write.

I am thankful for being raised Catholic, but I always felt like God was a meter maid waiting to take tickets. I took God out of a box. I found there to be infinitely more power than what was in that little box.

Once I started training and learning about massage, it enveloped me. I became a healer instantly. A whole world opened up.

Everything in my life was falling into place but dating. I wrote God a letter: "please send me someone perfectly made just for me of your choosing," (not perfect, but perfect for me).

I met Brandon. He was far better than I could have ever imagined. He was hand-picked just for me! He was a Snake Jumper (total stud-muffin hero stuff). Brandon was educated but was as ornery as me. His kindness matched my own. When I introduced him to the family, he fit right in. My parents said when you meet the right one you will know right away. I thought it was a generational thing until I met Brandon. Our relationship came easy. It was effortless. He was the one.



Brandon and I love life. We love everyone it it.

I have a private practice out of the house. I have a waiting list to get in. I love my clients and what I do. I get to schedule work around my life.



- I can fix about anything (given enough time).
- I can't help but to take a route I haven't traveled.
 - I've traveled through 16 countries.
- I've floated the Grand Canyon twice on winter trips.
 - I have over 250 parachute jumps.
- I traveled with my cat and dog from Canada to Mexico.
- I have a superpower that I can smell as sensitive as a dog.



Hello! My Name is Brandon. I work in Fire Management for Forest Service. My hobbies and interests include traveling, hiking, gardening, camping, beach combing, cooking and fixing things.

My childhood can be summarized as being the youngest child of a working class rural family. My mother, father, brother and I lived on the Olympic Peninsula in Western Washington on a couple acres of land. Growing up, I was almost always outside riding bikes, building forts, exploring the woods, playing sports and being social with friends. I was an outdoors kid who looked forward to fishing, crabbing, clamming, hunting, mushroom picking, camping, riding bikes and motorcycles and exploring.

Our family valued hard work, being resourceful, honesty and self-reliance. Values of honesty, hard work and respect for others were key in my upbringing and are key in living my life.



After high school, I found a job working on a wildland fire crew for the National Park Service, along with coaching wrestling during the off season.

My career path and interests are intertwined. I have always loved being in the woods, have a deep curiosity for things and love to travel. Naturally, being a wildland firefighter was a good fit as it was all of the above.

After 5 years, my motivation and drive landed me in the smokejumper program which sent me all over the country to parachute, climb trees and fight fires. It was one of the loftiest goals I had set. My off seasons were adventures of traveling internationally, snowboarding, whitewater rafting and anything I felt like doing. I was a free soul.

After being on the road for most of my career (about 19 years), I moved into a management position with a more sustainable work life balance. Amy and I met, fell in love and moved to Southern Oregon to start our lives together.



Relationships with friends and family are very important to us. The relationships we have with our families and close friends is one of openness, acceptance and commitment. What has brought us all together isn't having commonalities but having acceptance and love. Living life with acceptance and love will be the foundation for our child and the birth parents.

We live in a rural community. Everyone waves, people are out walking their dogs, kids are running around riding their bikes, people are always working in their yards. Its safe for children to walk to school. We moved to Pleasantville. We love it here.

The schools here are awesome (and walking distance)!



One of our favorite evening walks is right out our front door. We pass the duck pond a huge white Catholic church. There is one of the schools to the right and Frisbee golf and a playground.



Our home is warm and welcoming. Brandon has a green thumb, so there are plants everywhere. We are the opposite of sterile and contemporary. Our home reflects comfort and love.

Amy's practice is right off the front door. Upstairs has four bedrooms. It takes two seconds to make a houseguest feel special.

We call one of the rooms "The apartment." We moved a hide-a-bed couch next to the bed and installed a flat screen TV. We have movie night with popcorn during our slumber parties in the apartment.



Our backyard reflects one of Brandon's superpowers: his green thumb. It looks like Jurassic Park. We have so much privacy we forget our fenced in backyard isn't soundproof.



Holidays explode at our house. Every year is different. It is easy for us to pivot, change plans, and go with it.

We hosted Thanksgiving last year. We wanted something original. We called it Untraditional Thanksgiving. We sent everyone invitations that read: The rules are...there are no rules. Amy's mom and dad, her two sisters and their families brought their favorite dishes. Everyone also brought their dog. It was a houseful - loud and festive. We loved it.

Christmas explodes at our house. We love Christmas. We don't believe in decorating until after Thanksgiving. Brandon scales the roof and hangs the white lights. We hang lights everywhere!

We have found in life that our family and friends is what is most important to us. The rest is just stuff and things.



Our Christmas Walk About



We load the animals in the camper and camp our way up the Oregon and Washington Coast to Brandon's home town.



Dreams for Our Child

Our child is going to know they can do anything in the world. We want to help our child believe in themselves and know how valuable they are. They also have 2 sets of parents and associated extended family. Our dream for our child is inclusion, pride and connection across both families.

We also want to cultivate all the interests our child might develop. We want to introduce them to different activities, lessons, and eventually college or a trade school.

We want to do everything with our child. We want our child to have fun and enjoy life.

Our child will always have a dog, kittens, and a ferret to love. We outlive our pets, so the child will have kittens, a puppy, and a baby ferret eventually.

Our child will be surrounded with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. They will be a part of our tribe and the hero of the family. The child will be loved by really awesome, loving people.



Open Adoption Aspirations

We are hoping at the point of meeting that we will be connected by a greater force. Without words, we will be on the same team and have a unity and sense of love that passes all understanding.

We are hoping for a strong bond with a family. We will be a support and blessing with open arms and minds. We look forward to our future with our new family. Without judgment, and with an open mind.



Welcome to the family



Amy's Mom & Dad



Brother-in-law James/Silas



You can't see everyone,
just know that it's loud.
(And you'd fit right in).

The Main Players



Neice Aoife AKA:
Love Muffin,
Lamb Chops, Aoife
Buggs



Neice Mae AKA:
Maeberry, The Dragon,
The Goonie Princess



The Nephew: Silas, AKA:
Frank the Tank, The
Grizzly Bear

A few funny pictures.





you will find love here.