

# STORY

### **About us**

Our story started many years ago. We met each other at work; we were colleagues at a design company. We fell in love and became inseparable. In 2009 we bought our first house. There we welcomed our beautiful dog Tess (a Beagle) into our family.

We got married on June 30th, 2012. Our wedding day was magical; a beautiful church wedding ceremony, followed by an amazing beach party. We were blessed to have all our family and friends there to celebrate with us.

We have become soulmates and best friends who bring out the best in each other. We have a tremendous amount of love and appreciation for each other, and feel that we have built a strong and stable relationship with plenty of love, trust, honesty and FUN!

### Adoption

We have always known that we wanted to be parents. After getting married, we started trying to expand our family. But after our share of infertility issues and heartbreak, we knew we were destined to walk a different path. We learned that we wanted to be parents more than we wanted to be pregnant, which is why we chose to grow our family through adoption.

We have chosen to adopt from the United States because of the possibility of having an open adoption. While we hope you will also want that, we want you to know that we will be respectful of your wishes and comfort levels, and that you will always be welcome in our lives in whatever way you feel most comfortable.

# about YVONNE





Yvonne with her sisters

EDUCATION: SCHOOL FOR ART&DESIGN

CAREER: GRAPHIC DESIGNER

RELIGION: CHRISTIAN

FAVOURITE THINGS: FOOD vegetarian risotto - MOVIE crime - SEASON summer

HOLIDAY Christmas - VACATIONSPOT Italy - MUSICAL ARTIST Beyoncé

I grew up in a warm and supportive family. I was the first child; and then came my sisters Nicole and Myrna. As a family we were very active. My sisters and I were members of a gymnastic class for many years.

I had a wonderful childhood, I played a lot with my friends and sisters. We liked to dance, dress up and party. As a child I was very creative and for as long as I can remember I liked to draw and paint.

It was obvious to me that I wanted to turn my hobby into a career. After completing high school, I chose to study Art & Design in the city of Maastricht. After graduation I started a career as a graphic designer. While I really love my job, I will happily start working part-time once we adopt.

When I'm not working, I like to dance and to relax by practicing yoga. I also enjoy getting outside and enjoy nature; going out for a walk in the woods or on the beach. I love being around family, friends, discovering new countries and cities, and shopping.

### Rhodri about Yvonne

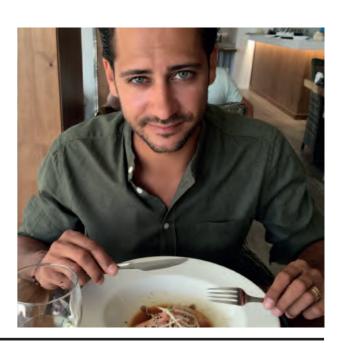
Yvonne truly is my soulmate. She is an amazing and incredible woman with a big and generous heart!

Yvonne is very sensitive, sweet, patient, organized, creative and loving. She supports me in everything I do, which I am very grateful for. She also creates a warm and hospitable atmosphere in our home, where family and friends are always welcome. She is selfless in her devotion to the people she loves, and she is very loyal to both family and friends.

Yvonne adores children and I can't wait to grow a family together, because I just know she will be a wonderful mom!

# about RHODRI





Rhodri with his brother

EDUCATION: DESIGN ACADEMY CAREER: GRAPHIC DESIGNER

RELIGION: CATHOLIC

FAVOURITE THINGS: FOOD bbq - MOVIE romantic comedy - SEASON summer

HOLIDAY Christmas - VACATIONSPOT Spain - MUSICAL ARTIST Queen

I was born and raised in a small town, where I grew up with a loving mom, dad, and a younger brother. I enjoyed my childhood; having lots of friends and living near a beautiful forest. While friends were always welcome to play at our place, me and my friends played outdoors most of the time. We enjoyed climbing and building sheds in trees, and wandering through the woods.

After I finished high school I went to the Design Academy to become a graphic designer.

After graduating from the Design Academy I started working as graphic designer for a publicity agency.

In the past seven years I managed to become a business partner, and I love my job more than ever.

Sports is what I love to do in my free time, especially soccer, tennis and golf. Other things I'm interested in are hiking, traveling, sailing, and renovating our house. Most of all I like to spend quality time with family and friends, especially outdoors, and to enjoy life and spending time together with Yvonne.

#### Yvonne about Rhodri

A Rhodri is my rock. He is a very stable and loyal person, who I can always count on. Rhodri is best described as outgoing, social, thoughtful and giving. He is also very comforting and loving, and he will do anything in his power to make his loved ones happy. Whenever friends or family need support, he is there, no matter what.

Rhodri is very athletic, he has endless energy and he is always in for an adventure. He has a positive mindset which makes him a very happy and vibrant person; he's always fun to be with. He is a natural with children, and children of friends and relatives always want to be around him. There is no doubt in my mind that Rhodri will make a very loving and supportive dad, and I can't wait to start a family together.

# meet YVONNE'S FAMILY

I was blessed to grow up in a very warm, happy and stable family with two loving parents that have been married for over 40 years, and two sisters who I am very close with. Thankfully, they all live nearby, so we are able to spend time together weekly. Both of my sisters are in a long-term relationships and have small children. My awesome nephew and nieces, whom we love dearly, range in age from 1 to 6 years. Rhodri and I have a special bond with them. They often stay over at our place, and we take many trips with them. As a family we always celebrate birthdays, vacations and holidays together.





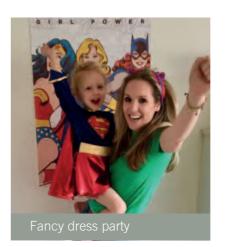
















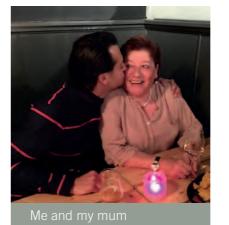




# meet RHODRI'S FAMILY

My brother and I grew up in a loving and supportive family, in a beautiful village near the countryside. My whole family still lives there, and recently Yvonne and I moved back to the village I grew up in. We enjoy spending time with my family. Since they live nearby, we meet with my mother, brother and his children (Livia and Diaz) every week. Yvonne and I adore my niece and nephew. We often take them to the playground, go for a swim or have a nice time at the animal farm. My mother loves to cook, and when we visit she makes dinner for the whole family. We also have nice traditions with my family, such as Sinterklaas, Easter and Carnival. My dad sadly past away in 2007, we miss him every day. The children believe he is a star in heaven and watches over us.

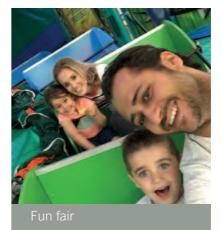












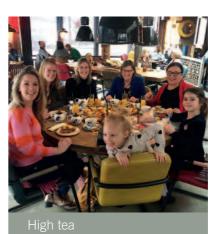














### our INTERESTS

What we love to do

# HIKING We love to go hiking in the woods with our dog Tess.

# TRAVEL Our favourite thing to do together is traveling. We visited lots of beautiful places together.



DINING OUT
Often we go out for dinner with family or friends.

Favorite places we have been:
Ibiza (Spain) - London (England)
Rhodos (Greece) - Berlin (Germany)
Puglia (Italy) - Prague (Czech Republic)
Krakau (Poland) - Valencia (Spain)
Alicante (Spain) - Milaan (Italy)

# ART & DESIGN We are very creative people who love art and make (graphic) designs.

# BOATING In the summer time we like to take trips with our boat.



**SPORTS** 

Rhodri has been playing soccer for 25 years already. He also loves playing tennis and golf. Yvonne is athletic as well. She likes to dance and she practices yoga every week.

# our dog TESS

This is Tess! She is our special, funny and smart Beagle. She brings a lot of love and joy into our lives. She is 9 years old, but she acts as a vibrant puppy! She is very active and she loves to play. She loves walks in the woods, sunbathing and belly rubs. She absolutely adores children (and, as you can see, children love Tess too).









# fun WITH FRIENDS







Summertime with friends

School reunion

Photobooth at our wedding







Feel good market

Forest walk

Baby shower friend







Tess is great with kids

Dinner out

Eating ice cream

Bridesmaids

# our HOME

We own a charming house which we renovated ourselves into a warm and loving home. On the inside our house is cozy, spacious, modern and comfortable. We have a large open central kitchen, where we love to spend time with family and friends. We also have a great backyard with room for a playhouse. We have just finished decorating the baby room. The nursery, right next to our bedroom, is a charming, bright and spacious room.













Home sweet home

### our COUNTRY

#### The Netherlands

We are fortunate to live in the Netherlands, a small but prosperous country in Western Europe. The Netherlands is a liberal country with about 17 million inhabitants and a lot of different cultures. Our capital is Amsterdam. People are very open minded, there's a social tolerance and racism in the Netherlands is no issue. With lots of possibilities and freedom, the Netherlands is a great county for each child to grow up. Children in the Netherlands are amongst the happiest children in the world.

### Neighborhood

We live in a family friendly neighborhood in the south of the Netherlands. The area is known for its beautiful nature and the many lakes. We enjoy spending time near and on the water in our boat. Our home is situated in a beautiful and safe neighborhood, a 2 minute walk from the center of our village. It is a small family friendly village, close to a lively city. The area is a paradise for children, because of the many playgrounds, beautiful (leisure) parks, petting zoo, numerous sporting clubs, and great schools and daycare within walking distance.



















- tulips
- bike riding
- windmils
- cheese

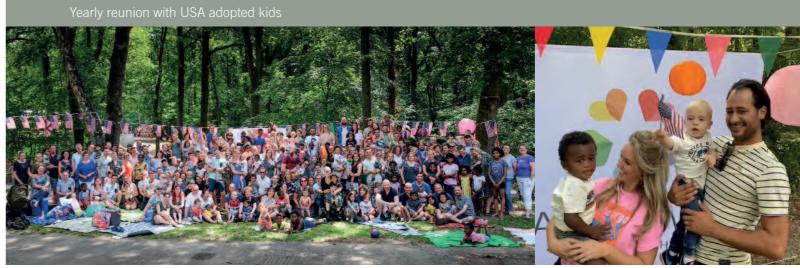
### The Netherlands, our country...

- ....is very safe and tolerant
- ... is multicultural
- ... is open minded
- ... respects human rights
- ... scores very high in citizen happiness
- ... has a high quality of living
- ... has a highly regarded educational- and insurance system
- ... has one of the best health care systems in the world



### our TRADITIONS





#### **Traditions**

Traditions and holidays are very important to us because they give us the opportunity to spend quality time with our friends and family. Every year we look foward celebrating to Christmas, New Year's Eve, Easter and some typical Dutch traditions, like Carnival and Kingsday. We also love celebrating birthdays and annual family days/trips with the whole family.

We also celebrate some American traditions such as the 4th of July, Thanksgiving and Halloween. Celebrations in honor of your child and the USA. Every year we celebrate the 4th of July with our friends Marvin, Wouter and Nikki. Their children Olivier and Joah are also adopted from America.

Every summer is the annual picnic with USA adopted kids. It's nice that we are part of 'A New Way family' as they call it, families that have adopted from the USA. In this way there will always be a connection with other children adopted from the USA.

#### Faith

We also want to share our faith and beliefs as Christians with our future child but there will always be room for his or her own opinion and choices about religion. We believe in respecting and treating others like you would want to be treated yourself, as well as love for everyone and anyone whatever their race or religion.





### in CLOSING

Thank you so much

Before you go, we want to share our commitment as parents with you. We want you to know that we are very committed to give your child the best life possible. Our home will be a safe, warm and healthy place, to grow up, full of opportunity and encouragement. Snuggling and hugs will be daily occurrence. We would want for your child to have every opportunity to have an excellent education, to travel and experience the world, pursue hobbies they are excited about, and grow up feeling fulfilled and confident in life and whatever path they choose. And most importantly, your child would always know that he or she has our support and is loved unconditionally.

### Our promise

We promise to honor an open adoption plan that you feel comfortable with. We are happy to meet you when we come to the USA to adopt and whenever we visit again. We will also share pictures and updates on how your child is growing and experiencing life, so that you know how well loved and cared for your child is. You are and always will be their birthmother, and we will always speak of you with the utmost respect and care. Your child will know that this difficult decision that you have made was done out of the purest and selfless love for your child.

### Thank you

We both thank you for taking the time to learn about us. We are certain it is tough to get to know someone from just a few pictures and words on a page, so if there's anything else we can answer or share with you just ask.

With love and respect, Phodri & Yvon



