JENNIFER & TOBY

OUR FAVORITES

JENNIFER'S FAVORITES

Food: Italian & Seafood
Vacation: Anywhere with an ocean view
Dream Vacation: Italy
Sport: Basketball
Movies: Troop Beverly Hills; The First Wives Club; Love Actually
Childhood Memory: Long days at the pool with my siblings
Holidays: Christmas
Family Traditions: Making birthday signs; reading *The Night Before Christmas* on Christmas Eve; Sunday family dinners
Season: Summer & Fall
Hobbies: Cooking, biking & reading
Flowers: Tulips & Peonies
Animals: Puppies
Desserts: Cupcakes & cookie cake

TOBY'S FAVORITES

Food: BBQ foods & Thanksgiving dinner
Vacation: Northeastern Atlantic Coast
Dream Vacation: Hawaii
Sport: Football
Movies: James Bond
Childhood Memory: Riding my bike with my younger brothers after school
Holidays: Christmas
Family Traditions: Sunday family dinners; Getting our Christmas tree from the same Church every year
Season: Fall
Hobbies: Playing sports, yard work, and reading
Flowers: Hydrangea
Animals: Chocolate lab puppies
Desserts: Strawberry rhubarb pie

ABOUT US

We met on a warm spring night and closed down the restaurant in conversation. Before Jennifer got home, she had a message from Toby asking when he could see her again. We became inseparable, and 10 months later, we became engaged.

On most nights, you will find us at home with music coming from the kitchen as Jennifer cooks and Toby cleans up. On nights that we can't be outside walking or riding our bikes, we enjoy lounging in front of our fireplace—talking, reading or listening to music. We also belong to a social and athletic club where we participate in group athletics. The club frequently hosts family activities such as movie nights, a Halloween party, bowling parties and Santa and Easter Bunny brunches.

While we absolutely love our cozy home, we also enjoy traveling and going on adventures. Last summer we visited several towns on the coast of Maine where we encountered a family of seals a short distance from shore, spent hours hiking along the rocky coast and dove head-first into the icy cold Atlantic Ocean. Whenever we visit a town that finds a special place in our hearts, we bring back a handmade wooden sign with the name of the town on it, and then hang it on our "favorite places" wall in our home.

We are strong proponents of education and believe that education is one of the best tools for social change, economic security and prosperity. We value service to our community and country. We have both volunteered at our local children's hospital by raising money for pediatric research. Jennifer volunteers for an organization that donates prom dresses to teen girls and she loves helping the girls pick out the perfect dress. Toby served in the Air Force for ten years before earning two masters' degrees and transitioning to the business world, where he now works in corporate strategy. Jennifer works as an education law attorney.

While our lives certainly aren't perfect, we have a stable, fun and happy marriage built on trust, mutual respect and love. We feel so blessed to have each other and our awesome, loving, supportive families as we navigate our journey through life.

THE BEST PART OF LIFE'S JOURNEY, IS WHO YOU GET TO SHARE IT WITH

ABOUT US

JENNIFER (BY TOBY)

Jennifer is the kindest, most caring individual I have ever met. She always puts the wants, needs, and desires of others before her own, and does it without any expectation of thanks or return – she genuinely enjoys serving others and it comes from her heart. Jennifer can also be pretty silly—she has a few signature "dance" moves that she randomly performs. She loves to make me laugh, even at her own expense. Jennifer is a constant source of support to me and others. She is also a great cook and enjoys surprising me with her new recipes. She is a very nurturing person.

Jennifer has a very special relationship with her niece and nephews, who call her "Sissy." She will gladly pick up her nephews from day care and sing their favorite songs with them on the drive home, spend hours making crafts with them and cheer for them at their sporting events.

After one of our first few dates together, we stopped by her sister's house after dinner to say hello, and two of her nephews woke up from the commotion and came into the living room. Their eyes lit up at the sight of Jennifer, and due to their excitement, the toddlers started dancing around when they found out that "Sissy's here!" She read to them and helped put them to bed, and it was in that moment I knew there was something special about Jennifer that would later compel me to ask her to be my wife.

TOBY (BY JENNIFER)

Toby's desire and drive to better his life was one of the first traits that drew me to him and easily convinced me that he would be a wonderful husband and dad. Toby joined the military right out of high school. He earned his college degree while serving in the Air Force. When he got out of the military, Toby worked full time during the day and went to school at night to get his master's degree, driving 90 minutes each way to school.

Toby is a thoughtful husband who regularly does little things to show his love for me, like leaving me sweet notes in the morning. He is fun in social situations—and he is always the first person on the dance floor at a wedding, especially when "Cupid Shuffle" starts playing!

Toby is an amazing uncle and is deeply loved by our nephews. When Uncle Toby walks in the door, the kids yell, "Toby's here!" as they ambush him with hugs and requests for him to play with them. One of our youngest nephews calls Toby his "best friend." The kids routinely beg Toby to tell them military stories or stories from "the old days" (his childhood). I love that he always agrees.

OUR FAMILY

With our family at our nephew's baptism

Birthday party of two nephews

Jennifer and her sister/best friend

Jennifer grew up in a Catholic family in a house located on a large, tree-filled lot where she spent her summers playing outside with her 1 older and 4 younger siblings. Jennifer's parents have been married for over 40 years; her dad is a retired doctor and her mom is a retired nurse. Jennifer is very close with her parents and siblings and communicates with them daily.

Toby grew up in a blue collar household in a small town, where he spent his summers riding his bike in the country with his 2 younger brothers, and watching after his 1 younger sister. Toby gained his work ethic from his father, who regularly worked 12 hour shifts in a steel factory, but still found time to coach little league and lead the local Boy Scouts group. Toby's mother was a stay-at-home mom.

We are blessed to have a close-knit, loving, fun family with many family members that live close by. We get together regularly for family dinners and frequently stop by each other's homes just to hang out. Our favorite week of the year is at Christmas time when we cram 13 adults and 6 kids in Jennifer's childhood home and spend a week together—decorating the tree, playing games, making cookies and having a hilarious gift exchange. During 4th of July weekend, we get together at the lake and go on boat rides and take turns throwing the kids in the pool. When we aren't together, we keep in continuous contact via a family text message chain.

Toby and his brother-in-laws

With our family on Thanksgiving

OUR NIECE & NEPHEWS

We love spending time with our niece and 5 nephews—5 of whom live a few streets away from us. We enjoy taking them on "special days"—which could include going to a park, a movie, or the science museum. The kids love having sleepovers at our house where we make crafts, watch movies, eat pizza and popcorn, tell stories, and get donuts in the morning. Our nephews sometimes ask us when we are going to have a baby…we look forward to the day when we can introduce them to their new cousin.

Jennifer & nephew bowling

Toby & nephews on scooters

Jennifer reading at our nephew's class

Our nephew's graduation

Toby running with our nephew

Jennifer and her two nephews

Hiking with our nephews

OUR FRIENDS

Toby and his best friends

Jennifer and her lifelong friend

Jennifer and her sister-in-law parasailing

OUR HOME & COMMUNITY

OUR JOURNEY ALWAYS LEADS US HOME

We live in a 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with an open layout and a large bonus area with lots of natural light. Jennifer loves being warm, so she has comfy throw blankets in every room. Thanks to Toby, we have a plush green yard with plenty of room to run and play. We also have a garden with a wide variety of flowers. Last year, we went to a local park where members of the public were invited to dig up thousands of tulips. We dug up over 100 tulips and transported them to our garden and can't wait to see them bloom.

Our home is located in a small, safe, suburban neighborhood just outside of a major city. The streets are lined with old trees and we live within walking and bike-riding distance to the schools, pool, playgrounds, library, churches, parks, ice cream shops, a farmers market, restaurants and grocery stores. Our community is a vibrant, open-minded place that hosts many activities for kids including movies in the park, sports teams, parades, and music, dance and art programs. Our community contains one of the top rated public school districts in the state and is consistently listed in national reports as a high performing school district. In addition, there are several private schools, churches and other religious institutions near our home.

Our home

Toby and our nephews at a neighborhood event

Our neighborhood playground

Our neighborhood pool

DEAR EXPECTANT MOTHER

Hello,

If we were sitting next to you right now, we would give you a hug and take a deep breath with you. You probably have a stack of wonderful profiles in front of you made up of lots of caring, loving people with the same desire—to become parents. That is certainly our desire and our dream. We have experienced joyful highs and heartbreaking lows in our journey to become parents. While we haven't always understood the losses on our journey, we believe they have led us to the most beautiful part of our journey yet—to become parents through adoption.

If our lives are joined with yours through adoption, we will provide your child with a safe, loving and stable home. We will compassionately explain to your child the love you have for them. We will read to your child every night and say goodnight to the moon. We will dress them up in an embarrassing puppy costume for Halloween. We will hang their stocking by the chimney with care. We will wipe away their tears when they drop their ice cream cone. We will run next to them on their bike as they cautiously ride for the first time without training wheels. We will kiss their boo-boos. We will instill in them a love for learning. We will attend every parent-teacher conference and athletic game and music recital. We will teach your child about their culture and celebrate our differences. We will take them on adventures and introduce them to different cultures and viewpoints. We will surround them with fun, silly, and loving cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents. We will cherish every…single…day that we are lucky enough to raise your child. Most importantly, we will never forget the gift you have given us and we will never let your child forget the great amount of love that you have for them.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for allowing us to introduce ourselves to you. We enter this journey with open hearts. We know how precious your child is to you, and we admire your strength and courage—it takes a selfless person, with a big heart and a gracious spirit to consider such a sacrifice.

We will be thinking of you, and we wish you and your family peace on your journey.

With Love and Respect,

Jennifer and Toby