Zak *and* Nina

About us

We met in medical school. We knew we were right for each other when we realized that we actually looked forward to our study dates. We've been married for 6 years, and life with one another just keeps getting better.

Most of the time we're together, **we love to have fun**. We play games, watch funny YouTube videos, and spend most of the time laughing at and with each other. We don't take ourselves too seriously and we love to make fun of each other - that is one of the ways we show our love for one another!

Our values are aligned, and we try to live led by God. We are open and honest with each other. We often talk about our beliefs and thoughts on different subjects because we value each other's views. Any time we encounter something difficult, we go to each other first for comfort and advice.

We care more about lifting each other up than ourselves.

Fun facts

nina

Occupation: Internal Medicine Physician

TV Show: The Office

Hobbies: Cooking, wellness & fitness, board games

Ice Cream: Mint chocolate chip

Vacation: Greece

Tradition: Traveling with our best friends every year

Random fact: Likes magic tricks (but isn't very good at performing them)

zak

Occupation: Emergency Physician

TV Show: Ted Lasso

Hobbies: Sports, fitness, travel, photography

Ice Cream: Coffee with chocolate chips

Vacation: Anywhere we can explore and hike

Tradition: Making a celebratory video to summarize each year of our lives

Random fact: Trying to learn American Sign Language

Nina by Zak

Whether it's her compassion, humility, grace, or some other quality that I can't identify, people are drawn to Nina. Her kindness and thoughtfulness don't seem to have limits, and her relationships reflect that. When we first fell in love, I don't think that I even knew how rare and special she was. As time has passed, I have experienced more of who she is and have loved her more and more. Seeing how much her family and friends (and then my family and friends) love her confirmed that others see what I see in her.

She is selfless and thoughtful but somehow manages to stay driven and focused. She is productive both at her job and at home, and she accomplishes that while maintaining kindness and putting others in front of herself. She gets excited about the little things in life which has been life-changing for me – she has taught me how to be grateful and joyful for the common, everyday things that life brings. **Her light shines on the best parts of those around her**, and they're all better because of it. To see that light shine on our child will be one of the greatest joys of my life.

Zak by Nina

Zak is my half-Greek husband who is somehow rugged, resilient, and tough while being equal parts silly, loving, and affectionate. To everyone around him, Zak is known to be the reliable one. Our friends with young children often call him in the middle of the night to ask him questions about their kids who are sick. They call him because they know he will always pick up. Zak is driven by the truth and his faith. He is known for always doing the right thing. He will set aside comfort, ease, and convenience just to do what is right.

He is generous, not just with gifts, but with his time and with his love. He gives without expecting anything in return. He is kind, not just to his close family and friends, but to complete strangers, and to people who don't often receive kindness. **He makes you feel worthy. He makes you feel like you are enough.**

When my best friend was struggling with fertility, Zak told her that not being able to have a baby didn't make her less of a woman. When we started going through our own fertility struggles, he has treated me in a way that proved to me he truly believes that. In this chaotic world, he makes me feel safe. **Zak is my proof that there is good in this world.**

Our Home

We live in a 3-bedroom home with a bonus room (turned into a board game room!) and basement that is part home gym and part grocery store- Nina loves to cook! Our house gets a lot of sunlight which makes it warm and welcoming. Zak has spent hours planting flowers in our backyard, where you'll often find us eating ice cream and playing cornhole.

Our neighborhood is lively, active, friendly, and remarkably safe. There are always families with children and dogs walking or playing in the playground right behind our house.

We love our community – this is our first house, and we couldn't be happier here!

Our family and friends

We have been unbelievably fortunate with our family and friends.

Our parents are incredibly hard-working and self-sacrificing. Nina's parents were born in India and immigrated here before she was born. They built a life in a brand-new world and made sure Nina was loved and taken care of. Zak grew up with hard-working parents that always made time to go to every baseball game he played in while growing up. Our parents' work ethic and family values have been passed on to us.

Our friends are a huge part of our lives, and we trust and rely on each other. Our individual friends have become our mutual friends. We are constantly traveling and hanging out with them.

Our relationships with our family and friends mean the world to us and we're confident that they will **love and protect** any child we're fortunate enough to bring into our home!

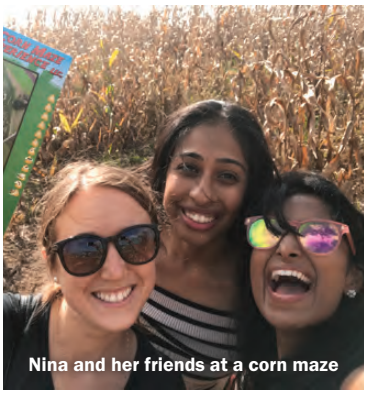
Traveling through Spain with friends

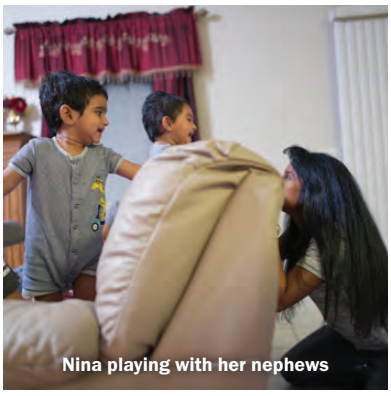
One of many family cookouts

Photographing our way through Greece

Zak & his nephew at his 2nd birthday

Our wonderful mothers

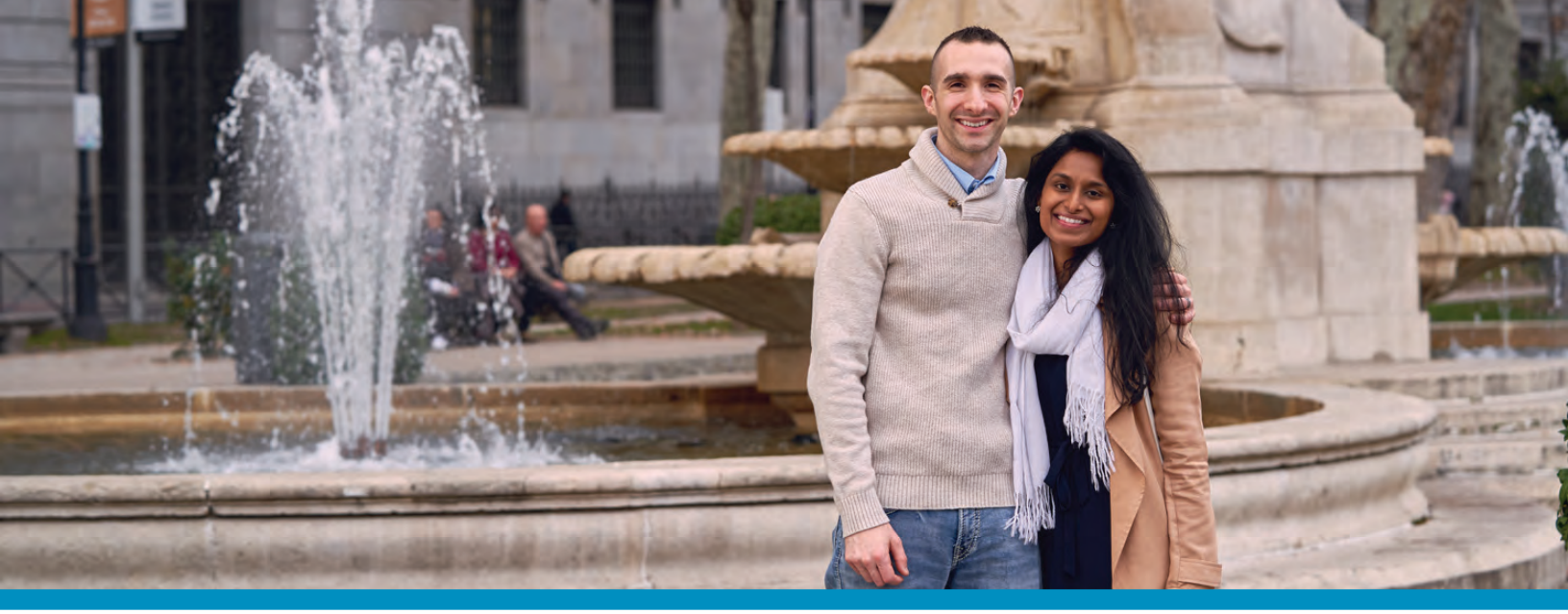

Nina and her friends at a corn maze


Nina playing with her nephews

Christmas get together with Nina's family

Zak and his dad on a summer night out

Exploring the redwoods in California with friends



Dear Birthmother,

Thank you for reading this, for considering us. The decision you have made, and the one you will make, must be incredibly difficult. Thank you for loving your child enough to put in the effort to seek out a family who will love them, even if it's not us.

Our promise to you is simple: your child will be loved, taken care of, and raised to be generous and capable. Your child will know that they are loved by you so much that you poured your heart into finding a family who would love them. We have so much respect for your strength and selflessness, and we will do our best to instill those traits in your child.

No matter who you choose, we thank you for your bravery and your love.

Zak and Nina

Why adoption?

We have had difficulty with conceiving on our own, so we are adopting sooner than we thought, but adoption has always been part of our path (we had both known that before we even got married).

As a couple with different cultural backgrounds who has truly loved and enjoyed learning about each other and our traditions, we are open to any gender and ethnicity.

We have been immeasurably fortunate with our marriage, friends, family, and stability and we cannot wait to share our life with a child.