

Marshaé

Dear Expecting Mother,

Thank you for taking time to read this. We haven't met yet, but I have been praying for you as I imagine the range of thoughts and emotions you're experiencing. I believe in my heart that you are acting out of love and appreciate you considering me as a parent to your child. I promise to love and support your child unconditionally. They already hold a special place in my heart, and I look forward to nurturing a loving relationship as we take this journey together.

A Little About Me:

I love music and singing. I sing in the choir and have an amazing church family that I love! Like my dad, I have a cooky sense of humor and love a good laugh. I enjoy eating out and trying different foods – and I LOVE pancakes! I have an almost 2-year-old dog, named Penny. She's super friendly and happy! She thinks it's her job to stop and say hello to everyone she sees. When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with my mom or my best friend, Angie, or sipping coffee at the neighborhood Starbucks. During the summer, I love to visit a good beach, the zoo, and just spend time outdoors. My life is pretty simple and blessed. I grew up in diverse neighborhood in New York where I was raised by mother as an only child. I visited my father in New Jersey on the weekends. My family life was unique. I was an only child in every sense of the word and I was also the youngest of my father's three daughters. I was blessed to have sibling-like relationships with two of my cousins and was surrounded by the love of a small, but mighty family on my mother's side. These days my immediate family remains small in size and huge in love, while my extended family continues to be an important part of my life. My immediate and extended families consist of biological and adopted relatives, half-siblings, stepsisters, nieces and nephews, and friends who have become family - all proving to me that love is what makes a family great.

My mother lives about 20 minutes away from me and we are extremely close. I love our relationship and believe it will serve as a blueprint for my parenting. She taught me to be kind and respectful, and more than that, she taught me at a young age that my voice was important and I was worthy of respect. My mom can't wait to be a grandma! In addition to her, I have a strong village of friends and family in New York and New Jersey that I am most grateful for. They are super excited about my adoption journey, and a few have even dropped hints about wanting to be godparents. I'm smiling as I write this because I know that your child will be loved beyond measure!

The neighborhood I live in reminds me a bit of the one I grew up in as a child. My neighbors are friendly, children run and play outside, and lots of people have dogs. The town is small and relatively diverse, with a library and downtown area in walking distance. I am near friends and family in both New York and New Jersey. I have a sunny two-bedroom garden apartment that has been very comfortable for Penny and me, and my mom, when she stays over. Although I don't have a backyard, I am able to spend a lot of time outside in any of the grassy areas in my development and there's a great playground on site.

My Hope and Dreams About Adoption I have prayed about adoption for a very long time and can't wait to become a parent. I am at a point in my life where I have accomplished great things in my career and wish to focus on building my family and pouring out the abundance of love in my heart. I appreciate the openness of adoptions today and am committed to fostering a relationship that helps your child to be secure in the fact she/he is loved.

There's so much I hope for that I don't have adequate words to describe, but I've tried to capture some of it in a letter to my future child:

Dear Baby Girl/Boy:

I cannot wait to meet you! I can already see you and feel the love I'll have for you. I am going to do everything I can to make sure you are happy, whole, and well-cared for in life. I plan to raise you to know that God loves you unconditionally and so do I. I didn't grow up with a lot of things, but I grew up with a lot of love. As your parent, the first and most important thing I want to give you is love. I also look forward to spending time with you and sharing experiences that I enjoy. Whether it's something simple like a trip to the zoo (I love the zoo!) or museums, learning how to fish, dance, or play instruments, I am excited about helping you discover the things YOU will love to do, too. I hope to give you a great education that extends beyond the school building and give you opportunities to travel and see the world. I'm already excited about our first trip to Disney World and hope it will just be one of many experiences that you'll enjoy as you're growing up. I want you to always know that your biological mom and dad love you. I will do all I can to make sure your family is not erased from your life. You deserve to know who you are and where you come from so that you can always feel like a whole person. I can't wait to meet you! I will not be a perfect parent - I will make mistakes. However, I promise to always do my best to make sure your needs are met, and to let you know that you can always trust me and talk to me about anything. I will do my best to teach you the things I think you'll need to know in life to make the choices that are right for you and give you room to be your own person so you can let your light shine. You are blessing and I love you already!

Love, Your Parent-in-Waiting

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and for considering me as a parent to your child. I look forward to meeting you someday!

With love,

Marshaé