



CLAYTON & OLIVIA GUSTIN



DEAR EXPECTANT PARENT(S),

Hello, We are Olivia and Clayton and we thank you for taking the time to learn more about our family. We are so excited to be adopting again and bringing a child into our family! We hope our story will help you in making your choice. Please know that no matter what you choose, we wish you and your child all the best.



about us

We met at university and have been married for over fifteen years. We are best friends. Our dream of adopting children was one of many things that brought us together. We can't really explain why, we just knew in our hearts that it was meant for us.

We have three beautiful children: Judah, Sojourner and Asher-Omari. Our daughters are biological and in 2018, we were privileged to adopt our son. They are all super excited to have a new baby sibling. We are proud that our family and extended family is knitted together by more than just blood. Love is a commitment, a daily choice and adoption, to us, is a powerful example of choosing love.

Our family has always been multi-ethnic (Mexican, European, Native American) but with the addition of Asher-Omari, we have the honor of helping our son take pride in his heritage as well. We are trying our best to take every opportunity to surround our son with black role models and peers. It's definitely not easy but being strongly connected to his family of origin is the most important component. We are deeply aware of the struggles facing black men in this world and we are doing all we can to prepare him and equip him to thrive.

Even though we love Texas and our families, in order to provide our kids with a broader perspective, more cultural diversity, greater safety and opportunity, we moved to Europe in 2021. We lived in London for a year and have now settled in Switzerland. We love spending time together as a family whether it is hiking, swimming in the local river/pools, visiting the zoo, traveling, or playing games.



a little about

CLAYTON

I am 36 years old and was born & raised in Central Texas. I have one older brother, who is now one of my best friends. I am a Christian and we attend a non-denominational, international church. Some of my favorite things to do are playing games with the family & reading books to my kids. I also enjoy exercising (weightlifting, hiking & swimming), eating good food, and traveling. I am a finance professional and have worked for the same company for over 10 years. Below are some my favorite things:

Favorite Food: Lasagna

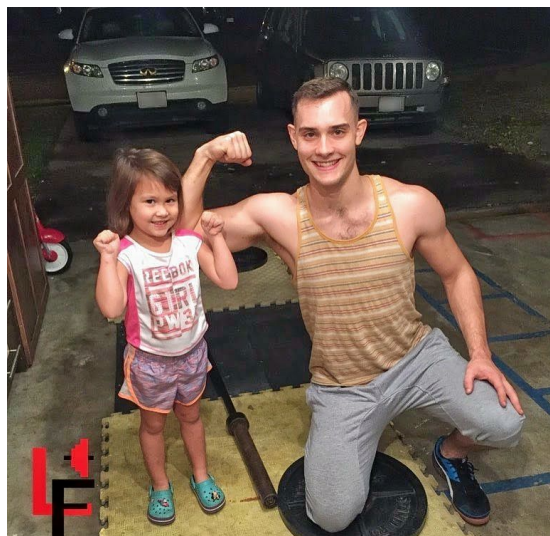
Favorite Color: Purple

Favorite Movie: Heavyweights

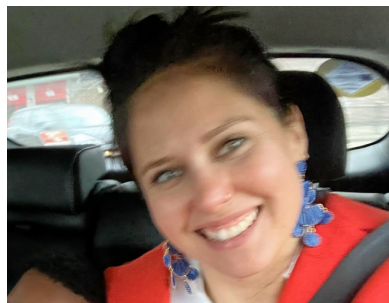
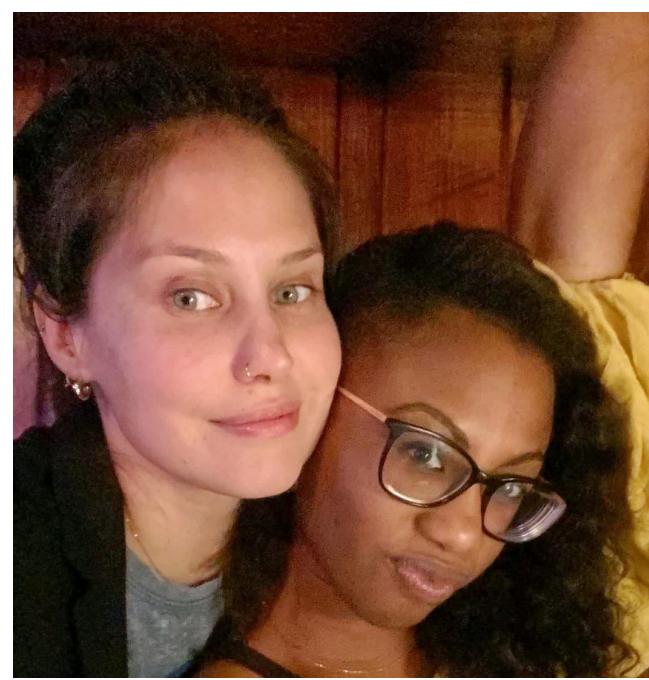
Favorite TV Show: The Office



My Dad, Brother, Mom and Me



My parents, Brother's family, and us



a little about

OLIVIA

I am 34 years old. Life is such an up and down journey but I am truly grateful for where God has brought me. I was a history teacher for many years but I quit when our youngest son was born. I'm not sure what I will do professionally in the future but right now I am focused on making our home in a new country. I am interested in lots of things but hanging out with friends and families is my favorite. I also enjoy working out, hiking, reading, painting, crafting, and traveling. I recently started a writing club with my brothers. Traveling as a teenager broadened my perspective and understanding of the world a great deal and it has remained a top priority in my life.





HOW CLAYTON THINKS OF OLIVIA

I have had the honor of knowing Olivia for over 17 years. She has a very outgoing and fun-loving personality and always knows how to put a smile on anyone's face. One of my favorite qualities about Olivia is that she genuinely wants to get to know people on a deeper level. She is 100% dedicated to our family and strives daily to ensure our home is a safe, fun place for our wonderful children. Olivia's other passions include baking, exercise, and reading. Olivia's name means peace or peace maker and it is evident that everywhere she goes she brings with her an amazing sense of peace. She is an incredible mother, an amazing wife, and a truly wonderful woman of God. I am truly blessed to be able to call her my wife and best friend.



HOW OLIVIA THINKS OF CLAYTON

Clayton is truly an incredible person. From the very beginning I was attracted to his easy going, loving personality. He genuinely cares about the people he's around and is always willing to sacrifice his time to help someone out. This quality has made him an excellent husband and father. He is so understanding and willing to work on our relationship. He always makes time to play with our children and read to them every night. He puts in the work for all of us and I am deeply grateful. Throughout our parenting journey he has been an incredible partner. He tirelessly helps, provides for, and loves on us. He is kind, caring, compassionate, loving, and fun.

OUR *home* AND NEIGHBORHOOD



We live in the amazing city of Bern, in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. Our family-friendly neighborhood is minutes from the river, zoo, many playgrounds, a forest park, and the medieval old town. Most importantly, the children's schools are academically excellent, supportive, and kind. We are so happy that we get to live in such a beautiful, safe, and multicultural place in the world. Our four-bedroom apartment is bright and spacious and our community is friendly and welcoming.



Hiking is a favorite weekend activity.



Our city is extremely bike friendly, with very little car traffic, which means we use our bikes as cars often. We also use the extensive tram and bus system to get around.



The Kindergarten our son attends.





a little about
OUR KIDS

Our kids are the coolest. We know everyone thinks that about their kids but we are convinced of it. They are interesting, funny, creative, and brave. They have tackled the transition to Europe incredibly well. They learned German, and now French as well. There are always hard days but they continually stay positive. It is a joy and privilege to raise them.





Judah

She is bravery embodied. It doesn't get much harder than moving to a new country and learning a new language in middle school but she has met every challenge head on. It helps that she makes friends everywhere she goes. Judah loves singing, art, and Animal Crossing. She is also extremely mature and keeps time for the whole family. She is an extremely kind and generous person.



Sojourner

She is dynamite. She could talk all day and if she isn't in school, she does. She is on a swim team and loves animals. Panda (our dog) is her pride and joy. She also loves crafting and braiding hair - her own, her dolls', and her friends'. Her most favorite thing to do is sit at the adults table and chat... everyone that's ever met Sojourner is amazed at her intellect and wit.



Asher-Omari

He is joy and love and everyday is better with him! For such a young person, he is very self-assured. He is exactly himself and we love it. He started kindergarten recently and loves anything with a motor. Trains, cars, airplanes, buses and trams are his most favorite thing in the universe.





Olivia's Family (most of them)



Some of our London besties.

The whole family is so excited for this adoption. We are so blessed to have the most supportive family around us, including our family through adoption. Open adoption has been more than a dream come true in our lives! We believe with our whole hearts that God does make all things good. Living far away is not easy but we are committed to keeping our relationships strong.

THESE ARE OUR
FAMILY & FRIENDS



Clayton's Family



Asher-Omari's Birth Family



Olivia's Best
Friends/College roommates



Paris with London friends



Our best friends from Texas



CLAYTON'S

family



My parents have been happily married for 40 years and love spending time with their grandchildren. I have one older brother who is now one of my best friends. He is married and has a 5 year old daughter. I grew up in a loving, fun home and was raised by two amazing parents who always put God first.



OLIVIA'S

family



I come from a large blended, family. As one of eight children my home was loud and full of love! Most of my family lives in Central Texas, however I have one brother who lives in Hawaii. Even with the distance we always try to come together for the holidays and summers. I believe the joy of growing up in a big family definitely formed my desire to have a big family as well.



Full Hearts!

We made wonderful friends in London! This is our church small group having an ugly sweater Christmas party.



Our sweet dog Panda is three years old and adores kids!

Sojourner and her cousin Isaac, born three days apart



Grandma being the absolute best



Cousins are so much fun!



Boating in Greece



Big summer birthday party for some of the cousins.

FAMILY TRADITIONS



Our family tradition in a word is TRAVEL. We travel to experience new cultures and places and we travel to see family. We know having supportive, wonderful family is an incredible blessing and we do not take it for granted. We are committed to visiting Texas at least once every year.

Every Christmas Eve we go to Clayton's grandparent's house to eat beef stroganoff and open presents



Another annual Christmas tradition with Olivia's family involves the entire family participating in a Nativity play.

As Christ followers we are so blessed to live in community with other believers. Going to church is a family habit that we cherish.





Adventures

You don't have to travel far away to experience adventure. Some of our most fun times have been at home. We are blessed to have been to some epic places as a family including Hawaii, Colorado, Greece, London, France, Germany, Scotland, New York City, and many more!



Judah's Thoughts

"Hi, my name is Judah and I am the oldest of two siblings. This adoption means a lot to me because I love to see how this baby grows and see what they're going to be like in years to come!

I am so excited to have another sibling around here! I really miss having a baby around!"

Do you have anything to say to an expectant mom or dad?

"I know that this baby will grow up with so much love and care!"



Sojourner's Thoughts

"Adoption means loving a baby that isn't yours by birth but treating it like it is and teaching it everything. I am excited to adopt another baby and I want another little brother."

Do you have anything to say to an expectant mom or dad?

"I know it's hard to think about your baby living overseas. It's sometimes hard for me to think that I live overseas but they will be well-traveled! In my opinion, the more you see, know, and read, the more knowledgeable you can be."



Asher-Omari's Thoughts

"I want him (the new baby) to be balded. Wait, are we actually adopting a baby right now?"

Mom: "Yes we are, very soon."

Asher: "YES! I want him to have baby toys...I will give him all the baby toys I have!"



From the kids:



Our promise to you...

We are very excited to be adopting again and to complete our family. We understand that it might be odd to consider a family that lives across the ocean to raise your child. We feel very blessed to live where we do and to create the family life we always dreamed of.

Please know, if you choose us, we will unconditionally love and cherish your child. Our goal as parents is that every one of our children loves themselves and others. We are trying our best to raise capable, kind humans, that are happy to be their unique selves.

We believe that nothing can replace you and that a relationship with you is integral for the wholeness of this new person. To this end, we desire a close relationship with you and hope you want the same.

We hope this book gave you a look at our lives and what's important to us. We look forward to meeting you. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely, Olivia & Clayton





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