



Hello!
I am
Alison

I write to you today
in the hopes of
someday becoming
a mother. I have
been lucky to live a
life full of
adventure, and I
now want to share
my adventures with
a child.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. For both you and I this is a time of uncertainty, bravery, and opportunity, and regardless of your decision I admire your courage as you face the future. I hope you know that, should you choose to make an adoption plan for your child, I would welcome your child into my family. Parenting a beautiful child is more important to me than the biological origin of that child. I believe openness is key in adoptions, and a child can never be loved by too many people.

I have been blessed with an amazing career (university professor) that has shown me the world—a gift I want to share with my child. I am a citizen of two countries (the US and UK), and I work on projects around the globe including US, Europe and Australia. I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in West Africa, and up until 2 years ago I lived in Dundee, Scotland. Thus, in addition to being loved by me, my child would also have “aunts”, “uncles”, and “cousins” in the UK, France, Germany, Netherlands, and Australia.



Me playing around on some standing stones
in the Orkney Islands, Scotland



Every summer my extended family (above) gathers in Maine at my Uncle Les' Lake House to catch up, swim, boat, fish, hike, bike, and eat lobster--and we also participate in the Mollycket Day festivities. All the children get to ride in fancy cars in the parade and wave to their parents. My child would grow up knowing they were loved by not just me, but also a large worldwide community and family.



My house is in Central Ohio. While the house is lovely (3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fenced backyard, and a half-finished basement perfect for a playroom) and decorated with things I've collected around the world, the wonderful neighbors are the real blessing of the house. They play an active role in my life--and would play an active role in my child's life. The street also has many children, and a very active social environment surrounding them.

Likes

- Cycling
- Travel
- Reading
- Scrabble
- Dairy
- Food

Dislikes

- Chocolate
- Horror movies
- Washing Dishes
(but I do them anyway!)



I spend every Christmas in Portland, OR with my parents, sister, and niece and nephew. Being with family at the holidays is extremely important to me, and would be important to share with my child.



With friends & family at the Taj Mahal, India

Despite my challenging career, I have a flexible work schedule, which allows for a good work-life balance and the ability to be there for any events with my child and spend quality time with them. My university also encourages work-life balance and provides daycare opportunities.



Christmas with my niece Abby and nephew Nathan



My "nephew" Eli and I at Notre Dame, Paris

Openness: I want my child to know that they are loved by everyone in their lives, including you. As a result, you will be included in your child's life story, and I will share your story with them. I would like to develop a communication plan that would work for you. I have friends and family members who have placed a child for adoption or are an adoptive parent, and who will support us and act as role models for successful open adoptions.



My Dutch friend Mirka & I like to travel together.

My Parenting Style involves equal parts love and structure. I believe in raising children who know they are well loved, think independently and make (and understand the consequences of) their own decisions, and have excellent manners (regardless of the culture). To accomplish this I will set up a regular but flexible schedule of activities that includes family meals and rules. I will tell and show them I love them every day. I also believe in education, and any child I parent will have the opportunity to go to college.



My Scottish friends Ali & Sam

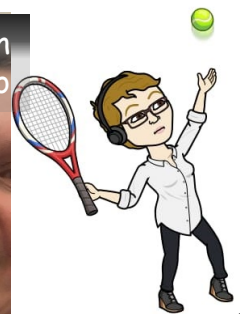


My friend Matt and I goofing off at a Columbus landmark

My friend Lekshmi & I



Friends Sam, Gill, Lauren & I @ Edinburgh Tattoo



My good friend Linda hates pictures, but loves tennis

I Promise to provide your child with love, security, joy, and adventure. Every day we will tackle the day with joy, snuggle, share hugs, and explore the world. I am ready to parent your child: I have seriously considered the decision to adopt, and I am excited to welcome your child into my life.