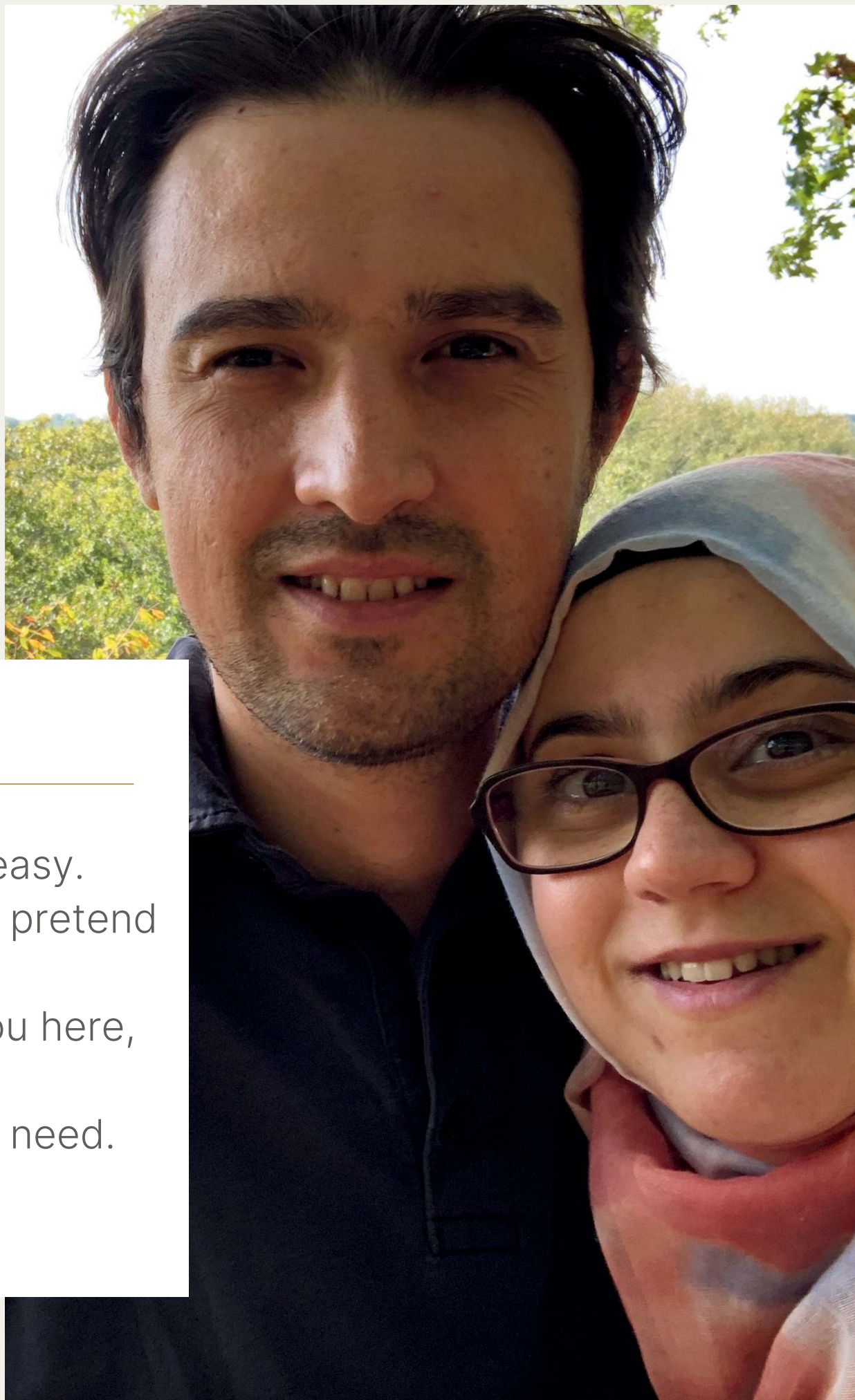


Hello

WE'RE
MEHMET AND BIRGUL



We know this is not easy.
We are not going to pretend
otherwise.
Whatever brought you here,
we are glad you are.
Take all the time you need.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

BY BIRGUL



MEHMET AND BIRGUL AT A GLANCE

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

BIRGUL: MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) IN BIOLOGY FROM
TÜBINGEN UNIVERSITY IN GERMANY

MEHMET: MASTER'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS FROM UNIVERSITY
IN VIRGINIA

WE LIVE IN COLUMBUS OHIO

WE'VE BEEN MARRIED SINCE 2013

OUR HOBBIES INCLUDE ENJOYING HIKING AND EXPLORING
NATURE, AS WELL AS WALKING AND BIKING FOR EXERCISE.

At family gatherings, I'm usually the one sitting on the floor with the kids, crafting.

Not because anyone asks me to, but somehow I always end up there. I like to really listen to what they're saying. Kids seem to feel that, and they open up so easily.

That's just how I've always been. It comes naturally to me.

At home, I enjoy creating a warm and peaceful space. I cook most evenings, usually from scratch the kind of meals that take a little time and make the whole house smell cozy. I love taking care of our home, working in the garden, and finishing little projects that make things feel more beautiful and complete.

When someone comes to visit, I like to prepare in a way that makes them feel welcome right away even if they can't quite explain why. I'm also very attentive to the small things. I check on our cats, Pati and Mia, making sure they're comfortable, have eaten, and are in their favorite spots. I think love often shows in these quiet, everyday moments.

Mehmet is different from me in many ways, and that balance is something I really value. He comes home and takes a moment to sit and relax. He has a calm and steady presence. He doesn't feel the need to fill every moment he just is there, and that brings a sense of peace.

With children, he's the same way. Gentle, patient, and present. He doesn't try to entertain them all the time, but they feel comfortable around him and naturally settle by his side.

When I plan trips (which I love to do), I like to share all the details with him places to stay, restaurants, little plans. He listens, even if he already knows he'll be happy wherever we go. It matters to me, and he always shows that he cares.

After fourteen years together, we still make that effort for each other. What we've built together isn't perfect but it's real, strong, and steady. It has carried us through challenges and made us closer.

Most evenings are simple: something on the stove, Mehmet reading nearby, and our cats finding their favorite spots. Our home feels warm, calm, and lived-in. Nothing feels forced.

That's what our life feels like.

And there is room in it, there always has been.

Family and Environment



BIRGUL'S MOM
AND NIECE

Our home has big windows, and in the mornings the light fills the rooms. The ceilings are high, and everything feels calm, not empty, but not crowded either. There's a couch where people really sit, and a kitchen that's used every day. Nothing is just for show. Everything has its place because it's part of our daily life.

When you walk in, there's a feeling of calm. It's hard to explain, but people often feel it right away.

Our cats, Pati and Mia, move through the house like they belong here, because they do. They have their favorite sunny spots and quiet corners. They're gentle and calm, and they add to the peaceful feeling of our home.

Family is a natural and important part of our lives. It often looks like a long table, a lot of food, and conversations flowing easily. We move between Turkish, German, and English without even thinking about it. Sometimes all three in the same moment.

There is always someone arriving, someone being welcomed, something warm to eat. Children are part of everything, they move freely, play, and are never rushed.

We have grandparents who are present, Friends we've known for years, and people who feel comfortable just walking in and being part of our home.

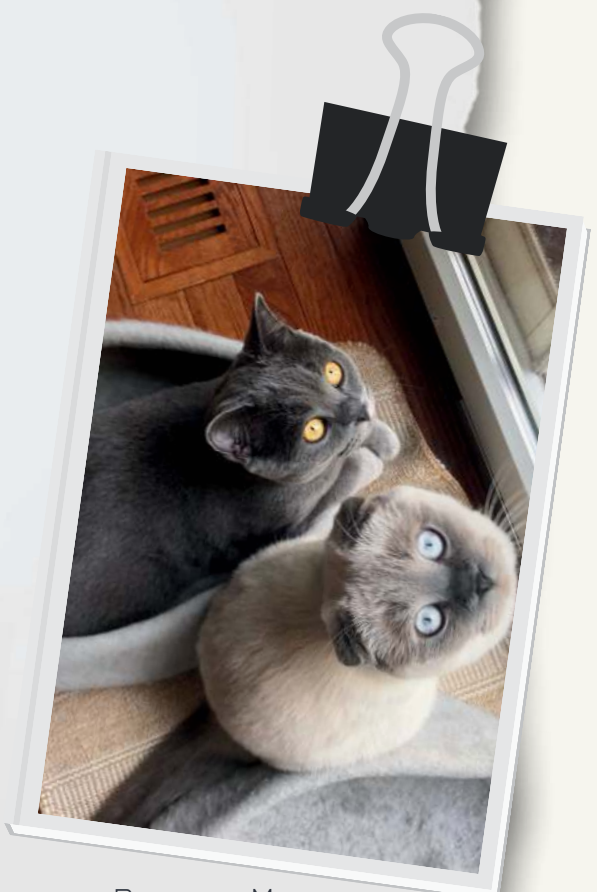
Nothing special is happening. And it still feels like enough, more than enough.



MEHMET'S
PARENTS



FAMILY AND
FRIENDS



PATI AND MIA



A NOTE TO YOU

A child in our home will always be told the truth, about who they are and where they come from. Not all at once, and always in a way that feels right for their age, but with honesty and care. They will grow up seeing two people who try to be kind to each other, even when things aren't perfect. They will hear more than one language, share meals together, and know what it feels like to truly belong, to have a place that is theirs.

Faith is part of our lives. It shows in how we treat people, what we're grateful for, and how we try to do what is right. It's not about rules, but about the way we live every day. Your child will always know their story. They will know they were placed with love and care. Their beginning will never be hidden or treated as something to move past, it will simply be a meaningful part of who they are.

If it ever feels right to you, we would be happy to share photos or letters over time, just small glimpses into how they are growing. There is no pressure at all. Whatever feels comfortable to you is enough.

Mehmet:

I am not someone who says a lot. But I want you to know that I have thought about this child more than I can put into words. I will protect them. I will be there every day. That is something I do not say lightly.

Birgul:

I have wanted to be a mother for a long time. Longer than I usually let myself say out loud.

It did not happen the way I hoped. That was one of the hardest things I have ever been through. For a while I did not know how to talk about it. I still do not always know how.

But I kept coming back to the same thing. What I wanted, what I had always wanted, was just to take care of someone. To be there every single day. To make someone feel safe and loved and like they matter.

I am not going to pretend I have everything figured out. I do not. I still have moments where I wonder if I will be enough.

But when I love something, I show up for it. Every day. In every small way I can find. Not because I am trying to. Just because that is how I am built.

I would show up for your child that way. Every day, for their whole life, in every small way I know how.

We know what it took for you to be reading this right now. We think about that more than you know. And whatever you decide, we want you to know that you are not invisible to us. What you are doing comes from love. We see that. We will never forget it.

Mehmet and Birgul



With our
Niece