



**Liz, Andy and Linda**





Dear Birth Family:

Thank you for taking the time to look through our book and get to know us. We are a geeky family from Pittsburgh.

In our family we love deeply and we can promise you that if you choose us, your child will grow up knowing nothing but unconditional love and acceptance, no matter what paths he or she walks in life.

Love,  
Liz and Andy



# Our Story



Fate brought us together. A college friend of Liz's married a college friend of Andy's. Their Christmas party in 2011 changed the course of our lives. Neither one of us felt like going that night, but we both went anyway. We started dating shortly thereafter. It wasn't quite love at first sight, but it was close. By the end of February we realized we'd met our better half. We married in October of 2013. As with everything, life has brought us its share of ups and downs, but one thing that hasn't changed is our deep and growing love for one another.





# Our Parenting Philosophy



We believe that children are a gift to be nurtured and cherished. Our primary goal as parents is to make sure that our daughter grows into a healthy, happy, well-adjusted adult. We have always encouraged her to be her own person and express herself. We want to nurture her independence, her personality, and her individuality. We do this by giving her many opportunities to express herself.

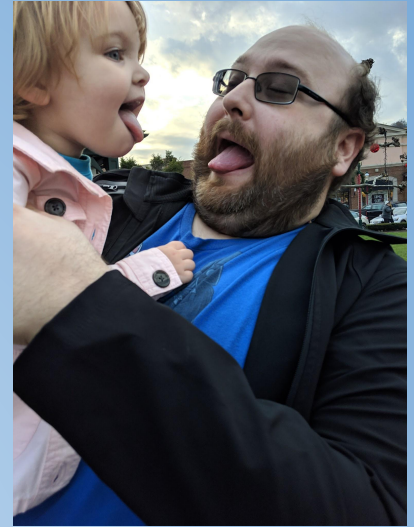
We believe that it's important to make sure she knows that she's loved unconditionally. When she misbehaves, we correct her behavior, but we also make sure she knows that her actions will never change the deep and unconditional love we have for her. We get down on her level to explain why what she did is wrong.

We also believe that education begins in the home. We make sure she has plenty of mental stimulation, which includes a mix of educational toys and toys dedicated to pretend play. We do plenty of arts and crafts at home and make sure she gets plenty of outside activities. We have memberships to the zoo and all the major child-centered museums in Pittsburgh so that she gets to learn through play at those places too. When it's time for her to go to school, we are dedicated to sending her to the best schools. We plan to send all our children to private schools at least through high school. We have also begun saving for college for Linda and any other children we might have.

Liz is a stay-at-home mom to make sure that Linda and any other children get the best possible care. Even when they go to school, she wants to be involved in their school and to be there to support them when the school day is finished.



# Andy



Education: BS in Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon University

Profession: Software Engineer for Google

Religion: Christian

Favorite Book: Norse Mythology by Neil Gaiman and most things by Brandon Sanderson

Favorite tv show: Stargate SG1 and Farscape

Favorite Movie: Princess Bride

Favorite Game: Knights of the Old Republic

Favorite music: Rock and melodic metal

Interests: Science fiction, fantasy

Hobbies: Gaming (video, board, and RPG), watching TV and movies

## About Andy (By Liz)

The night we met, Andy might have been the only one at the party. I was completely enamored. His smile gave me butterflies, but his sense of humor was what I fell in love with. Since then, he's proven to be one of the kindest, sweetest men I have ever know. He is my soulmate, my rock. I fall more in love with him every day.

Even before we had our daughter, I knew he was wonderful with children. He was (and still is) a jungle gym and play mate for our friends' kids. He is also an absolutely incredible father. He is patient, and gentle with our daughter. My heart explodes with happiness when I watch them together. They absolutely adore each other.



# Liz



Education: BA in History from La Roche College, MA in Public History from Duquesne University

Profession: Stay-at-home mom

Religion: Roman Catholic

Favorite Book: Harry Potter series

Favorite tv show: Fringe, Get Smart

Favorite Movie: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade and the original Star Wars trilogy

Favorite Game: the Dragon Age trilogy and the Legend of Zelda series

Favorite music: Classic Rock and Broadway musicals

Interests: History, Football, Science fiction, and fantasy

Hobbies: Gaming (video, board, and RPG), reading. and writing

## About Liz (By Andy)

When I first met Liz I thought she was smart, pretty, geeky, and would in no way ever be interested in me. My friend told me to ask for her number before she left and I just laughed and said she was out of my league. A couple weeks later I finally got up the nerve to ask her out and very quickly determined I loved her and needed to marry her.

I love how Liz lets me be my geeky self, and how she's letting Linda become her own person. My heart melts when I see Liz and Linda cuddling or playing together and it's obvious how much she loves both of us. I love her more every day.



# Linda



Profession: Toddler

Religion: Roman Catholic

Favorite Book: But Not the Hippopotamus by Susan Boynton

Favorite TV show: Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood

Favorite Movie: Frozen

Favorite music: Frozen soundtrack, Bruce Springsteen, and Hamilton

Favorite activity: climbing and jumping

Likes: cheese, snow, cats, dogs, cheese, going outside, and cheese

Dislikes: going potty, being told no

## About Linda (by Liz)

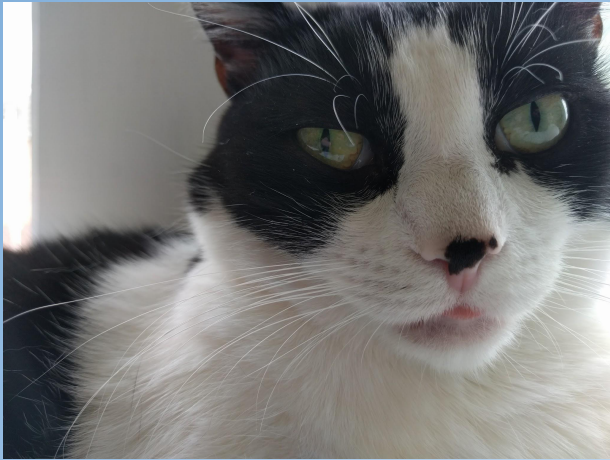
Linda is our two-and-a-half year old rainbow baby, born after miscarriage and infertility. She's the light of our lives. She's funny, kind, caring, and incredibly silly with a big imagination. She loves all animals, especially cats and dogs.

She loves the outdoors. We spend most nice days outside, either in our own backyard or at the nearby park. She's recently fallen in love with the snow and she loves going out and playing in it.

She also loves talking, despite her late start. Linda had a speech delay, but after months of therapy she's surpassed other children her age.



# The Pets



Dumbledore

Named for: Albus Dumbledore from Harry Potter

Likes: warm laps, tuna, being petted

Dislikes: dark wizards, messiness



Merlin

Named for: Merlin from the Arthurian legends

Likes: adoring pets, tuna, eating

Dislikes: Obi-Wan, wet cat food



Obi-Wan

Named for: Obi-Wan Kenobi from Star Wars

Likes: Pets, playing, treats

Dislikes: the Dark Side, putting his sweaters on



Dresden

Named for: Harry Dresden from the Dresden Files

Likes: adventure, tackling Dumbledore, playing with Obi-Wan

Dislikes: not landing on his feet





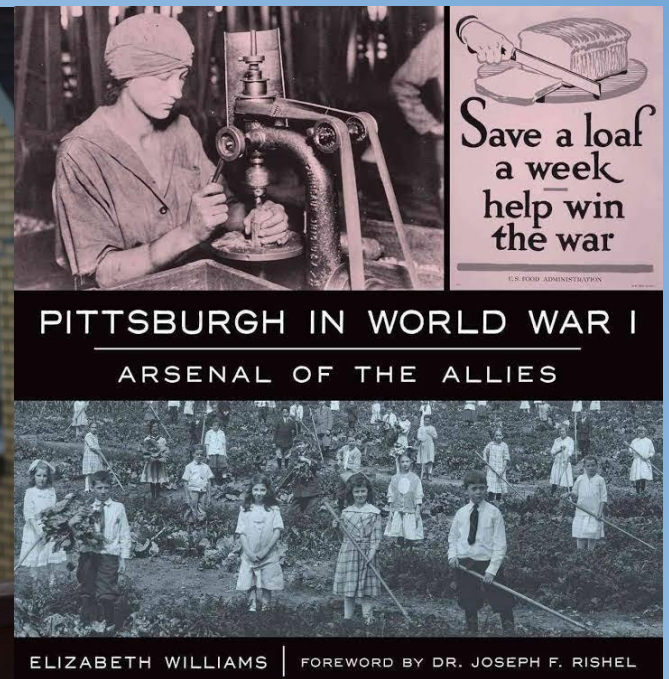
## Life Before Linda

Andy and Liz were married in October 2013. Liz, Dumbledore, and Merlin moved in with Andy after the wedding. We've had our shares of ups and downs, like any couple. Our fertility struggle was especially trying, but each challenge has only served to make us a stronger couple.

Before Linda was born we did a little bit of travelling, in particular to the San Francisco area and to London.







## Liz Before Linda

Although Liz quit her job when Linda was born, Liz was the head archivist at La Roche College. She is also a published author. Her first book *Pittsburgh in World War I: Arsenal of the Allies* came out in 2013. She has also written several articles and a chapter in *Supernatural Lore of Pennsylvania: Ghosts, Monsters, and Miracles*. She hopes that when her children go to school, she can write another book.







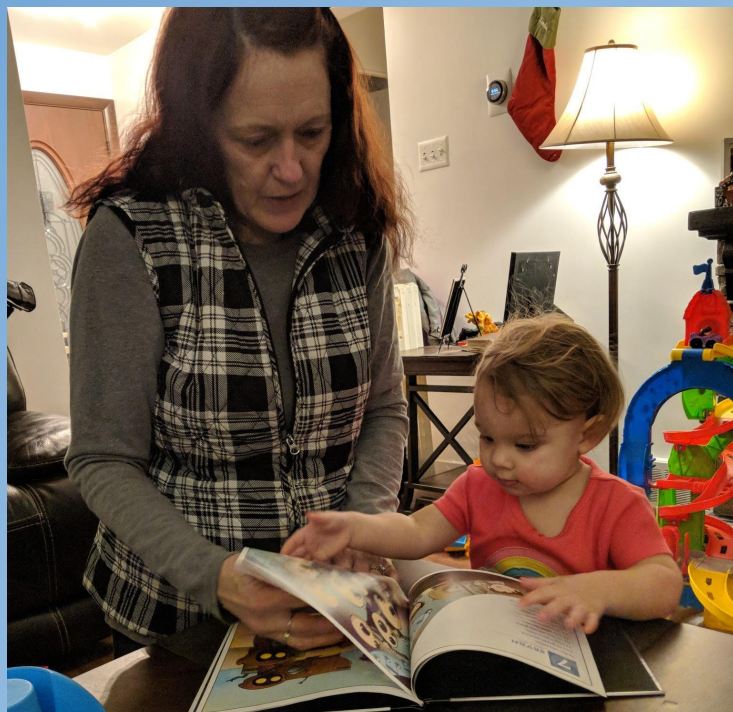
## Liz's Family

Family is incredibly important to Liz. Her younger brother, Andrew, is her best friend and a doting uncle. She is also extremely close to her parents and large extended family. Liz has ten living aunts and uncles as well as numerous cousins and second cousins who live locally. They are an incredibly close-knit family, who provide each other with love and support.

Liz's family believes that the bonds of love are more important than the bonds of blood when it comes to making a family. A person is accepted and loved whether he or she is born in the family, adopted, married in or even a close friend.







## Andy's Family

Andy is the oldest of three brothers, Tim and Ben. They grew up in Connecticut with strong bonds to the local church, along with a sibling tradition of playing soccer and studying martial arts as they grew up.

Andy's parents and one brother still live in Connecticut and make occasional trips to Pittsburgh to visit. His other brother recently moved to Chicago.

Andy's family taught him core values of love and forgiveness and he hopes to pass that along to his children.





# Our Local Support System



Liz's family is incredibly close, both physically and emotionally. Her parents live less than ten minutes away and are a constant source of support for our family. Her brother is our best friend and an incredible uncle.

Liz's extend, local family is also a source of great support. Her aunts, uncles, and cousins dote on Linda and would any additional children we may have. She is also incredibly close to most of her cousins. Especially her cousin Gina and Gina's husband Chuck. Liz and Gina are only two months apart and grew up together. She considers Gina to be more than a cousin, she's a sister and friend. Linda calls Gina and Chuck, "Aunt Gina" and "Uncle Chuck".

We also have a circle of loving and caring friends who are a constant presence in our lives.





# Our Home



We live in Liz's hometown of Pittsburgh, a multicultural city with many great cultural opportunities.

Our neighborhood is wonderful too. We live in a quiet section of Squirrel Hill, one of Pittsburgh's most bustling and lively neighborhoods. We are a short walk away from one of the largest parks and best playgrounds in the city.

Our house has a finished basement that we use as a family room, four bedrooms, two full baths and two half baths. It's also got a lovely yard that we hope to put a swing set in in the next year.





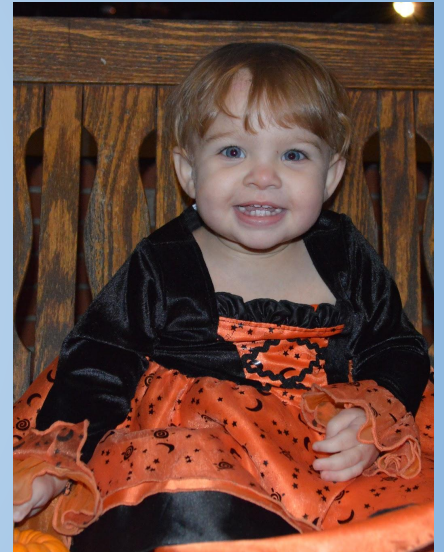
# Holidays With the Herrmans



We love Halloween in our house, especially since Linda's old enough to go trick or treating now.

Liz loves decorating, particularly for Christmas.

The major holidays are spent with Liz's immediate family. Her mom loves cooking and we all enjoy being together as a family. Liz's aunt and uncle on her dad's side often join us but it's not unheard of for friends to come too. Everyone is welcome at her mom's table.





# Family Traditions



We take a yearly family trip to Trax Farms before Halloween in order to pick out pumpkins and visit the animals.

Every summer we go to Kennywood, a local amusement park, during Google's company picnic.

At Christmastime we go to Phipps Conservatory to see the lights and decorations.

We look forward to adding more traditions every year as our children grow.







## Party Time

Liz's extended family gets together at least once a year. Every year for as long as Liz can remember, her family has gathered together on Christmas Eve. She has many fond memories of spending the holiday at her grandparents' house. After her grandparents passed, one of her cousins took over hosting the gathering. Another cousin has started hosting a summer cookout. Our family values this time together.







## Oh the Places We Go

We are a family that likes to be on the go. Whether it's the Science Center, the park, the Children's Museum or local events we like to be out and about making memories.





# Family Fun



We love to laugh and always find a way to have fun. Whether we're at home or on the go we view every day as its own unique adventure.





# A Day in The Life



On a typical day, while Andy is at work, Liz and Linda (and sometimes Liz's retired Dad) have fun. They play, and do crafts. It's not all fun and games though. Linda helps Liz clean too! She has recently discovered how much fun cooking dinner with Liz is.





# Thank You

Thank you so much for reading our book and considering us for your child's forever family.

We promise you that if you chose us your child will be surrounded by love and support.

We promise that we will make sure your child knows as much about you as you would like. Most of all we will make sure that your child knows that you made the incredibly selfless decision to give them up for adoption because of how much you loved them.

We love taking photos, especially of our daughter. We will make sure to do the same with any future children. We will make sure you get photos on time.

With love,  
Liz, Andy, and Linda