

MARISSA · AND ·
NICHOLAS





Hello!

WE ARE
**MARISSA,
NICHOLAS**
AND OUR DAUGHTER,



WE LIVE IN *downtown Chicago*
IN THE EAST LAKEVIEW
NEIGHBORHOOD, JUST
1 BLOCK FROM LAKE
MICHIGAN. WE MET ON A
DATING WEBSITE SO IT'S
SORT OF FULL CIRCLE TO
BE CREATING A PROFILE,
BUT TOGETHER THIS TIME!



We feel so blessed to have such a wonderful family! We found one another 13 years ago and nearly 4 years ago, adopted our amazing daughter, Astrid. Bringing Astrid home filled us with overwhelming happiness. Adoption is very special to both of us. Nicholas' two eldest brothers were adopted by his Mom and Marissa always wanted to adopt, even before realizing pregnancy would be a challenge for her. Together, we choose to expand our family through adoption which brings us to you... Thank you for considering us to be adoptive parents. We will with Astrid- love and cherish your baby with every ounce of our beings and look forward to this adoption journey together. Your courage and strength is a true blessing and you will always have a special role in our lives. We are humbled by you and love you dearly already.



WE STILL HAVE SO MUCH LOVE TO SHARE, AND ARE EXCITED TO ADOPT ANOTHER CHILD TO EXPAND OUR FAMILY AGAIN.



WE
DREAM
OF

giving endless
kisses
and snuggles,
making baby food
from scratch,

and seeing Astrid be a big sister! We are excited for everything big and small a parent experiences. Whether it's reading stories before bed or watching our baby take their first steps, we don't want to miss a minute. We have had the best 4 years raising and loving our beautiful daughter, and are ready to welcome another child into our hearts and lives.

ABOUT US



Our “modern” love story began on Match.com nearly 13 years ago. Nicholas likes to say when he saw Marissa crossing the street, he felt like he was in a corny romantic movie and life moved in slow motion. We talked for hours and hours and have been inseparable ever since.

OUR MODERN LOVE STORY

We got married nearly 11 years ago in a magical outdoor wedding where we let our friends and family eat endless amounts of food, dance all night, and release “wishing lanterns” on the beach. We are each other’s best friends and equally share a zest for life. We both are very close to our families and are lucky to have 2 sets of parents who have been together for almost 50 years! We love to travel and are fortunate enough to have traveled extensively. Astrid has one stamp in her passport, and we plan to show our future children the exciting places the world has to offer. Our family loves to cook and believe our kitchen is one of the happiest places in our home—it’s where we laugh, dance, and create delicious food to share. Wherever we are, we always keep one another laughing.



MEET
MARISSA



I like to say that I won the lottery when I met Marissa, having found such an amazing partner in life.



Marissa is an incredible role model for Astrid and someone I admire deeply. She is strong, confident, worldly, patient and extremely successful. She cares deeply about our friends and family. One conversation with Marissa, and you'll instantly feel the warmth of her smile and her enthusiasm for life.

Always laughing



MARISSA HAS
A SMILE THAT
MAKES YOU
INSTANTLY FEEL
SAFE AND AN
EMBRACE THAT
FEELS LIKE *home.*



MORE ABOUT MARISSA

I watch in awe every day with how wonderful of a Mother Marissa is to Astrid.

One of the greatest joys in my life is to watch the two of them interact and strengthen their special bond. Their love for each other is a beautiful thing to witness and puts a smile on my face daily. Marissa is nurturing, loving, kind, and always takes the time to listen and understand all of Astrid's 4-year-old feelings. Marissa also instills a simple but important mantra to our family – LIFE SHOULD BE FUN! There is never a dull moment with Marissa in the room – from inventing new and fun games to staging grandiose puppet shows, or making sure we are consistently enriching our lives with museums, music, or memorable experiences.

Lady Love!



TWINNING!



Marissa's kindness is also one of her best strengths. She volunteers weekly at Dress for Success where she helps dress and coach women who need employment. She makes each woman feel beautiful where it matters most – on the inside – and helps instill a newfound confidence for their upcoming interviews and life changes. She leads by example and there's nothing she can't accomplish when she puts her mind to it.

MEET
NICHOLAS



BY

MARISSA

Nick is the best husband and person I know.

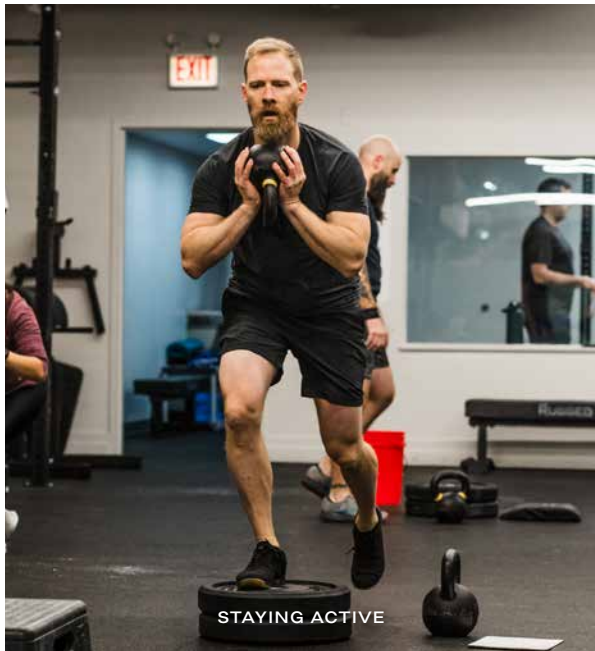
Nicholas is kind, generous, considerate, intelligent, and will keep you laughing for hours. He is the best father in the world and is a true equal partner in parenting. Nicholas loves deeply and it shows in his relationship with Astrid and how he adores her. He also has a charm and charisma that makes him magnetic and someone who people love to be around.



MORE ABOUT NICHOLAS

Nicholas is family-oriented and loves nothing more than to hang out with his girls- Marissa, Astrid and Lady.

Nicholas is naturally athletic and excels at sports. He loves cooking family dinners, playing music and being active but his most surprising interest is his love for the arts- specifically for improvisational comedy. When we first met, I had no clue what "Improv Comedy" was and after 13 years together, I am still so impressed with Nicholas' fearlessness to get on stage, not have any lines rehearsed, and just perform.



Nickel, my nickname that I borrowed from his Mom, is as good as they get. He is nurturing and sensitive in a way that not many fathers are. From watching Nicholas happily ride his bike with Astrid strapped in the back to taking 5,000 photos of his girls, he loves so deeply and will do anything for his family.





MEET
ASTRID

She is the happiest, most vivacious 4-year old who loves to laugh, dance and play.

Life with Astrid is just better. She sings and dances without any cues and her favorite song is "Happy Birthday". She walks around our home in her dress-up heels like a pro while making up imaginative fairy tale stories out of nowhere. She loves exploring nature, bike riding and feeling her toes in our nearby sandy beaches. Astrid is incredibly social and is a natural nurturer- even at 4 she coos over babies. She is sensitive, kind, and smart

as can be! She loves her family dearly and loves to kiss and hug us all the time. Our favorite is when she holds our faces in her hands in the most delicate and genuine way that makes us melt and want to cry at the same time. Astrid is excited to be a big sister and tells us she wants both a brother and sister! She is truly a special little girl and the apple of our eye.



School fun!



SWIMMING IN FLORIDA



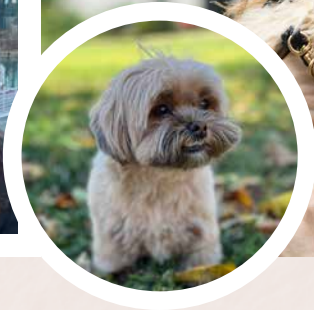
SHOULDER RIDES

Living so close to the Lake and park gives us the opportunity to take daily outings to play outside, ride our bikes, and have fun together. Nicholas will make sure to bring the balls- both for Lady and Astrid- and Marissa is ready to make family flower crowns.



We love our neighborhood since we are one block from Lake Michigan and minutes away from walking to multiple parks, The Nature Museum, & Lincoln Park Zoo.

In the summer we all bike ride together- even Lady in a front basket, and head to the beach and parks. We are also only a 10-minute drive to Marissa's parents as well as the Magnificent Mile- a great destination for shopping, eating, and taking in the sites. Fortunately, we also live in one of the safest neighborhoods and best school districts in the city. Chicago is diversified in every way a city can be and we love it. Every few months we drive up to smaller, beach towns in Michigan- only an hour away- for a change of pace. We rent a cottage and go vegetable and fruit-picking, play on the beach, let Lady endlessly run, and get a taste of the country life!



WHILE CHICAGO IS OUR HOME, WE ARE BOTH VERY CLOSE TO OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS WHO LIVE IN GREAT DESTINATIONS FROM *California to New York*. WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE SUCH WONDERFUL AND SUPPORTIVE FAMILY AND FRIENDS!





TRAVELING WITH MARISSA'S FAM

Marissa's parents are from New York City originally but moved to Chicago 40 years ago. Marissa has 1 younger brother, Jordan, who lives in Los Angeles with her sister-in-law, Tovah. "Coco" and "Jojo" are the best auntie and uncle and absolutely adore Astrid. Astrid was even a flower girl in their August wedding. Her Mom, Sharon, and Dad, Rich, met when they were only 14 years old but still hold hands like teenagers. Marissa and her parents also work together. Sharon and Marissa are real estate agents and Rich is a real estate developer. With Nicholas, they have all real estate covered in the family! Sharon and Rich are the most loving and involved grandparents who see Astrid multiple times a week and love to spoil her

LOVE · MAKES A · FAMILY



MARISSA'S PARENTS

endlessly. Whether it's traveling, cooking Sunday night dinners, or simply going to a restaurant, we always love being together. Astrid is adorably attached to her "Nanny and GG (Grandpa)!"

Nicholas is the youngest of 4 brothers who live all over the world. Nicholas' parents, Janie and Tom, live in Cincinnati but, since retiring, travel throughout the year and visit their grandkids as often as



DATE WITH GRANDPA

possible! Nicholas's family was created in its own special way reiterating that family is created through love. Adoption is very near and dear to their hearts as Nicholas's eldest brothers have a different biological Mom. We have 2 nephews (Caden, 8, and Quinn, 2), raised in Africa and live in Southeast Asia. We also have a niece, Clare, who is almost 15 years old whose Mom

was unable to get pregnant without the use of an egg donor. Like Clare's parents, we have a "Birth Book" for Astrid and plan to do the same again so our future child knows his or her birth story. Nicholas's family couldn't be more loving or supportive. Astrid loves to visit GJ (Grandma Janie) and Grandpa and run in their acres of land, eat veggies from their garden, and watch the fish in their pond!



PLAY TIME WITH HER UNCLE



Marissa's Fam



Christmas in Cincinnati

Grandma Janie makes 25 dozen cookies in preparation and fills their Cincinnati home with 2 trees and an endless display of Santa's and holiday collectibles! Grandpa puts up holiday lights everywhere- including a special light display in their own room. Christmas with Nicholas's family is spent with the 15 of us under one roof. We cook up a storm, play card games, watch football, and take the kids to Zoo Lights. On Christmas morning Marissa, Nicholas and Astrid all have matching pajamas and Astrid nearly swims in a sea of presents.



Nicholas' Fam



ASTRID WITH NICHOLAS' PARENTS



GJ AND GRANDPA LOVE TIME WITH THEIR GRANDKIDS

A FUN DAY WITH NANNY



PHOTO BOOTH SILLINESS



• THANK YOU •

We are so humbled and grateful you are considering us as adoptive parents and to give us the opportunity to make our dreams a reality. We are here on the journey with you and look forward to an open adoption. You will always hold a very special place in our hearts, you are a gift, and we thank you so very much.

Nicholas + Marissa

