



He110

We are honored you are considering us for the greatest privilege – raising your precious baby. Thank you for taking the time to learn about us, it means SO much to us. We are praying for you as you navigate this complex decision, and are abounding with respect for your strength, bravery, and selflessness. We cannot begin to imagine how difficult this season is for you and we are endlessly grateful for your time and consideration of our family. We hope this book provides a glimpse of our family's love, playfulness, and values.

WITH LOVE

Daria & Bo





- I love playing collaborative board games (but not competitive ones); as a kid, my parents gave me a new board game as a present every Christmas
- I was a competitive cheerleader through middle and high school
- I care deeply for the environment and cannot walk past a piece of trash on the beach without throwing it away
- I used to be fluent in American Sign Language, and although I'm rusty now, I plan to teach it to our new baby
- My favorite way to spend an afternoon is wandering around an outdoor market/craft fair

Daria

I am a 35-year-old Christian who grew up in Orange County, California. Professionally, I do public relations. I used to do technology PR but made the transition to managing communications and public relations for a non-profit a year ago to achieve a better work/life balance. I currently work part-time remotely from home to spend more time with family.

I identify as both a planner and spontaneous – I like to plan one big activity/errand per day and live the rest of the day spontaneously, so I get a bit of structure but don't feel boxed into too many commitments. I enjoy cooking and baking - I scour food blogs for new recipes to try, and I enjoy making things from scratch, like almond milk, granola, and ice cream! I have a big sweet tooth, so I especially enjoy making desserts. I'm pretty active and enjoy being outdoors - hiking the nearby nature trails, walking along the beach, or just spending time in our backyard. I crave some form of physical activity every day; I've run a marathon and half marathon, but after an ankle injury I transitioned to walking and now do that and Pilates daily. I am a big hugger, back scratcher, etc., and tell my family I love them and am grateful for them every time I see them. I serve as our family's vacation and event planner, and archivist - I love taking pictures, maintaining family photo albums, and buying an excessive amount of picture frames to cover our house with.

I started a book club with a few friends, I'm always reading 2-3 books at a time. My favorite books are fiction with strong character development, such as by authors like Liane Moriarty, Sally Hepworth, and Shari Lapena. I am a big fan of New Year's resolutions; mine for this year are to be where my feet are, pray before Googling, and practice saying, "hello to here" (intentionally living in the present moment as it is, rather than how I wish it could be). I am a compulsive nickname ("Bo" has been tricky for me to nickname, but I've resorted to elongating his name in several variations over the years). I am highly sentimental and have saved every birthday card I've received for the last decade. I am a proponent of dancing out a bad mood – just turning up the music and having a kitchen dance session.

My parents and sister still live in the house I grew up in, and it's just 45 minutes away from where we live now. I have one younger sister, Lindsay, who I am very close to, we enjoy paddle boarding and getting our nails done together. My mom paused her career while Lindsay and I were young to stay home with us, and my dad was an attorney so he worked long hours but spent as much time with us as he could. We grew up Christian, attending a nondenominational church every Sunday, and had two incredible dogs, Bailey and Chip. I have a BA degree in Communication from UC Santa Barbara, and a Master's degree in Media Communication from the London School of Economics, and started a PhD in Communication at the University of Southern California but left after a couple of years to return to working in PR.



"Daria exudes an energetic purposefulness in everything she does."

I first fell in love with Daria's intelligence and confidence. She can meet someone for the first time and make them feel like they've known her forever. Daria exudes an energetic purposefulness in everything she does. I am still impressed with Daria's thoughtfulness, diligence, and organization. Out of respect for others, she is never late and never forgets a 'thank you' card. Her closeness with God shows in her moral clarity. She pursues life rather than letting it come to her. She cares deeply for the environment and has endless compassion for others, evidenced in how she always carries granola bars in her car for anyone unhoused that she drives past, and picks up a few pieces of trash each time we visit the beach to leave it cleaner than she found it. She plans a few beach clean-ups for our family to participate in each year too.

Daria and I love the beach and being outdoors. On vacation, we explore a new coast or National Park. Throughout our marriage Daria has become an excellent chef and baker – from making her own BBQ sauce or ice cream from scratch, nothing is too complex. Marrying Daria was the best day of my life; being with her has brought my life so much joy adventure, and goodness.

Written by Bo



- My favorite music is country
- I enjoy American History and love reading books on law and history
- I'm happiest at the beach, preferably surfing
- I love BBQing, and making my own rubs and marinates
- I am a coffee connoisseur and make my own cold-brew coffee
- I enjoy watching sports, particularly football and baseball, and participate in a fantasy football league with my friends every year

M E E T

My sister and I were the first ones on either side of our family to go to college. I went to UC Santa Barbara for 4 years, and then to UC Berkeley for my law degree. After law school, I got a job with a law firm in San Francisco. However, I left the corporate world a year later and joined the US Marine Corps where I rose to the rank of Captain. In the Marine Corps, I learned that I loved defending those who could not defend themselves, so afterward, I became a Federal Public Defender. I now represent people accused of crimes by the Federal government who can't afford a lawyer. I feel incredibly fortunate that God has given me this purpose in life.

As a kid, baseball was my first love, football my second. I rode dirt bikes in the desert with my uncle and taught myself how to surf. I grew up in Oceanside, CA – about 10 minutes away from our house now. My parents got divorced when I was 5 and my dad left my family. My mom moved me and Amanda, my older sister, in with my grandparents for a few years while she got on her feet as a single mother. She eventually bought a house just a block away from my grandparents, so I was always at their house after school and during summers. My grandpa was a US Marine who fought in Korea and Vietnam, and my grandma was a German immigrant. My grandpa was stationed in the Philippines for several years, so my grandma cooked a mixture of German, Pilipino, and American dishes for me and Amanda as kids. I spent a lot of time with my three uncles, who all lived nearby too. Growing up we always had a pet dog that we'd rescued from the animal shelter on Camp Pendleton, and I can't imagine my life without a dog. After my dad left it always felt like something was missing, but when I was on a field or in the ocean it didn't matter as much. Now my relationship with God and commitment to Daria has helped fill that void.



"Bo is intensely loyal and dedicated to his family."

Bo is truly my best friend, I am so grateful we've experienced the last decade together, supporting one another as we've embraced equal measures of life's beauty and challenges. When I married Bo, I gained a genuine life partner who shares both the joys and hardships life has brought us, from the mundane to the magnificent. Bo is incredibly hard-working, and constantly thinks about the needs of his family – putting others before himself. I love that while his job can be intense, he can still be goofy, such as wearing a silly hat while making breakfast. I really appreciate that Bo is always up for my adventures – he has a very open personality – if I spontaneously propose a hike that is a bit of a drive away, he's ready to hop in the car and go. Our relationship is built on the core values of honesty, respect, and having fun together.

Bo is intensely loyal and dedicated to his family, he is essentially the human version of our golden retriever, Brooks. He is determined to be the best version of himself that he can be. He is incredibly handy and skilled at so many things – he can fix cars, replace the flooring throughout our home, install appliances – and has strong attention to detail and is a creative problem solver, all while maintaining humility and grace. We fell in love because of our shared values, love of God, common interests in being active/outdoors/by the beach/traveling, and desire to grow a family together. To relax together we enjoy watching legal dramas on TV.

Written by Daria





We went to the same undergraduate university and lived two doors down from each other our senior year but didn't meet until three years after graduating while we were both living in San Francisco, CA.

Daria was working at a public relations agency and Bo was going to law school at the time. Bo asked Daria out on our first date, and Daria asked him out for our second date – she took him to a comedy show where we were both praying the comedian didn't call us out and make us banter with him during his routine. We dated for two years and then Bo proposed and Daria said yes! We got married one year later on the beach in Dana Point, CA, and are celebrating our 7th wedding anniversary this year.















Meet Baxter

Baxter, 4, is empathetic, gentle, and kind, and he loves playing sports in our backyard and with his t-ball team. He enjoys reading endless books, particularly non-fiction ones about trucks, gorillas, and dinosaurs. He has a strong work ethic and loves helping his mom cook and bake, and his dad and papa with projects like gardening, painting, and fixing things using his tool set. Despite his aspirations to drive a monster truck and fight fires, he has a healthy dose of caution when playing at parks - he gets scared if he's pushed too high on the swing. He has strong opinions on not only his wardrobe but ours as well, and is usually clean and tidy he even eats donuts without using his hands to avoid getting sticky. He regularly expresses concern for others and the environment, adroitly reading the emotions of those around him. He has a wild imagination, creating fantastical alternate realities for himself and his two favorite stuffed animals, Louis the dog and Ralphie the rabbit.



Meet Arlo

Arlo, 2, is confident, brave, assertive, and active – he thrives anywhere in or near water: at the beach, pool, bath, even Brooks' water bowl... He is obsessed with Brooks and his stuffed lion. He loves playing with balls and cars – he gives a hearty chuckle when he dunks the basketball and has perfected animated automotive sound effects as well. He has the deepest most adorable belly laugh that he gives easily. He loves swinging and going down slides – the bigger the better! He enjoys helping his dad do the dishes and doing (or trying to do) everything Baxter does.





to adopt, and the resources to be able to do so.



























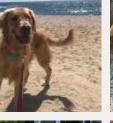
URB NORTH DIEGO IN SOUTHERN

CALIFORNIA.

We bought our home in 2019 and have undertaken house projects over the past few years. It is an open floor plan and has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms on an 8,000 square foot lot, with a large backyard that has a sandbox, lemon and fig trees, a swing, and a trampoline! We love the coastal breeze and natural light our home gets; we live 15 minutes from the beach and go there a few times per week. We're a 10-minute walk from an awardwinning elementary school, and most of our neighbors are also young families and we are friends with many of them. We love walking to the library Bookmobile that comes to our neighborhood every Thursday afternoon and playing tennis on the neighborhood courts. Our neighborhood has lots of green open areas with trees, playgrounds, and picnic benches.

One of our favorite local attractions is Legoland – we live 20 minutes away so we have annual passes and enjoy going to the aquarium and riding the new dinosaur rides. We treat the nature trails and lake at Guajome as an extension of our backyard - it is within walking distance from our home and we go there several times a week to feed oats to the ducks, walk the trails, and play at the park there. Other local activities we do regularly are petting the reptiles and guinea pigs at the Agua Hedionda Discovery Center, paddle boarding at the Carlsbad lagoon, cheering on the Padres at baseball games, admiring the animals at the San Diego Zoo and Birch aquarium, hiking at Torrey Pines, picnicking outside while the orchestra rehearses at Rady Shell, strolling farmers markets, swimming at the community pool, wandering the Oceanside Museum of Art, meeting up with other families at various parks, and engaging in children's story time at the local library.











Brooks

Brooks is an affable 6-year-old Golden Retriever who is an avid swimmer, a food thief, and is incredibly gentle and patient with the boys. He loves giving kisses, especially if we are wearing sunscreen or lotion.



There is nothing we love more than spending time with family

We live close by Daria's parents, Keven and Claire. Daria works two days per week from home and Keven and Claire watch the boys while Daria works - they take them swimming in their backyard pool, play baseball, go to parks, and read books together. Daria's younger sister, Lindsay, also lives nearby and loves spoiling her nephews, she's been teaching them how to play piano on her keyboard. Daria's 94-year-old grandfather, James, lives in Los Angeles, so we get to see him a few times a year at birthday celebrations. Claire loves baking and cooking for Baxter and Arlo, and Keven loves playing sports with them - he's been teaching them soccer, baseball, and tennis. They are such involved grandparents. Both Claire and Keven grew up in large families (Claire was one of seven kids, and Keven one of five), so Daria has LOTS of aunts, uncles, and cousins that we get to see at least once per year.

Bo's mom, Kathy, lives in a suburb of Sacramento in northern California near his sister, Amanda, and her family. Amanda is married to Mike and they have two sons, Sawyer (6) and Gunner (3). Baxter and Arlo adore their cousins! Kathy is such a generous, thoughtful grandma, and Amanda is a really loving aunt – for Christmas Amanda hand-makes matching personalized shirts for the boys every year. Bo's uncle Robert and aunt Cori live in San Diego and we're very close with them and their two adult sons, Cannon and Brody. Robert and Cannon spent many weekends working with Bo redoing the floors in our home and helping us with a few other house projects.











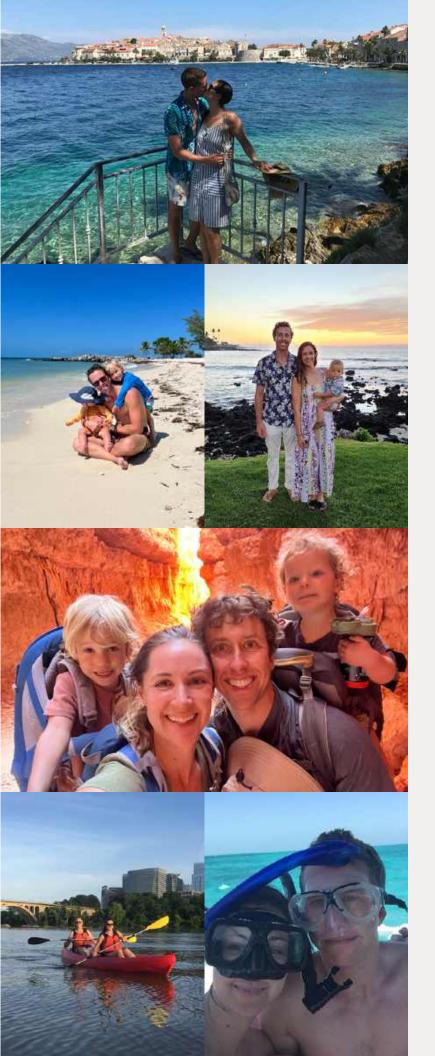
are so important to us!

Bo is really close with the guys he grew up with – they all live nearby and participate in a highly competitive fantasy football league every year.

Daria's childhood friends are more spread out (Utah, Illinois, Portugal, Pakistan!). She also gets together with local friends for outings with the kids a few times per week – Baxter and Arlo have had some close friends since birth that are the kids of Daria's friends, and it has been sweet to watch them grow up together.







We love to travel!

Daria used to live abroad in London, England, and Melbourne, Australia, and one day plans to bring the family to visit both those cities. We've been doing more domestic travel in the past few years, but are planning a trip to Europe (Italy, Switzerland, Portugal, and possibly France) next year! We mostly travel to beaches and national parks. When traveling we love to try out the local coffee and ice cream, and Daria buys a chapstick from each place we visit. We have a photo map of the US where we add a picture of ourselves visiting each state, we hope it have it all filled in one day.

One of our favorite vacations was a road trip to Sun Valley, Idaho, Grand Tetons/Jackson, Wyoming, Yellowstone National Park, and Glacier National Park, Montana. We did some stunning hikes to waterfalls, went on a long bike ride, and saw incredible wildlife. Some of the most beautiful beach trips we've done have been in Hawaii and Florida – we loved the Florida Keys and Seaside/30A.

our family traditions

Eating dinner every night around the dining room table, one of us prays before we eat and we take turns sharing what our favorite part of our day has been

Everyone's birthdays are really special for Daria and she loves celebrating each one of us on their big day – she throws the boys a birthday party (usually joint since their birthdays are 10 days apart), plans a special adventure for Bo on his (once she surprised him with a mini road-trip to Big Sur), and bakes Brooks pup cakes on his birthday

We spend most major holidays with Daria's parents and sister since they live so close- on Christmas morning we open presents at home and then go up to Claire and Keven's house for the afternoon to celebrate with them, for Easter we usually have them down at our house for church, brunch, and an egg

We go to church on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas day go on a beach walk after opening presents and having breakfast, and at night walk around the harbor where there is an annual light show and boat parade

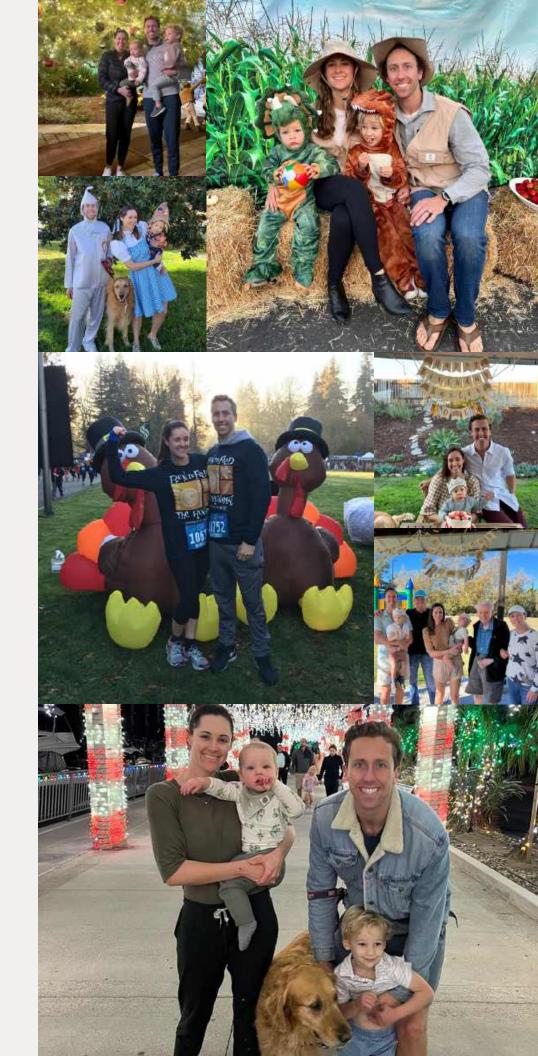
Before kids we loved doing Turkey Trots on Thanksgiving, trying out the 10Ks in various cities – we've done the Oceanside, Vista, Sacramento, and Dana Point Turkey Trots – but when Baxter was a baby our jogging stroller broke during the race and we haven't gotten the nerve to try it again yet

Bo loves the 4th of July and hosts a small BBQ, in which he begins marinating the meat days in advance and makes delicious guacamole

We visit Bo's side of the family near Sacramento each fall; it is quintessential autumn and stunning up there with gorgeous trees changing color. We go to nearby Apple Hill to visit orchards, buy fresh apple cider, and enjoy time with family

Every Sunday Daria makes a special family dinner. As we're writing this, last Sunday's dinner was a vegetable stroganoff with chocolate olive oil cake for dessert and homemade hibiscus iced tea

On Halloween, we go trick-or-treating around our neighborhood with neighbors/friends, and we all dress up in a family group costume – including Brooks! We've dressed up as Wizard of Oz, Taylor Swift and her cats, dinosaurs and paleontologists, and football players with their coach (Bo), cheerleader (Daria), and referee (Brooks).





V O L U N T E E R I N G

& supporting our local environment and community are really important to us.

Daria and the boys make and decorate cards for elderly people living at a retirement home nearby about once per month, and spend some time visiting there when we drop them off. Brooks has come with us on occasion and has brought so many smiles to the residents there. We also head to the beach with our trash grabbers to do our own little beach clean-up every few months - the boys get really into it racing to pick up the most trash. We always store granola bars and water bottles in our cars to give to any homeless people we drive past, Baxter enjoys drawing on the water bottles to decorate them. When we were engaged, we volunteered with the babies in the nursery at our church. More recently, we served on the welcome team at church, greeting folks as they arrived to make them feel welcomed. Daria volunteered as a small group leader for elementary aged kids at church every Sunday while she was in middle and high school. Growing up, Daria's family founded the nonprofit, Sports Gift Inc., which collects, refurbishes, and donates sports equipment to children globally. Her family took a few trips to Costa Rica and Mexico and throughout California as well to distribute the equipment to kids.



















YOU ARE IMMEASURABLY STRONG,

SELFLESS, AND BRAVE.

If we have the honor and privilege of adopting your sweet baby, they will endlessly hear of your kindness and strength, and will be reminded regularly that they are a gift and should feel proud of who they are and their origin story. To us, family is not defined by genetics, but rather by commitment. If selected to parent your precious baby we will be 100% committed to seamlessly adapting ourselves to accommodate their individual preferences and needs, and getting to know and love them as the unique person they were created and put on this Earth to be. You will of course be part of our family as well, to whatever extent that you desire. Thank you with all of our hearts for considering us for the greatest honor imaginable, we hope to get the immense privilege of meeting you soon.

LOVE,



