

Abigail and Marshall



Dear Birth Parents,

Our names are Abigail and Marshall, and we want to first say thank you for considering us as parents. We are a fun-loving, affectionate, and very committed couple, and we are truly excited about the possibility of raising your child. We have always dreamed of being parents, sharing our love with a child, and building our warm family.

This would be our first child and we are thrilled to welcome a child into our loving home as we begin the next chapter in our lives as parents. Our parents, too, are eager about having a grandchild, and Marshall's parents look forward to becoming grandparents for their first time.

We have enjoyed the past 4 ½ years of marriage; however, during that time we have both struggled with infertility. We are excited about the opportunity to build our family through adoption. We know that this is an important life decision for you. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about us and we look forward to experiencing the joys of life with your precious, beautiful baby.

Yours,

Abigail & Marshall



Marshall and Abigail

Fun Facts about Abigail and Marshall

	<u>Abigail</u>	<u>Marshall</u>
Favorite Food	Indian	Middle-Eastern
Favorite Color	Blue	Purple
Favorite Cartoon	Bugs-Bunny	Scooby-Doo
Favorite Movie	"My Big Fat Greek Wedding"	"The Goonies"
Favorite Celebrity	Chevy Chase	Steve Martin
Favorite Sport	Baseball	Basketball
Favorite City	Jerusalem	Boston
Favorite Music	Country	Classical
Childhood Memory	Sunday picnics with my family at the Arboretum	Root beer snow-cones on the weekends

How We Met

We met in Houston in November 2003 when we were introduced by mutual friends at a few dinner parties. We had a lot in common and dated until February when we got engaged. We then got married in January 2005. One of our fondest memories of dating was going to an Indian restaurant where we had a romantic dinner of very spicy foods and mango shakes.



Marshall with his mother & siblings



Abigail & Marshall on their wedding



Abigail & Marshall with Marshall's extended family

Introducing Abigail

By Marshall:

"There are many things I love about Abigail, but the things that stand out in my mind are that Abigail is a sweet, beautiful young woman who has a great sense of humor and a charming personality. She has a sparkle in her warm hazel eyes and she seems to truly care about who I am. Abigail displays confidence, grace, and spirituality. I knew that she was the ideal wife for me, and I also knew that she would make a wonderful mother too. She has a lot of love to give and is close to her parents, siblings, nieces, and nephews."

By Abigail:

My Background

I was born and raised in Chicago, IL and am the oldest of three. I graduated from Loyola University and pursued graduate medical studies at schools in Boston and New York. I had always wanted to become a doctor and I am now a doctor who specializes in helping people with arthritis, pain management, and autoimmune diseases like lupus. I am self-employed so I have a flexible schedule, which will allow me spend lots of time with your child.

My Family

My first priority in life has always been and will always be my family. I maintain a close relationship with my parents who live in Chicago and my brother's family who live in New Jersey. We travel several times a year to see my parents and my brother, and they come see us in Texas throughout the year too. My sister's family lives in a nearby neighborhood in Houston and we see each other often.



Abigail & her parents on Thanksgiving



Abigail and her niece



Marshall, Abigail, & Abigail's parents



Abigail with her brother and her nephew & niece



Abigail with her parents and sister



Abigail with her mother and nephew

Things I love

I love dogs and used to have 2 adorable poodles named Cocoa Puff and Tippie Toes. I am very crafty and love making beaded jewelry such as necklaces and earrings! I have a green thumb in the garden and love my roses. In fact, on many early, cool mornings I can be found trimming roses and pulling weeds. I love to cook from scratch in the kitchen using healthy and natural foods. I like meeting my girl friends for tea, reading, going to Astros baseball games, going to the opera, and spending quality time with my sister and 4 nephews and nieces that live nearby.

Introducing Marshall

By Abigail:

"I love everything about Marshall, but I was initially attracted to Marshall because of his handsome face, sweet beautiful smile and happy personality. He makes me laugh although he also has a serious side. He is intelligent, an excellent problem-solver and a good provider. Marshall is fun-loving and will make a wonderful father."

By Marshall:

My Background

I was born in Houston (a proud native Texan!) and grew up in Houston. I am the oldest of four and I went to Boston University. I majored in communications and then pursued business studies at the University of Texas at Austin. I worked for 2 non-profit agencies after college and then returned to Houston in fall 2003 to work at a wholesale grocery company in the sales & marketing department. I went on to pursue an MBA degree full-time at the Univ. of St. Thomas in Houston and then began my own voice-over audio narration company in which I read scripts for online training, TV & radio advertisements, phone messaging, etc. I love being my own boss! I have a flexible work schedule, which will allow me to spend lots of time with your child.

My Family

I am very close to my family. We get together with my large extended family for Friday night dinners, anniversaries, birthdays, and holidays. I have 21 first cousins and 6 uncles and aunts. My grandmother is the matriarch of the family and she loves to make her famed "Mom's chocolate cake," which everyone loves. My family also gets together to watch UT-Austin football games where we cheer "Hook 'Em Horns"!



Marshall's father, grandmother, & stepmother



Abigail & Marshall, Marshall's father & stepmother



Marshall with his nephew



Marshall playing Lincoln logs with his nephew



Abigail with Marshall's mother at Rodeo

Things I love

I am an Eagle Scout and have always had a love of the outdoors and nature from my many years in Boy Scouting. I enjoy camping, hiking, fishing, and outdoor cooking. I am involved with several non-profit agencies that work with children and families to improve the quality of their lives. I like reading, going to museums, theater, symphony, and Astros games with Abigail. I also have a green thumb and enjoy tending to my herbs & vegetable garden. I especially like to fire up the BBQ grill for special occasions such as birthdays, July 4th, and family gatherings.

What it Means to Be Parents and Our Strengths & Values

Parenthood means everything in the world to us and it is a very important life goal for both of us. To us, being a parent means building a genuine relationship with a child that will last forever and loving a child unconditionally. We strive to have open and honest communication, mutual trust, sincere commitment, and growth in a caring home environment. We as parents will seek to inspire your child to learn as much as he or she can about the world and to give back to society. It is our deepest desire to see your child develop into an honorable, educated, independent, and loving adult.

Education

Education is very important to us. We believe a well-rounded education is key to a child's long-term success. As parents, we will encourage your child to read many books and we plan to enroll your child in private schools and college-preparatory schools. We intend to provide a strong moral, spiritual, and ethical upbringing for your child.

Why We Think We Will Be Great Parents



Abigail and Marshall in Montreal, Canada

While we have never had children of our own, we have lots of love to give. Abigail knows about nurturing and caring from her first-hand experience of baby-sitting and playing with her 8 nephews and nieces. Abigail has also shown her kind, gentle touch by taking care of her patients in her medical practice in which she always gets compliments for her compassion. She has a warm heart and makes a nice clean home. Marshall happily plays with Abigail's nephews and nieces often, and is a loving brother to his 3 younger siblings and 21 cousins. Marshall is even certified in American Red Cross infant/child CPR and first aid.

Our Home and Neighborhood

We live in a great, safe neighborhood in Houston with 2 parks nearby. Our neighborhood has a large community center with swimming pools, grocery stores, high quality nursery and elementary schools, shopping, houses of worship, and libraries. People of all ages live in our neighborhood and many people can be seen all day and night riding bikes, pushing strollers, walking their dogs, jogging, gardening, or just walking around the neighborhood. There is a neighborhood association that provides activities throughout the year so we can get to know each other.

Our neighbors on both sides of the house are older, kind people that have each been living in their homes 40+ years! They are always happy to grab our newspaper or help in other ways when we are away. We belong to a neighborhood fitness center where we exercise a few times a week and they even offer babysitting.



Our home and gardens



Our backyard gardens



Baby's Room



Abigail's backyard roses



We have a single story, 3-bedroom house. Your baby will have his/her own room. Our backyard is completely gated so your child can play in the spacious backyard. We also take great pride in our beautifully landscaped lawn that has varieties of roses, potted herbs, fruit trees, and many native Texas plants that attract butterflies.

What We Do For Fun

We like to travel to new and exciting places in the U.S. and outside the U.S. One of our favorite places to go in the United States is Taos, New Mexico. We love the breathtaking sunsets and fresh mountain air in New Mexico. We also enjoy sightseeing around the state of Texas. We have visited a lot of places in Texas but some of our favorite places are Austin, San Antonio, Kerrville, and Galveston. Recently, we went to Wharton, TX where we even stayed in a modern "Tee-Pee" and we had smores next to the campfire under the star-filled sky!

We also like to go to the museums, theater, symphony, opera, movies, water parks, and Astros games. We like having barbecues with our extended family and going to the Discovery Green Park in downtown Houston. Sometimes we just like to do simple fun things like reading, attending a lecture, taking care of our garden, exploring the Farmers Market, walking around the Galleria mall, meeting our friends for dinner, walking around the neighborhood, or going swimming.



Abigail and Marshall's mother at a costume party



Marshall climbs Pikes Peak in Colorado



Marshall in mud at the Dead Sea in Israel



Abigail at the Tee-Pee Motel in Wharton, TX



Abigail and Marshall with Abigail's parents on a family cruise



Abigail and Marshall hiking in Israel



Abigail & Marshall dancing



Abigail with her "Pirate" friend at a costume party



Abigail and Marshall at a house party with their friends



Abigail and Marshall at the Polo horse stables



Abigail and Marshall on a Colorado trip

Looking Forward...

We believe that we have much time and love to share with a child. After four and a half years of infertility, we have happily decided to pursue adoption in order to begin to create our family. We want only the very best possible for your child in terms of health, education, nurturing environment, values, safety and security, happiness, and love. We are committed to raising your child as if he/she was our own biological child. Please know that we will give your child all of the love that he/she needs and deserves. We hope and pray that you will make the best decision for both yourself and your baby.

If you would like, we are more than happy to share photos and progress reports/letters as the child grows and matures. We know that our relationship with you will develop over time, and we intend to be open and honest with our child about the adoption. Thank you again for your consideration of us as future adoptive parents.

Marshall & Abigail



