

MARIA & STEVE



hello!



THANK YOU
FOR LEARNING
ABOUT US. WE
ARE EXCITED
TO GET TO
KNOW YOU AS
WELL!

We're honored you would consider us as you plan for your future. Life can take so many unexpected twists and turns.

**WE ARE FULL OF HOPE
THAT OUR LIVES MIGHT
INTERCONNECT WITH YOURS
AND THE LIFE OF A BEAUTIFUL
CHILD.**

We will forever be better for this journey we choose together. We hope through the words and pictures in this book, it will provide you with a glimpse into our lives and that this may be the beginning of something beautiful.

**WE WANT YOU TO KNOW
HOW SPECIAL AND LOVED YOU
ARE TO US AND TO GOD. OUR
HEARTS HAVE LONGED FOR THE
DAY WE GET TO MEET YOU AND
OUR ARMS TO HUG YOU AND
THE AMAZING CHILD YOU ARE
BRINGING INTO THIS WORLD.**

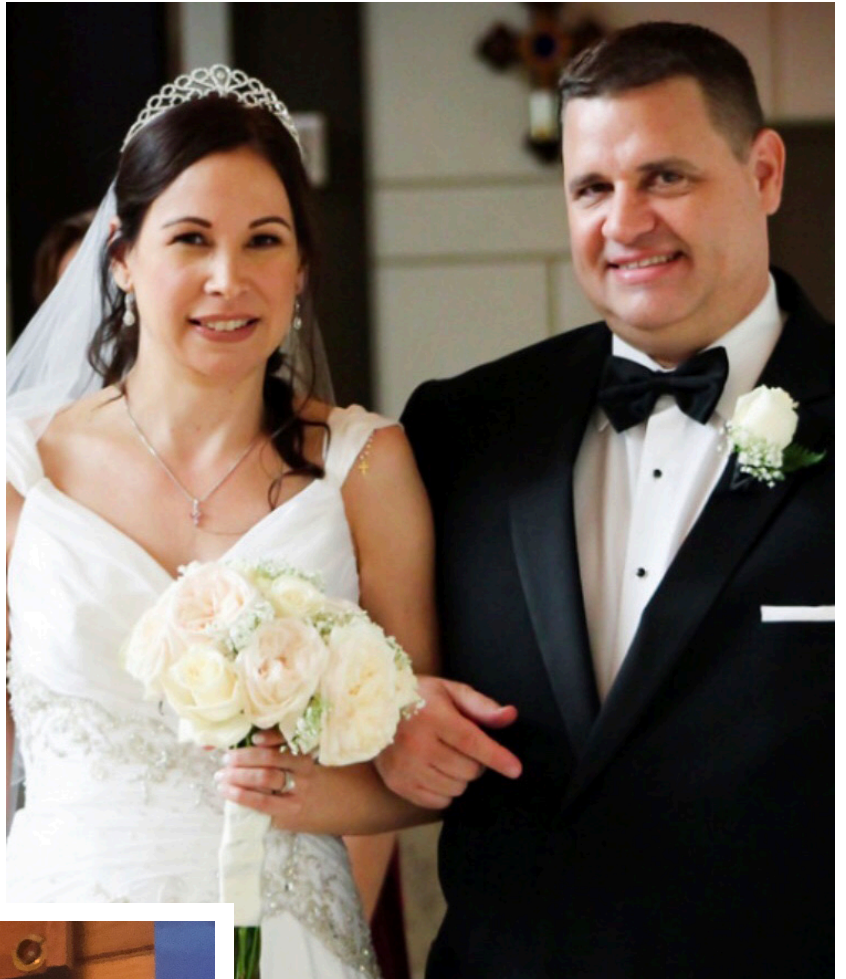
Laughter and love fill our home and we have been blessed in so many ways. We would love to share our life and our blessings with this child.





WHY WE HOPE TO ADOPT

Steve and I always thought about having a biological child and then adopting a child; especially since Steve is adopted. He has seen the beauty of adoption first hand in his life journey. Ever since I (Maria) was a child I wanted to have a big family of my own and loved the idea of adoption as a loving option.



Early in our marriage we were saddened when we went through the experiences of 2 separate miscarriages and wanted to share these 2 losses with you. We have always talked about adoption and adoption has a special place in our hearts and ***we are honored to be able to grow our family through adoption.***

We know that God has a plan for all of us even if it's hard to understand at times. Yet, there are always caring people that show up in difficult times and their support is truly appreciated from the heart.

OUR *story*



AS TOLD MY MARIA:

My soulmate, my life partner, my best friend, and my heavenly, are phrases that I call my Hubby. We met 13 years ago at work and became friends. We were also extra busy caring for our elderly parents; and as a discharge planner in the medical hospital setting, I hardly had any time to speak at work other than a few minutes. We are both Christian Catholic so we would always say: "I'm praying for your intentions," to one another.

We met for coffee one day, and little by little, our friendship started growing. We fell in love and began to date and 6 months later we were engaged. Shortly thereafter; we became husband and wife in 2017.

Steve and I have a great amount of synchronicity toward each other; for example, many times I may be thinking of a topic or word to say, and Steve says it first. Then I say "That's the same thing I was about to say!"

Steve and I cared for our elderly parents during their years of illnesses and we believe that is one of the reasons God placed us in each other's lives. In addition to sharing our love for each other, there was also our desire to help our beloved parents when they needed us the most. My parents and Steve's parents were present at our wedding. It was our dream to have them with us and share in our happy and sacred union. We waited to get engaged in our 40's because we take marriage seriously and family is sacred. We believe Family to be essential to have a stable life for us; and our future children.





MEET *Maria*

I LOVE THAT
I CAN SAY I
TRULY CARE
FOR MY FAMILY
AND FRIENDS
AND I AM
NURTURING
TOWARDS THEM.

One of my best friends says that I'm very honest with her and others. I'm a 'people person' and I love watching funny movies with my hubby.

I love journal writing and reading. I'm very spiritual in my Christian values so I enjoy attending church with my hubby once a week as well as visiting the ocean and breathing the fresh ocean air. I also enjoy barbecues with family and friends. My friend often hosts backyard barbecues for no special reason; just a little outing; or at times, for their birthday, graduations etc.





WHAT STEVE LOVES BEST

When I first met Maria years ago I was drawn to her outward and inward beauty. One of my favorite things about Maria is her tremendous heart. It is larger than anyone's heart I've ever known. She is generous in giving of her time when she previously worked in the hospital as a Social Worker, caring for patients. Much of her free time was taking her Mom and Dad to see their granddaughter (her niece, Angie). Angie was born with spinal bifida and now has grown to be a wonderful young lady. On her brother Art's side; his son (her nephew), was born with special medical needs similar to muscular dystrophy. Maria's nephew Arturito resides in another state. When we became friends Maria supported her sister-in-law and her brother by flying to visit her nephew and babysitting at the hospital so the parents could go for dinner. The idea was for the child to always have his family with him.

Maria has also made me my favorite Cuban dish; Picadillo, even if she had to get the special recipe from her aunt via telephone. I love that Maria helped me greatly when I was at work. She would help me and my sister with my elderly parents by taking them to the lab and their regular medical checkups at the doctor. My mom Eleanor lived to the age of 97 and my dad, William, until 92. Both of my parents loved Maria and saw her kindness and lovingness to them as another one of her qualities that I treasure.

She puts people first and above herself when it pertains to me or her other family members. ***When she becomes a mom that will be an important quality to have placing the child's needs above her own.***





meet STEVE

I AM
PROUD
TO BE A
NAVY
VETERAN.

In my school years I enjoyed playing soccer, football, and baseball. I have good friends that have been friends with me since elementary school and I value my friendships. Together; with my wife Maria, I enjoy cooking new recipes, taking mini road trips, going to historical places, and attending Baseball games. I also enjoy visiting the ocean and watching action and comedy movies with my wife Maria.





WHAT MARIA LOVES BEST

Steve is a good friend and I'm privileged to say that he's my best friend. He says that I'm his best friend also. I find this friendship component to be so important in marriage. His smile makes my heart smile and skip a beat. His eyes still make me melt with their hazel color. He looks at me in a way that makes me feel beautiful and loved.

Steve has a heart of gold. He would tell my mom, "You look beautiful today Emilia" and she would light up smiling saying: "I once was beautiful and thank you Steve!". Mere words do not do justice to the acts of kindness that Steve demonstrated to both of my parents. My siblings also felt the love that Steve felt for our parents and that fills my heart with even more love for my beloved husband and best friend Steve (Stevo). I love that I dedicate love songs to him and he appreciates them and dedicates them back to me. He makes me laugh often and cooks deliciously yummy meals. He is smart and loves to speak about spiritual things with me. He is a good family provider and shows dedication towards his job and our family. He supports my decision to take a pause from my career to care for our future adopted child at home during their first few years. These first few years of a child's life are very important in his or her development.

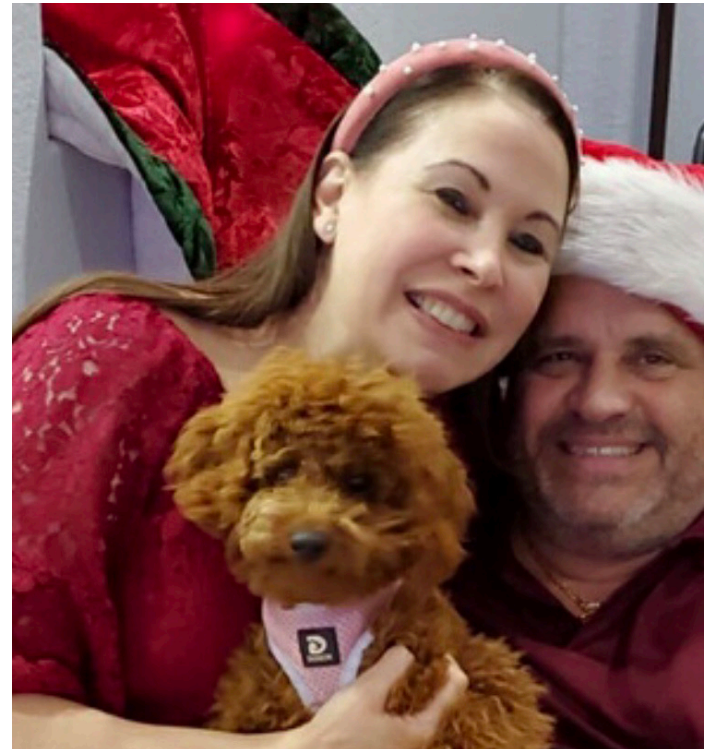
All the nurturing for my parents and how good he's been around his niece and nephew; and his parents, shows me how he will be a good parent to our future adopted child.



A FEW OF OUR FAVORITES

- TRYING NEW RESTAURANTS
- GOING TO THE MALL
- GOING TO BASEBALL GAMES
- SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS
- GOING ON OUR WEEKLY DATE NIGHT





TRADITIONS

We love to celebrate Christmas and Thanksgiving, as well as New Year's Eve. We get together with my sister Emily and her family at our extended family member's home for dinner. We traveled for Thanksgiving to visit my brother, sister-in-

law, and nephew one year and loved family time with the change of season since they live in the North part of the United States. It is a residential area and a very family oriented neighborhood. We really enjoy mini road trips also.

about our FAMILIES



STEVE WITH HIS PARENTS AND SISTER

Both of us were raised where family is sacred and respected, loved unconditionally, and where communication is also key. My mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's at age 85 and my beloved dad and mom drew even closer to each other; showing me and so many others around them even more the definition of loyalty, commitment, and love.

Steve coached his nephew Nate's baseball team when Nate was in grade school and supported his niece Hannah by attending her dance concerts. He attended the high school graduations and celebration dinners for his niece and nephew as well. We keep in touch with them both and visit when they have time spending Christmas and other holidays together as well. Steve's sister has been in contact with Steve and he sent her a beautiful Birthday/Christmas card since her birthday is so near Christmas. We stay connected with Laura's family including a family text string that is also for other extended family members of Laura's family. Both Steve and his sister cared for their parents in a very inspirational way being so very attentive to their needs; and making sure they were able to attend church every

Sunday as they loved to attend church, friend's houses, outings to restaurants, and more. I knew Steve's Dad as a retired attorney; but he spent more of his time being "Mr. Mom". Steve and his sister would often speak this way of him with cheerfulness because he was always at the soccer games with his kids, packing their lunch...a wonderful Dad! I knew Steve's mom as a retired RN nurse, a wonderful and loving mom, just like mine except that she spoke English.

My mom, Emilia, was born in Spain. Along with her parents she traveled to Cuba at the age 3. Years later, here in Miami, she became a United States citizen along with my dad. My Dad, Argelio, worked for many years in a aluminum factory, and loved his family above all else. My mom worked 2 part time jobs: one as a Cook and another as a factory worker to assist my dad in supporting their 3 children attending Catholic schools. My mom sacrificed her career, leaving a comfortable lifestyle from her Cuban homeland with her family for



**MARIA WITH HER
MOM & SIBLINGS**



MARIA'S PARENTS

the sake of finding freedom in the United States. In addition, she was the best homemaker and human being I have ever known. She taught me to love God, family, country, and fellow human beings above anything else.

We visit my brother, his wife, and their 11 yr. old son as often as we can lately. Steve and I try to visit them once a year. My nephew Arturito has medical needs and is very good in communicating via telephone and text message. His mom is helping him with online classes, and he needs a trachea to breath as his lungs are debilitated

due to his illness. He now has an electric wheelchair and feels more independent at home. We see him via facetime also. Arturito loves when his Aunties; my sister and I, visit him. He also loves seeing his uncle Steve and my sister's husband, his uncle Manny as well.

One of my best friends is Marilin. She has 3 sons, and they live nearby. I love her like a cousin, and she's been my friend since we were kids. Both her parents are my godparents through Baptism in the church. My Dad was



ANGIE WITH HER PUPPY & OURS

the best friend of her dad since Cuba in their youth. Now with the recent pandemic we communicate via facetime a lot. Steve and I also spent a recent thanksgiving at Marilin and her husband Jessie's home for dinner.

I was able to see my sister recently for the Christmas holiday and for my birthday. We also see each other via facetime, due to COVID. My niece also visited during the holidays since she's usually away in college. They have visited our new home with their 2 small dogs: Hopper and Charlie. Angie is my sister and her husband's only daughter and was born with spinal bifida. She's now 21 years old because of her parents loving care taking her to physical therapy and occupational therapy throughout her childhood. She can walk and is in college finishing her career to graduate, God permitting, in May of this year. She is one of the sweetest and kindest people I know. She's also the child that my mom and I helped



MY BROTHER AND NIECE

raise; since we provided a lot of support to my sister; Emily, in babysitting when Angie was a baby and throughout all her school years.

Emily, my sister, loves the idea of babysitting her new niece or nephew that we adopt. She's a school counselor and has worked with children for many years. Steve's sister has also mentioned to me that she would love to be able to babysit a nephew or niece since her 2 kids are grown-she misses when they were little. Maria's mom always said that our family is not that numerous in number but we are here for one another showing unconditional love for our family members!

VISITING WITH MY SISTER





THE VIEW FROM OUR PATIO



THIS IS OUR PUPPY, BRANDY!



We previously lived in a good neighborhood, but when we decided to grow our family through adoption we moved to our current neighborhood which is very family friendly. Our current neighbor resides with her family and said to us: "This neighborhood is the best neighborhood and community in the world".

Our home is spacious and we enjoy the backyard patio with palm trees and other nice plants. There's a big space area for our child to run outside with outdoor toys and he/she will have their own room.

In hopeful anticipation, we have one room painted in pink and another room in baby blue. Our home has 3 bedrooms and has a spacious living room and kitchen.



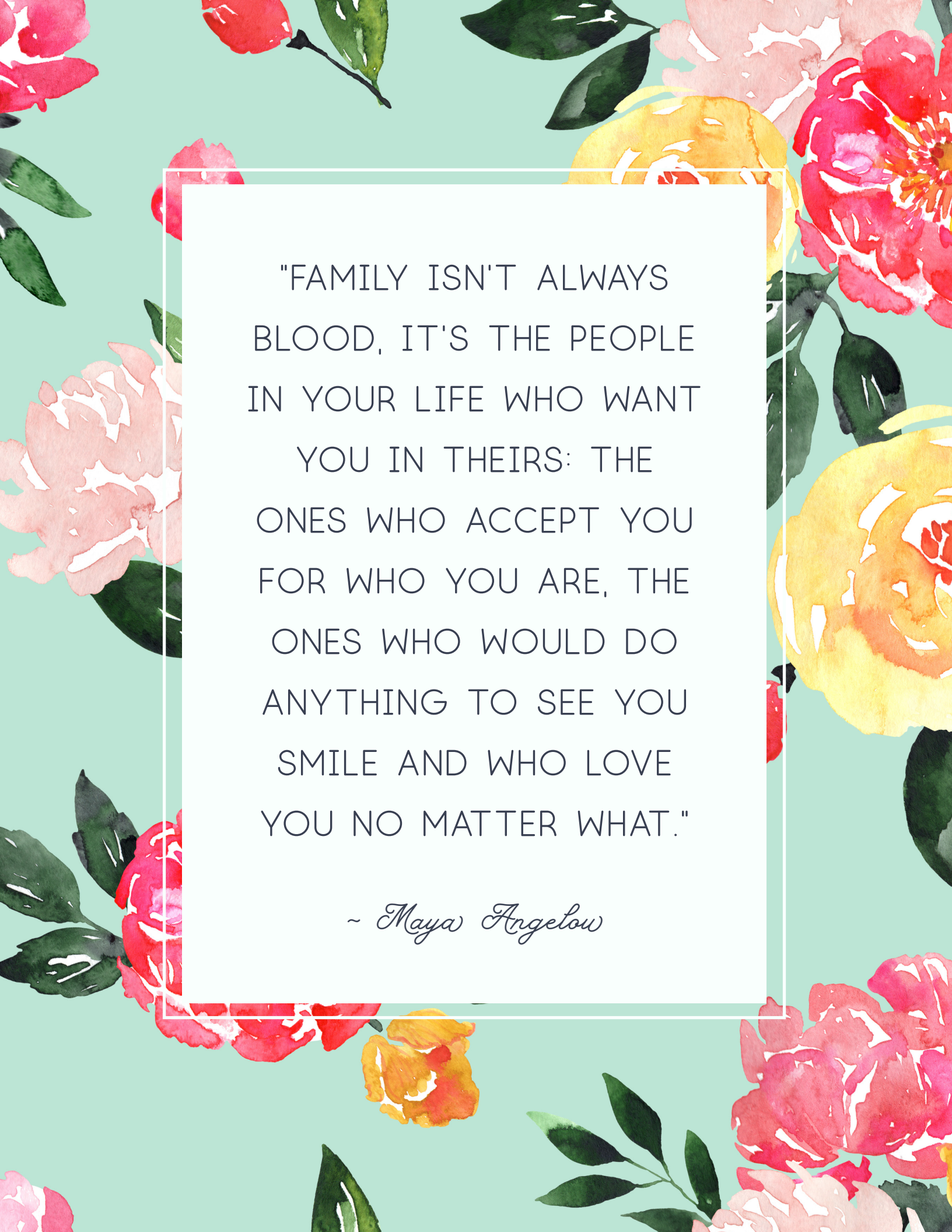
Our Promise

Our promise to you is that we will love and treasure the beautiful life that you have carried and nourished.

We will devote our lives to providing a joyful, safe, and unconditionally loving home. We will raise this beautiful child to have a deep appreciation for YOU and the loving decision you have made.

We will teach this child about God and to be a Christian, knowing that we are all God's children. This child will be surrounded by extended family members such as his or her aunts, uncles, and cousins to help him or her grow up happy in a family and a home where these family members are also a valued part of our family.





"FAMILY ISN'T ALWAYS
BLOOD, IT'S THE PEOPLE
IN YOUR LIFE WHO WANT
YOU IN THEIRS: THE
ONES WHO ACCEPT YOU
FOR WHO YOU ARE, THE
ONES WHO WOULD DO
ANYTHING TO SEE YOU
SMILE AND WHO LOVE
YOU NO MATTER WHAT."

~ Maya Angelou