

DENNIS
AND SEAN





HELLO!






**Thank you for taking
the time to give our
book a glance.**

**ADOPTION
HAS BEEN THE
GREATEST
GIFT OF OUR
LIVES.**

It feels like - we finally met ourselves the moment we met our son Hal. Our dream is for Hal to grow up with siblings - just like we did. We're looking forward to hopefully giving him the experience of being a big brother.

We are a family of artist and adventurers. Dennis is a third-generation magician who has been performing magic since he was 10. Sean is a writer of plays and poems and teaches 6-12-year-olds in a small Montessori school. Hal is pursuing studies in trucks, dirt and music. We can't wait to see how he puts all that together. We look forward to welcoming a baby into our silly, loving family. We're so grateful for the opportunity to share our story and family with you. We are so happy that there are people like you who help us make families like ours.





SEAN IS REALLY
GREAT WITH
KIDS. BUT, HE
WOULD SAY
THEY ARE GOOD
FOR HIM.



ABOUT SEAN

BY DENNIS

Sean is a child whisperer. When he's with children, he says time slows and simple things are magical and new. Sean has taken care of kids ever since he wasn't one. He's helped raised cousins - and the children he's nannied - and now dozens of children in his classroom. He gives all of himself. For Sean, it is the most important job he could possibly have. His love of children led him to become a Montessori teacher. The kids in his classroom (6yo-12yo) are learning to think flexibly, to care for each other, to resolve conflicts and to do things for themselves. When they struggle, Sean writes them a story to help. And he makes it rhyme! Sean uses his Montessori teachings at home with Hal. Our life is filled with stories, projects and nature hikes. That is the magic of Sean being your Pa. We dream of publishing Sean's stories someday - picture books with beautiful illustrations. (His students once surprised him and gifted him one of his stories - illustrated by the children!) We read to Hal every day. Sean can't wait to write new books for the new baby. Sean loves to sing and dance. We have dance parties all the time. Dennis is teaching him to square dance (just like a good ol' Texas boy.) Sean is planning a big garden for our yard because he loves to see things grow.



Sean is 1 of 25 grandchildren (on his Pa's side.)

Sean studied music in college and loves to write and sing parodies. During the pandemic, he wrote parodies to sing on Zoom to cheer up his students.

Sean has written about 100 stories for children. He dreams of publishing them someday.

At school, Sean and the children are writing a play about a rabbit that has to stop a war between human beings and all animal kind. (Spoiler alert - he saves the world.)

We love walking with Hal up to the Oak Park Farmers' Market. We shop there and get the donuts made by the Boy Scouts.

We're really friendly with our neighbors. A few of them have given us an open invitation to visit and harvest from their gardens. Hal can't wait to show the baby all the plants he knows. And likely cover the baby in mud. 😊

Sean and Hal love working on new pancake recipes. Our banana pancakes currently reign supreme. They might not be the prettiest. But they are delicious!

Sean loves to read Hal books by Margaret Wise Brown. Goodnight Moon is a favorite. And Two Little Trains. Margaret Wise Brown is a source of inspiration for Sean - an author who thought the way children look at the world is beautiful - and who wrote books to honor that.

Sean's favorite meal is his Pa's burgers. He's learning the recipe. The secret is the seasoned breadcrumbs. Shhh. Don't tell.





ABOUT DENNIS

BY SEAN

Dennis grew up in Dallas, TX. He had a special relationship with his grandfather, who was a wonderful sleight of hand magician. When Dennis was 7, he asked his Grandy to teach him to do magic. For the last 10 years, Dennis has performed his own, intimate, one-man magic show in downtown Chicago. We met at a play rehearsal. Sean remembers sitting in the front row and feeling a strong presence over his shoulder. He turned around and BOOM! Time stood still. Love at first sight. For Sean, anyway. Dennis was a bit more cautious. But, it didn't take long for him to catch up. We were married on December 31, 2017 at home - on our couch. It may sound unromantic - but for us, it was perfect. We keep these conversations up to this day: every Sunday night, after Hal goes to sleep, we call it 'magical thinking time' - when we dream out loud about the life we want to make together. Lately, we've been talking a lot about, yes, a baby! As "Dad", Dennis is a softie. He is regularly dragged into Hal's crib for long cuddles. I wish you could see them laugh and chase each other. We can't for another little person to join in on the tickle fights. Dennis loves to travel. He's been to all fifty states. He loves the California coast. He's quite a fine diner who loves any fancy meat dish.

DENNIS IS OUTRAGEOUSLY SMITTEN WITH OUR SWEET LITTLE BOY AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HIM WITH A BABY.



Dennis performed as a clown in children's hospitals.

Dennis once performed a show in London and Singapore and Dubai - simultaneously. Through the magic of... the internet.

Dennis has toured David Copperfield's private magic museum - guided by David himself.

Dennis has performed (and escaped) Harry Houdini's Water Torture Cell (being locked upside down in a glass case of water) over 400 times.

Dennis looks forward to teaching our children to swim. (Outside of the Water Torture Cell.)

Dennis loves helping Sean and Hal harvest serviceberries from our trees each summer. This year, we're going to try to make a pie. (If we can stop Hal from eating them before that.)

Dennis loves throwing a fancy Christmas party for family and friends. It's the only time he'll let us use his parents' wedding china and silver.

True to his Texas roots, Dennis' favorite music is country. He's a huge Garth Brooks fan.

If Dennis could get away with it, he'd eat sushi for every meal. And follow it up with chocolate anything.



WHEN
WE FIRST
HELD HAL,
IT FELT
LIKE BEING
HOME.



—
MEET
HAL

We awoke with a call from our agency that there was “something they wanted to talk to us about”. That call changed our lives and 18 hours later we were meeting our son, who was just 2 weeks old. We took him home with us on Easter Sunday in 2019. It’s been a life of hikes, dance parties and fire trucks ever since.

Hal’s adoption unleashed so much more love in our lives. It’s like time can be measured as BH (Before Hal) and AH (After Hal). We’d never want to go back. We hope you can feel the love we have for our beautiful boy and can see the life your baby would have with us. Hal helps us slow down and enjoy life. We can’t wait to see how he takes on the role of big brother. We have a feeling a baby better be ready to be taught the names of many, many trucks.



OUR FAMILY



Sean's big family (with 40 cousins!) is all local to Chicago. They get together for barbecues, birthday parties and swimming at Sean's parents' (Grammie and Papa's) house. While we work, Hal is cared for by Sean's mom (Debie) and Sean's aunt/godmother (Joan). They love to go to the library together. We always have a stack of about 30 books. Hal is starting to read, He'd love reading to the new baby. Goodnight Moon is a favorite of ours.

Dennis is the second of four boys. His family is spread out across the country. Dennis' dad, Lynn, (Pops) grew up working in the family magic shop. He and Dennis love to talk magic - and work on new tricks together.

Our extended family is comprised of actors, designers, artists and musicians. Your baby will be brought up in the center of this creative village. They'll come with us to new play openings and be babysat by our artist friends. Our children will be painted on, written about, sung to and wowed with magic tricks. We gather with family and friends regularly in the backyard for bonfires and food. At Christmas, we gather around the piano to sing Christmas carols. Sean can't wait to teach Hal and his sibling how to play.

OUR HOME

—
AND COMMUNITY

Our home gives Hal lots of room to run and play hide and seek. It's home to fruit trees that we harvest each summer. You'll often find us out in the yard, digging in the dirt with Hal or swinging in the hammock (cozy spot to snuggle with little ones.) We play under "the treasure tree" - a big maple with a hollow place inside. Hal likes to hide his trucks there (and hopefully one day his sibling's toys.) We live on the corner. We have a swing beside our fence and we greet neighbors as they go by. Hal will enjoy introducing a sibling to the neighbors. Hal will start at a nearby Montessori school in the fall. We dream of walking the baby to school while big brother Hal cruises on his bike! Oak Park has a history as an inclusive community. In the 1950's when many suburbs were experiencing white flight, Oak Park resisted and intentionally integrated white and black families. And the positive effects are still noticeable to this day. We are really proud to be members of this diverse community. If we become a trans-racial family, we will be well-supported by our community of adoptive families and families of color.



**WE LIVE IN
OAK PARK, IL
IN A 100-YEAR-
OLD RED BRICK
BUNGALOW THAT
WAS ONCE THE
SITE OF THE
OAK PARK TRAIN
DEPOT.**





As you make this decision, we hope that you are being taken care of – and that you are able to find peace.

Our promise to you is this: we will love your baby unconditionally. We will delight in your child. We will always treat them like what they say matters- and that their ideas are worthy. We hope that if we do so, they will feel: "anything is possible for me". We will share their birth story with them because we understand the importance of family and understanding identity. We want them to know who they come from. We want you to be as much a part of this child's life as you'd like to be. We're open and happy to share as many pictures and stories as you like.

The life your child will have with us will be filled with big family parties, banana pancakes, lots of hikes, stories, a supportive community, a good education and love. We send you all our love. And Hal says, "Luh yoo!".



THANK YOU

