## Hello and Nice to Meet You!

We are a couple who is completely in love with life and each other. After 16 years of marriage and having known each other for 28 years, we are best friends and partners in life and business. While we have each experienced pretty significant struggles, we see each upset as an opportunity to grow and deepen our intimacy. With every unexpected twist and turn our lives take, if we can look deeply enough, there is always a blessing.

As Anne-Margaret's brother is adopted, we had always planned on adopting a second child after conceiving our first. However, life had other plans...we never got pregnant. With no doctor being able to offer a conclusive diagnosis regarding our infertility, the road was very frustrating. Although it never felt right for us to do IVF, we did our best to have faith and trust how everything was unfolding for us. We knew we'd be a family and just needed to be patient.

Both raised by deeply religious parents, we share the journey of searching for our truth when it comes to God. We are so grateful for this foundation in our childhoods and it has contributed to keeping God at the center of our lives. However, there were some teachings in the church that didn't make sense to us and ignited a passion to study religion to find an unshakeable faith of our own. Making peace with the difficulties of life and feeling very connected to God inspired us to reach deep down and ask the difficult questions. No one's life is perfect. Every single one of us struggles in some way. Both of us disappointed our parents when we chose another path, other than our family religion. However, we felt the pain of ostracism was inferior to the pain of sacrificing an authentic relationship with God.

We firmly believe that God is within each one of us and working in mysterious ways! When others disappoint us, it is an opportunity to grow in the face of that upset. When we disappoint others by being our true self, we must allow them that same room to grow. Only then, can we have compassion for each other for being human...and we are all human!

Thank you for the opportunity you are giving to a couple with choosing a birth plan. We have so much respect for this choice and honor you. Although we will never experience pregnancy, we can only imagine what a time of change this is and how much courage is required. Our desire with this book is for you to know us and receive the assurance that this baby will be loved, accepted and nurtured into his/her most beautiful self! We are all here on this planet for a reason. As parents, we believe it is our purpose to support our family members with a strong foundation for creating who they are meant to be in this world!

Affectionately,
Anne-Margaret and Anthony