

ALDEN & NAFEESA



LET'S START WITH

HELLO!

We are

ALDEN & NAFEESA

from Los Angeles, California

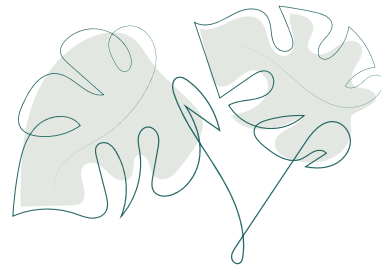


After sandboarding
in Dubai

At UC Santa
Barbara



• DEAR EXPECTANT PARENT(S) •



**THANK YOU FOR
TAKING THE TIME TO
GET TO KNOW US.**
WE BELIEVE THAT EACH
PERSON HAS THEIR OWN
STORY. YOU HAVE A
STORY, AND WE HAVE A
STORY. AND OUR CHILD,
TOO, WILL HAVE THEIR
OWN STORY.

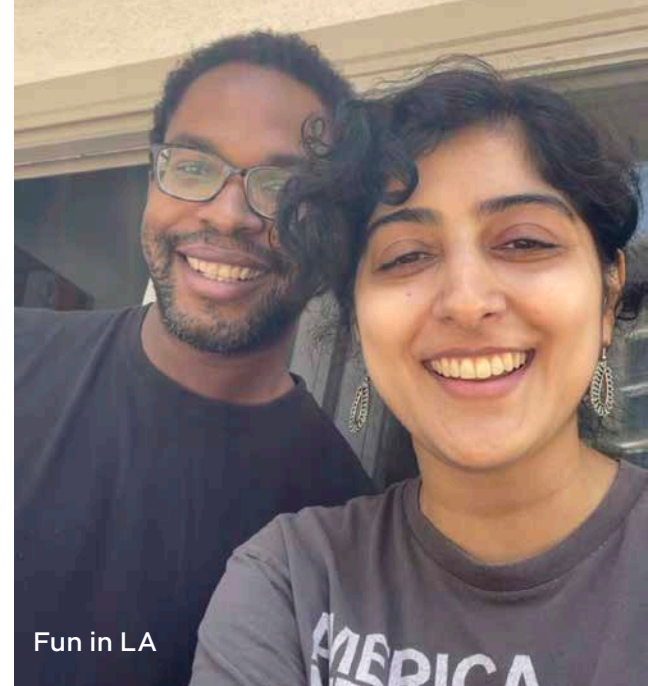
We hope that as you get to know us, you will learn that we are committed to nurturing an environment in which our future child can discover their own story, rooted in love. That means we are dedicated to open adoption, ensuring that you continue to be part of our future child's—and our—story.

We both have relatives who were adopted, and we've learned and discovered that this is the journey we should embark upon as we hope to grow our family.





Hiking in the mountains
outside of Dubai



Fun in LA

OUR STORY



At a park in
Washington D.C.

WE FIRST MET
ON THE BANKS
OF THE NILE
RIVER IN CAIRO,
in 2003, during
college, when we
spent a semester
abroad in Egypt.

For the next decade, we remained friends, meeting every couple years, as we pursued our careers: Nafeesa worked as a journalist in the U.S., Europe, South Asia, North Africa, the Middle East, and East Africa. Alden did his doctorate degree in history, researching East Africa and the Middle East, and became a professor. Then in 2013, when we were more settled, and working jobs two hours away from each other (in Washington D.C. and Philadelphia), our relationship blossomed. **WE GOT MARRIED IN 2016**, and had our wedding in New Orleans, where Alden grew up, with a jazz band and second line procession.

OUR LIFE TODAY



WE STILL LOVE TO TRAVEL, but we now also find joy in routines and in the day to day, and in building our family. **OUR VALUES START WITH COMPASSION, FOR ONESELF AND FOR EACH OTHER.** We hope we can raise our child with a deep sense of compassion, gratitude, justice, creativity, and perseverance to carry into their adult lives.

Getting smoothies at a cafe near our home



In Nafeesa's parents' backyard outside Washington D.C.



OUR PERFECT WEEKEND



ICED COFFEE and a croissant at the farmer's market



HIKE in the canyon



Nephew's **SOCCER GAME**



READING a novel



Getting **TACOS** with friends

ABOUT NAFEESA

At the rocky
beach in San
Pedro



NAFEESA BY ALDEN



At Laguna Beach

NAFEESA IS CURIOUS AND DETERMINED, I AM ALWAYS IN AWE OF HER PASSION.

She was born in Los Angeles and grew up around Washington D.C., and her family is from Kashmir. As one of six children, Nafeesa has taught me the importance of family. We love spending time with her brothers and sisters going hiking, cooking and enjoying the holidays. Nafeesa loves fiction and reading. She is also really funny. I love watching her do stand-up and improv. She is also a great writer and editor. Words mean a lot to Nafeesa and she always knows the right thing to say to make my day better. She also has an incredible sense of adventure and is willing to see new places. Wherever she goes, Nafeesa is able to make people feel comfortable.

FIVE FUN FACTS ABOUT MY WIFE

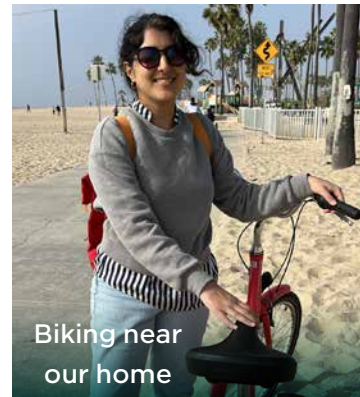
Nafeesa loves **RIDING HER BIKE**

Nafeesa doesn't like **BLUEBERRIES**

Nafeesa loves going to **LIVE MUSIC**

Nafeesa enjoys doing **CALLIGRAPHY**

Nafeesa like watching **COMEDIES**



Biking near our home

Hiking the Santa Barbara coast



With our nephew



Exploring a cactus park

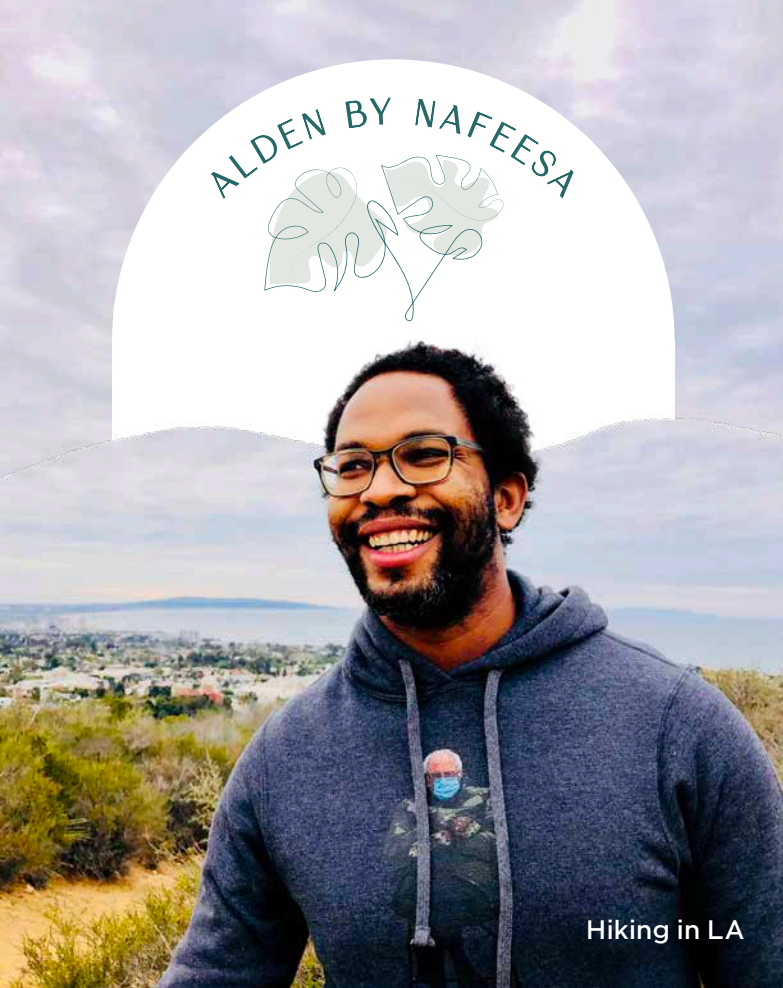
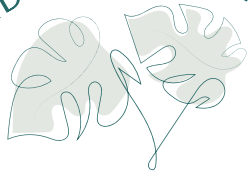


ABOUT ALDEN

In a park in
Santa Monica



ALDEN BY NAFEESA



Hiking in LA

ALDEN IS THE CALMEST AND SWEETEST MAN I HAVE EVER MET.

His mother is from South Carolina and his father is from Belize. He is always curious about the world and eager to learn. He always orders new books, and reads about new ideas, even if he doesn't agree with them. He has an open mind and teaches me to be a better listener. But he's not just a nerd. Alden will go to a Beyonce or hip hop concert, and loves watching music videos. With Alden, I can have an intellectual conversation, but also be silly and laugh till I fall over. And he loves his hoodies!

FIVE FUN FACTS ABOUT MY HUSBAND

Alden is a **GIFTED PAINTER**

Alden enjoys going to **CROSSFIT**

Alden likes **MIDDLE EASTERN SOAP OPERAS**

Alden loves watching **MUSIC VIDEOS**

Alden has a **COMIC BOOK COLLECTION**



Hiking in Dubai

Eating a King Cake on his birthday



Reading with our nephews



Riding a four wheeler in the Dubai desert





HOME SWEET HOME

We bought our home in Los Angeles in 2021

WE LOVE TO WALK ALONG THE BEACH and explore the canals near us. Most weekends, we meet our family and friends with kids for hikes and picnics. We try to eat at home as much as possible during the week, so we both cook, experimenting with new flavors but also making meals from our heritages, such as curries, gumbo, and rice and beans. We love going to neighborhood cafes. Alden is an avid member of the local gym, and Nafeesa loves to go for runs.



Walking in our neighborhood



We love spending time in our kitchen



Whale watching



Walking to the neighborhood park with friends

OUR FAITH

NAFEESA WAS RAISED IN A MUSLIM FAMILY, WHILE ALDEN WAS RAISED EPISCOPALIAN CHRISTIAN. We attend a Black-majority mosque for major holidays and occasional services, and participate in some of their social service programs.



At Nafeesa's niece's wedding



At a Ramadan event at the beach



Opening Christmas presents

WE ALSO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH ALDEN'S FAMILY.

We are spiritual but we also encourage critical thinking and imagination. We are committed to exposing our child to different traditions, and fostering an environment where they can define their own spiritual path.

OUR FAMILY

We are both close to our families



NAFEESA has three brothers and two sisters (6 kids), and has 16 nieces and nephews! She has helped care for all of them, at different stages of their lives, and loves seeing them at family get-togethers. Her brother and sister, who both have kids, live close by. Her parents and three other siblings live on the East Coast, but she sees them every few months.

ALDEN is an only child, but is the beloved "Uncle Alden" of Nafeesa's family. His mother sadly passed away, but he often sees his father and stepmother, who live in the Midwest. Alden grew up near his aunts, uncles, and cousins in New Orleans, and they remain close and he visits multiple times a year.



Sharing a King Cake with uncles



Alden and his cousin at the beach

Alden with his dad



Nafeesa with her parents



Tea Time with Nafeesa's sisters





With family and friends
at the beach

RACE & DIVERSITY

WE COME FROM TWO
DIFFERENT RACIAL AND
ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS.
BUT WE HAVE LEARNED
HOW TO COMBINE OUR
CULTURES AND IDENTITIES,
WITH AN UNDERLYING
COMMITMENT TO
SOLIDARITY WITH OUR
COMMUNITIES' STRUGGLES
FOR JUSTICE.

Nafeesa's parents are from a conflict zone in the Himalayan mountains, in South Asia. She was raised with a strong racial consciousness, as her parents also came from a place where they faced oppression. Although they were immigrants, they emphasized reading books by Black authors, and they modeled solidarity by cultivating a multicultural environment both in community spaces and at home with Black folks whom she calls her aunties and uncles. Nafeesa grew up in a Black, Latino, Asian community within her schools, mosque, and close family friends. For high school, Nafeesa was sent to a white-majority school, where she faced rampant racism. As a woman of color, Nafeesa would not want to put a child through a similar experience.

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS REPRESENT THE KIND OF **DIVERSE COMMUNITY** THAT WE WANT OUR CHILDREN TO GROW UP IN, WHERE **THEIR IDENTITY, CULTURE, AND HISTORY IS REINFORCED**, AND WHERE THEY ARE EXPOSED TO THE RICHNESS OF MANY CULTURES.

Our plans for

CHILDCARE

BOTH OF US HAVE GENEROUS PARENTAL LEAVE FROM OUR JOBS.

Nafeesa plans to stay home for the first six to eight months, while Alden will also be able to take six months of paid leave from his work. After that period, Alden has access to the university childcare center and preschool, and a flexible schedule, as a professor, that will allow him to be home when needed. Nafeesa works remotely as an editor from home, and will also be able to help with child care needs. We live near Nafeesa's brother and sister, who would be able to help as needed, as well as many friends.



Nafeesa and Alden with their nephew at Harvard

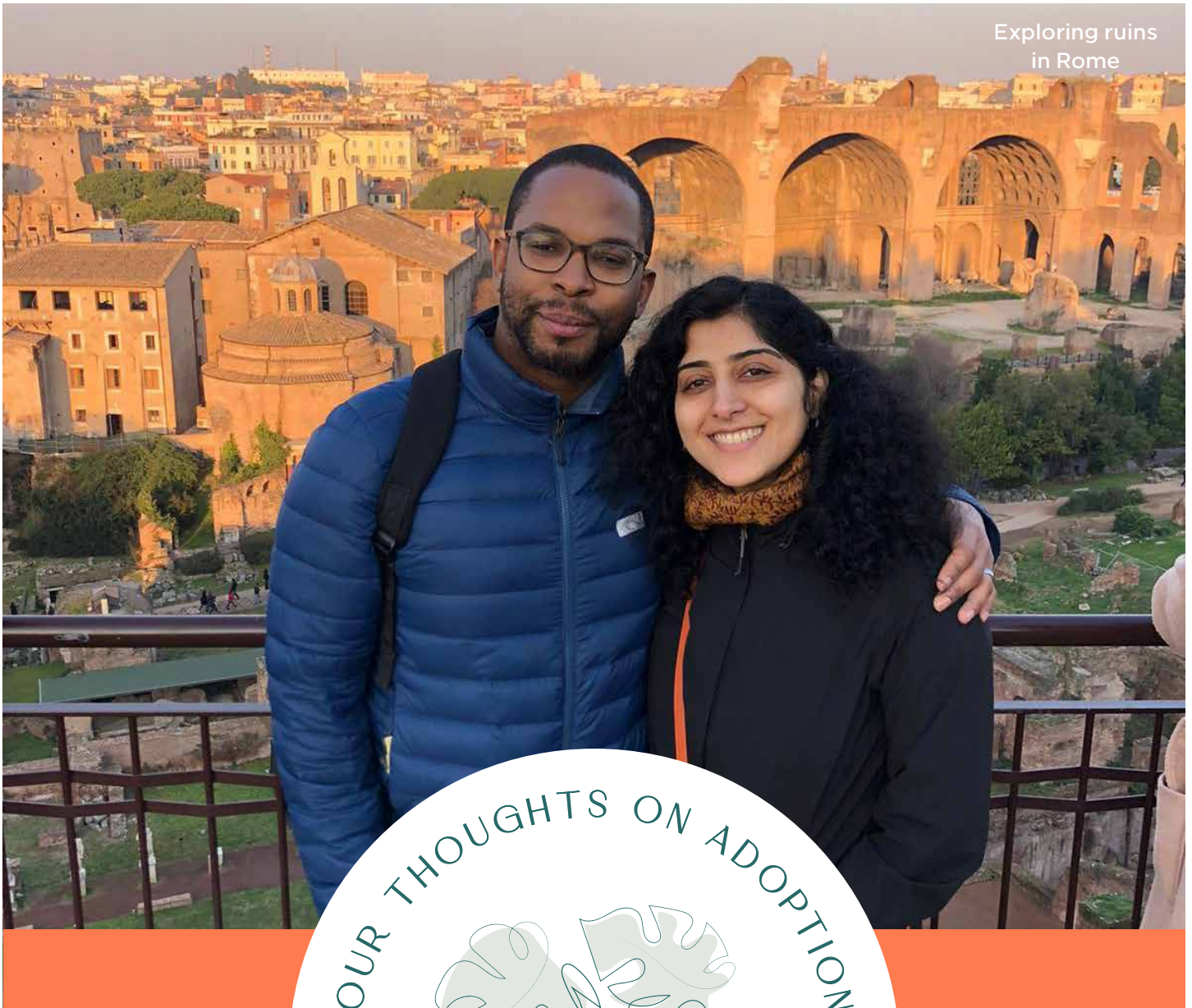
Dinner with Nafeesa's siblings and their kids



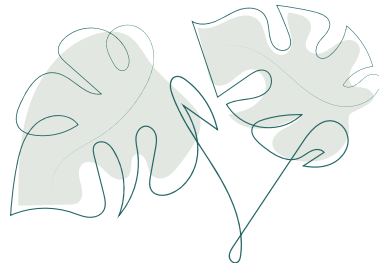
Alden reading to his nephews



Exploring ruins
in Rome



OUR THOUGHTS ON ADOPTION



FOR ANYONE CRAFTING THEIR STORY, THEY NEED TO KNOW WHERE THEY CAME FROM AND WHO THEY ARE. **WE'D LOVE TO KEEP ANY ADOPTION OPEN, AND MAKE SURE THE CHILD KNOWS YOU.**

We're excited to exchange photos, videos, and messages, as often as your heart may like. We are also open to arranging meetings and visits, as it is convenient and comfortable for you. We can imagine you attending our child's kindergarten graduation and other important milestones. Both of our families, as well as our friends, are excited and supportive about our plans for open adoption, and are ready to embrace our child.

A child deserves to know their roots. It's beneficial to have their parents in their lives for the long-haul, which is why we are committed to open adoption.



OUR THANKS



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING GENEROUS WITH YOUR TIME.

We really appreciate you getting to know our story. We know that you may be facing difficult decisions ahead, but we admire your strength and bravery as you explore your options. We wish you the very best in whichever decision you make that is right for your story.

LEARN MORE ABOUT US AT [\(510\) 301-5584](tel:(510)301-5584) OR INFO@PACTADOPT.ORG