



A One Way Ticket

The events leading up to the adoption of our son Eli are still so vividly clear in my mind, even as we approach the one year celebration of his life.

Many crying sessions later. Many altered schedules for my wife to go through various procedures and to take numerous injections of different methods in order to increase our chances at pregnancy. Many early mornings before work to make my "drop offs" to the fertility specialists. Many file boxes worth of paper work for fertility treatment and adoption. Many interviews with the case worker requiring us to spill out our life histories and feeling analyzed under a microscope to see if we were even fit to be parents. Many drives to all ends of the province to meet with adoption agencies and spend weekends to take their mandatory training. Many dollars later. Moments of emotional highs in receiving calls from adoption agencies to hear that we were being considered but to quickly find these potential matches falling through. Many moments of finding it hard to relate to our friends & family with kids and longing to be able to do so. Many moments of unintentionally isolating ourselves from our friends and families because we didn't want to talk about it anymore. Many moments of impatience and frustration.

Seeing my son's smiling face every morning for the last year has been worth every painful moment of the waiting process. He became part of our family at a day old, meeting him at the hospital. Since then, he's brought to our family another dimension of joy and energy that we never knew existed! Whether our child is biological or adopted has never been our focus. Look at the world around us. There are so many variations to what a family is. We longed for the opportunity to raise a child to become the best they can be in this world of ours. Reflecting on this, our son's presence in our life has also shaped us into needing and wanting to become the best we can be.

With Eli in our family we surely are a rare multinational family, spanning over at least 6 different ethnic backgrounds! Our son has been a blessing especially with his awesome temperament, refusal to make strange and his Costco size head of hair! We are also very fortunate to have an open adoption; an adoption that involves a relationship with Eli's birth parents and his birth mom's family. Since day one, we have become closer with Eli's birth mom and her family. Our desire is to treat them as extended family. We are grateful for this and we would not want this adoption any other way. If safe and possible, why restrict our son from those who love him dearly?





We fully acknowledge that raising our son will have its moments in the future but that's part of any relationship. It's how you respond to the tough times that make the difference. We are thankful for the open adoption, our support networks and the love that exists within our family.

Written by Michael Ling, Parent and Educator

