



understanding

family

love

support

respect



*Anne-Lies*

*and*

*Rosanne*

happiness

trust

home



Dear birthmother,

We are Anne-Lies and Rosanne. We are glad to have this opportunity to describe our life and family to you. But first we'd like to take a moment to thank you for your strength and courage. We have tremendous admiration and respect for you for considering adoption as an option. It takes a strong person to put their needs aside and think of the best interest of their child. Please rest assured that we too want the best for your baby.

In the spring of 1994 we met in High School. During the first six years of our relationship Anne-Lies lived with her parents. Rosanne rented a room and spent all weekends and holidays with Anne-Lies and her parents. Anne-Lies' parents immediately considered Rosanne as their daughter in law. They are extremely supportive of our decision to adopt and look forward to becoming grandparents. After we successfully graduated from college, we moved into an apartment together. When we had been living together for a while, we thought about being mothers. We shortly considered a pregnancy, but almost immediately the thought of adoption came to mind. We decided we wanted to give a home to a child which by circumstance does not have a home. Raising an adopted child together seemed a wonderful idea to us. In the winter of 2002 we bought a nice house in a village and we have been very busy with painting and making the house warm and cozy. It is a safe and loving home, but missing a child to enjoy it.

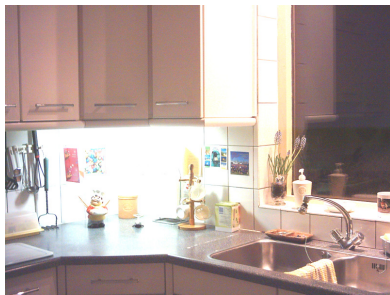
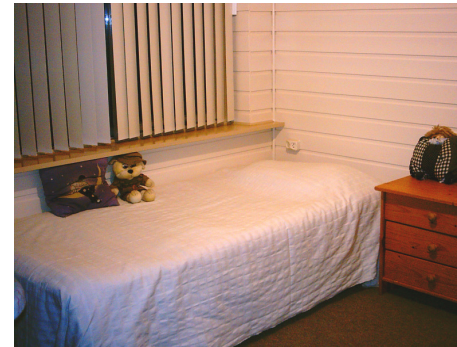
In the summer of 2003 we were wed as a token of our everlasting love to each other.



*These photos are all taken on our wedding day. The photo on the right shows us together with our cousins. The photo on the left shows us together with Anne-Lies' parents.*

We have a beautiful home with our own private garden. The garden is very safe for children to play in. Visitors have to enter a gate to have access to the garden. We live in a quiet street, where there is not much traffic. On our street live many families with little children. Right next door lives a single mom with three daughters. There are a number of green fields in our neighbourhood, where children gather to play soccer. These fields are in the middle of blocks of houses, which makes it very safe. In the village are a lot of schools, sports clubs and social clubs.

Our house has a large living room, a kitchen, a second kitchen with room for the laundry machine, 5 bedrooms and bathrooms. Outside we have a separate garage. We decorated one bedroom especially for a baby.



*This is our home: our garage, our house from the outside, spare bed room, kitchen, living room, bathroom.*

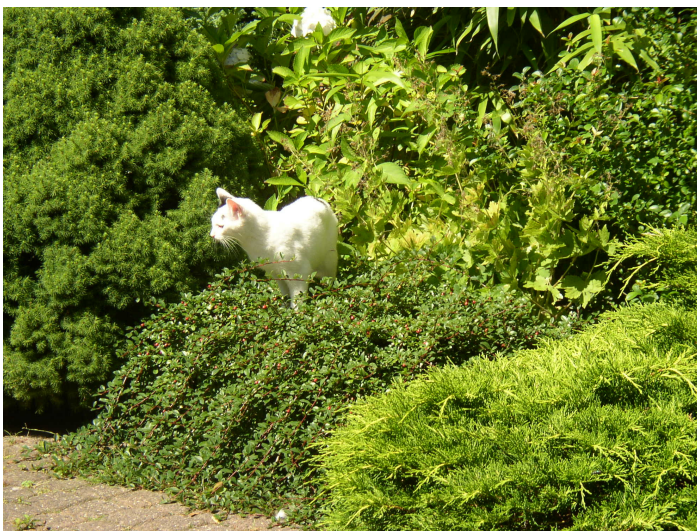


We always celebrate holidays. Anne-Lies likes to cook nice dinners and taking care of everyone during these special days. With Christmas, we buy presents for each other and play games. We always celebrate Christmas with Anne-Lies' family. Rosanne's mother regularly organizes family gatherings too. On other holidays, for example Easter, we like to visit friends or organize a brunch. We always make the house extra cozy when there is a holiday.





*The room which we especially decorated for the baby.*



*Bo playing in our garden.*



*The other side of our garden*

Anne-Lies comes from a warm and loving family. She has a sister and a brother. Her sister is happily married to her husband and they together took care of the daughter of Anne-Lies' sister. Her husband legally adopted the daughter of Anne-Lies' sister and he considers her as his own. Anne-Lies' parents have been married more than 36 years and they are still very happy together. They live within 10 minutes from our home. They are very much looking forward to becoming grandma and granddad again. They already have two foster grandchildren. They often take care of a boy who is seven years old and a girl who is one year old. These children consider them as their grandparents. Anne-Lies' dad also helps a lot with decorating our house.



*Left photo: Anne-Lies mother, Grandmother, sister and cousin.*

*Right photo: Anne-Lies brother*



*Left photo; Anne-Lies mother with her foster granddaughter.*

*Right photo: Foster grand son of Anne-Lies' parents.*

Rosanne comes from a large family. She has two sisters and two brothers who all are married or living together. One sister was adopted so we are very familiar and comfortable with adoption. Rosanne's mother can't wait to have another grandchild. She already has four grandchildren. Rosanne's oldest sister has three sons and a daughter. Rosanne's mother lives within 30 minutes from us. Rosanne's cousins live nearby to. Everyone is excited about us adding another cousin to the group.



*Rosanne's family at our wedding ceremony. Sitting on the front row from left to right: Rosanne's mum, sister in law, brother, cousin, sister and cousin. Sitting on the back row: Rosanne's sister, friend of her mother, cousin, brother in law, brother and sister in law.*

In both of our families growing up, traditions and family values were very important. Every Christmas, we spend time with our families. Together with Rosanne's family we play games or go to the theatre. Christmas is very important in Anne-Lies' family as well; we buy presents for each other and spend Christmas day together. We always celebrate birthdays and wedding anniversaries. Sometimes we go out to dinner or have a family barbeque.



*Left photo: Rosanne's mother, sister and cousins.  
Right photo: Rosanne's sister with her two boys.*



*Above photo: Rosanne's mum and brother cooking.  
Right photo: Rosanne's brother in law with his son.*

We like to go on holiday. We love nature and go for long walks. We also like to do a city trip. We sometimes go on holiday with Anne-Lies' parents. Sometimes we go camping with them and sometimes we stay in a hotel. Every year we visit an annual music festival, because all four of us like music very much.



*Holiday photos taken in Brussels, Belgium and Germany.*



We want to adopt a child from the USA, because we feel that we have a connection to the USA. Rosanne's grandfather emigrated to the USA after he retired. Rosanne's mum, sister and brother visited him in the USA. Unfortunately, Rosanne was too young to visit him. He died when Rosanne was ten years old.

Another reason why we choose the USA, is because freedom and tolerance is very important in the Netherlands. After World war II, the Americans gave us that freedom and we are still very grateful for that. The day that America freed us is a national holiday in the Netherlands, celebrated on May 5<sup>th</sup> each year. As a result of that freedom and the fact that the Netherlands is a small country, the Netherlands became very tolerant and multi racial through the years. That is why every racial background fits in Dutch society. There are many adopted children in the Netherlands and also in our village. We will love and cherish your child, independent its race.



*Rosanne's grandfather in his garden. This photo was taken in 1977 after he emigrated to the USA.*

The Netherlands is a small country with 16,000,000 inhabitants. It is a kingdom, which means the Queen leads the country together with the ministers. It has beautiful nature, but interesting cities as well.



*This beautiful wood is only a five minute walk from our home.*



*Typical Dutch: A mill and a lake.*



*Her Royal Highness Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands*

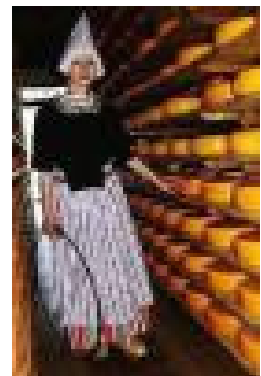
Most people live in villages up to 100,000 inhabitants. The west side of our country is by the sea and has a number of islands with beautiful beaches. Values that are important in Dutch society are tolerance, open mindedness and democracy. People in the Netherlands are socially very active and consider it very important to be part of a group. Most people are member of a club, for example a sports club. The Netherlands has a lot of lakes and rivers, that is why ice skating is the second most popular sport in the Netherlands. Soccer is the most popular sport.



*Skating is very popular in the Netherlands*



*Children playing soccer and a woman showing cheese, Holland's most exported product besides flowers.*



There are less differences between social classes than in the United States. Everyone in the Netherlands has a health insurance and can depend on social benefits. The policy of Dutch government is to keep differences between social classes as small as possible. However, they do stimulate young people to study and have a career. The same counts for women; in the Netherlands most women our age work. Employers are willing to adapt their work schedule so that they can combine their career and the care for their family. Dutch society is very tolerant. A family in the Netherlands can consist of two mums instead of a mum and a dad. Nobody will think that is strange. It is the love and care in the family that counts.



*The largest and most beautiful Zoo in Europe is a half hour drive from our home. "Madurodam" is a famous miniature park that shows The Netherlands.*





Besides Christian holidays, we have a number of national holidays, like queens day and liberation day. During the national holidays a lot of activities are organized in the villages and cities. A lot of people use these days to go on a short vacation. Popular vacations are camping vacations or spending a few days on the Islands of the Netherlands.



People enjoying the water, this lake is within a ten minute drive from our home.



This is the beach on one of the Islands. The Islands are also very popular among German and Danish tourists.



Above from left to right: One of the schools in our village, the church, a mill and tulips. On the right; two Dutch famous statues of two boys: "Bartje" and "Berend Botje". The boys were main characters in TV series, books and songs. The black-and-white photo shows dancing on wooden shoes. A lot of elderly people still do that in the Netherlands. On the left: the beautiful lake near our village. Beneath: Martinitower: this tower is very famous.



We are fond of animals. We have two cats. Their names are Bo and Dummie. We also have a dog and his name is Igor. Igor is very friendly towards everybody and is very careful with children. He always lies down when he sees a child and lets the child pet him.



*Left photo 1: Bo lying comfortably on the couch.*

*Left photo 2: Bo and Dummie sleeping closely together.*

*Right photo 1: Rosanne cuddling Dummie.*

*Right photo 2: Rosanne playing with Igor.*



We are both employed. Anne-Lies works as administrator for an organisation that takes care of children in day care centers. Rosanne works as a social worker in a psychiatric hospital with children the age of 5 up to 18 years of age. Both of our employers are very happy for us that we have plans to adopt a child and they are willing to change our work schedules so that we both have lots of time for our baby when we are lucky enough to adopt.



*Rosanne's colleagues singing a song for us at our wedding day.*

*On the right: Anne-Lies and her colleagues celebrating a national celebration day at our home.*



We both have lots of fun and interesting hobbies. Rosanne likes to dance. She is member of a dancing club. She is very active, she likes to decorate the house and takes long walks with Igor. We both are fond of day trips. For example we like to go to the Zoo, the Beach, Museums, other Cities. We love to go into the woods for a walk and a picnic. Rosanne likes to play the accordion.

Anne-Lies likes to play music as well, she plays all kinds of percussion. She also gives lessons in music to children and adults. Anne-lies likes to listen to music and read books. She also likes to cook and bake.



*Igor playing with another dog at a lake near our house*



*Anne-Lies' percussion group giving a concert in the church.*



*Rosanne's dancing friends*

What Anne-Lies has to say about Rosanne:

Rosanne can be very enthusiastic and be happy with very small things. For example; if I cook her a nice meal which she likes very much, she can be very happy with that and satisfied. Rosanne has a lot of energy. After a day of hard work, she still has the energy to take a long walk with Igor or go out to dance. She is very caring. She immediately notices it when I'm not feeling well or when I'm tired. She will make a warm, caring, nurturing mother.

What Rosanne has to say about Anne-Lies:

Anne-Lies always takes care of our home. When I come home from work, I come home to a safe and loving surrounding. Although I am a busy person, Anne-Lies helps me calm down. On the other hand, I give Anne-Lies energy. This makes a perfect match. I often join Anne-Lies when she goes to a rehearsal or performance of the percussion group. She is very caring, patient and warm with children. She teaches the children how to have fun playing music and how to function in a group. She will be an extremely attentive, supportive and sensitive mother.

We hope we have told you enough to get a good idea of the kind of parents we will make. We can promise you from the bottom of our hearts that your baby will be loved as much a humanly possible. The baby will be cherished and never taken for granted. We can assure you we are prepared and filled with a lot of love and opportunity to shower on a child. The baby will always know the strength and concern you had in making an adoption plan. If you decide to place your child for adoption, we want you to know we are here and waiting with open arms and loving hearts.

In order to help us realize our dream of adoption we have the support of our attorney in New York, Michael Goldstein and his wife, Joy. They have a wonderful friendly, family-oriented practice and we feel very lucky to have found them. We are sure they are happy to answer any questions you might have, and we hope you will feel as comfortable speaking with them as we do. You can reach them toll free at 1-866-922-3678.

Whatever your decision may be, we wish you the very best. It truly has been our pleasure to be able to reach out to you and let you know a little bit about us.

All our best

Anne-Lies and Rosanne