

celebrating an adoption

After a decade of fertility treatment disappointments, Kevin and Debbie adopted a nine-month-old baby girl who has grown into an engaging and contented toddler. Kevin describes how, inspired by their daughter Hope, they have marked their parenthood in different ways.

KEVIN and Debbie were teenage sweethearts and have been together for 28 years. Kevin describes how, after they were married, they started to think about having children but, "to cut a long story short, we went through ten years of fertility treatment. During the treatments we were not allowed to adopt but when we called time on the process we decided to start on the adoption process."

Hope arrived aged nine months old, about a year ago. "I can't imagine life without her and wouldn't trade her for anything, even if someone said you could have your own. This is like kismet...fate. We were determined to become parents and when things became serious between us we talked about children. One of the things we did say is that we would like to adopt a little girl as my wife was adopted and so things have gone full circle."

Separately, and unknown to each other, each one celebrated the adoption symbolically in different ways. Kevin expressed himself in a poem and Debbie drew a painting to symbolise their new family. Kevin explains: "When I was younger I used to write the odd song and strum on the guitar. When you go through something so life changing it does move you to do things you don't normally do. I found it a useful outlet. The poem is about the story of what my wife had been through and the very successful outcome, so it was quite cathartic. But just as I'm not a poet, my wife is not an artist but she came up with her drawing separately as she also felt the need to express herself. The three elephants are quite symbolic."

Kevin, has thrown himself fully into parenthood and recently took part in the Oxford half marathon, and has already signed up for next year's race.

"Our story is quite extreme, but we were very determined to nurture a child and ultimately we persevered and life has been kind to us." ●

Chosen Ones

*Hey, Baby, what took you so long?
We've been waiting for ages, so it can't be wrong.
Walking in shadows, searching for light.
Now that you're here the world seems so bright.*

*Imagine a journey, a faraway place.
The doors appear open, but all close in your face.
You keep on smiling, say that you're fine.
One day you'll have your chance to shine.*

*Hope springs eternal, hold onto your dreams,
For all that you know is not what it seems.
The seeds that were planted are buried so deep,
When their roots won't grow it makes you weep.*

*The passing of seasons, sun, rain and snow.
The cycles of Nature all seem to know,
What lies in the future, comes from the past.
Without strong foundations, nothing will last.*

*A lifelong devotion, our souls are as one.
We started together and we'll set with the Sun.
Upon every twinkling star in the sky,
A wish to sing a sweet lullaby.*

*Two becomes three, the circle complete.
Patience rewarded, an angel to meet.
We'll love and protect you and give you our all,
And pick you up whenever you fall.*

*So hush there, my chosen ones, no longer the tears.
Let's look ahead now and recapture lost years.
Join hands together, laugh, sing and dance.
Embrace our good fortune, life's wonderful chance!*

