

January 13, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of my friends Kate & Seamus King. I have known Kate for over 16 years; we met when we both were lifeguards on the beach in Rockaway as teenagers. Since that summer, my relationship with Kate has continued to be one of the most important relationships in life. I met Seamus shortly after he and Kate started dating in 2011. I was a bridesmaid in their wedding party in 2016. I have watched them create the most wonderful life together. They are the perfect team, who build one another up, bask in one another's joy and successes and are there for each other wholeheartedly when they need it the most. Even though I have been married a little bit longer, my husband and I often say that Kate & Seamus are our role models.

Kate and Seamus have managed to find that balance of remaining yourself, yet also being the perfect complement to your partner. A great example of this was when Seamus taught Kate to ski. Kate didn't grow up going on ski trips like Seamus did with his family and learning to ski as an adult would be daunting to most, but Kate was eager to share in such a big part of Seamus' life. I can picture them as parents, teaching their child to ski with the effortless patience that they both have. I have seen glimpses of this patience as they spend time with Grace, letting her help them with tasks even though she is usually doing the opposite of helping. The life that they have built together sits on the strong foundation of respect, love and honesty. If one of them were to become ruffled or falter, the other is there to hold them steady and they find a way to navigate the situation together.

When the Kings moved to Rockaway from Boston a few years ago I was overjoyed that not only my best friend was coming home to live near me- but also near my daughter Grace, who was a baby at the time. Grace was immediately in love with Kate and Seamus. I like to think that even as a baby she could sense their stability and was comforted by their easy demeanor and the seemingly endless depth to their patience. As Grace grew, I watched with joy as my daughter formed her own unique relationships with my friends, and it was clear from the beginning that the Kings were very high up on her list of favorites. In fact, "Seamus" was one of her first words and she'd ask for him on an almost daily basis. Any man that we passed with a beard, Grace would adoringly point and shout "Seamus!" Kate and Seamus fit Grace into their lives so easily, planning pizza making parties and Halloween movie nights that I know will form some of her most treasured memories. Luckily for Grace, and me, Kate has mainly worked from home for the past few years. This means that we get to see her for lunch at least once a week, and she joins us for trips to the grocery store or is stopping by to drop off a spare lasagna she just happened to make, or something she'd baked to try out a new recipe.

We are very lucky to live in a place where the friends you make as a child or teenager remain in your life forever. When Kate entered my life at 16, we were immediately welcomed into each other's families, and her parents host us at least once a year for a giant backyard barbeque. Seamus grew up similarly, and when he became an important person to Kate, his family also became important people to us. Kate and Seamus have been blessed with extraordinary parents and siblings, and it's very easy to see how they both grew up into such well-rounded, kind, and successful people. Any child would be blessed to join in this family and benefit from this wonderful support system.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. I was so touched when Kate asked me to write on her behalf and am so honored to be a small part of her and Seamus' journey in becoming parents.

Sincerely,

Sheila 

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