

The Compass We Carry

A Little Adventure Story



Written by: The Little Family

Zhaniya, Keziah, Zorah, Willow
with Mom & Dad

For every family who believes that the greatest adventures are
the ones we take together.

May this story inspire you to explore the world, embrace new
beginnings, and carry home with you wherever you go.

Love,

The Little Family

Some people travel
just to visit...
...and then head home.

But our family has
learned to embrace the
world as home.



With every passport stamp,
every pack-up,
every address,
every adventure,
we discover a little
more about
ourselves.

We grow a deeper
appreciation for
culture,
history, and the
many ways people
live, love, and
belong.



Along the way,
our compass is something
we carry within us.

North reminds us of our
North Star—
our faith,
our values,
and what never changes.

South keeps us rooted—
honoring where we come
from and the stories
that made us who we are.



East welcomes every new
beginning—
each new home,
each new friend,
each new adventure.
West invites us
to look back—
to treasure the lessons,
memories,
and moments that shaped us.

And at the center...
is home.
Not a place on a map...
but the love we carry
wherever we go.



Come along
as we journey across
the globe—
from where our story began,
through the places that
shaped us,

and all the way
to discover our next
great adventure.

Ready?
Grab your passport.



Our adventure begins... now.



Long before we had
passports,
we had roots.

Our family's story began in
the American South.
From Georgia...
South Carolina...
Kentucky...
and North Carolina...
our story grew from one
generation to the next.





Then one day, our journey took a new direction.

Military life taught us that sometimes home changes.

Boxes are packed. Walls become memories. Friends become phone calls.

New beginnings arrive before we're ready.

But every move reminds us that while our address may change...our family never does.

And with that, the first of many overseas adventures...Ready. Set. Go!

Our compass pointed
across the ocean to our
second continent...
to a country shaped like a
boot.

Italy!

Although it was right in
the middle of COVID,
we couldn't wait to
discover what adventures
were waiting for us.



Italy gave us adventures we'll never forget.



We floated through the canals of Venice, where boats replaced cars, and waterways replaced roads.



We stood beneath the Leaning Tower of Pisa and wondered how it was still standing.



We enjoyed the cool, crisp waters of Lake Garda.



We played in the snow in the mountains of Aviano.

From Italy,

we celebrated a birthday in
London,

the Eiffel Tower in Paris,

Postojna caves in Slovenia
with our friends,

Hungary—where the Shoes
on the Danube reminded us
of history we'll never forget,

and even beautiful Croatia,
where we snorkeled and
jumped from cliffs into the
clear blue waters.



And right in the middle of all those adventures...



The youngest of our tribe, Willow, was born in the living room of our Italian home.

She loved saying, “Ciao! Ciao!”

They might as well have been her very first words.

Italy will always be part of our family’s story.

Zoriah would go back to be close to Paris, her favorite place!

Mommy and Daddy would go back for the Saturnia Hot Springs and pizza.

And just when we started to feel like we could call Italy home...

Here we go again.

Ready.

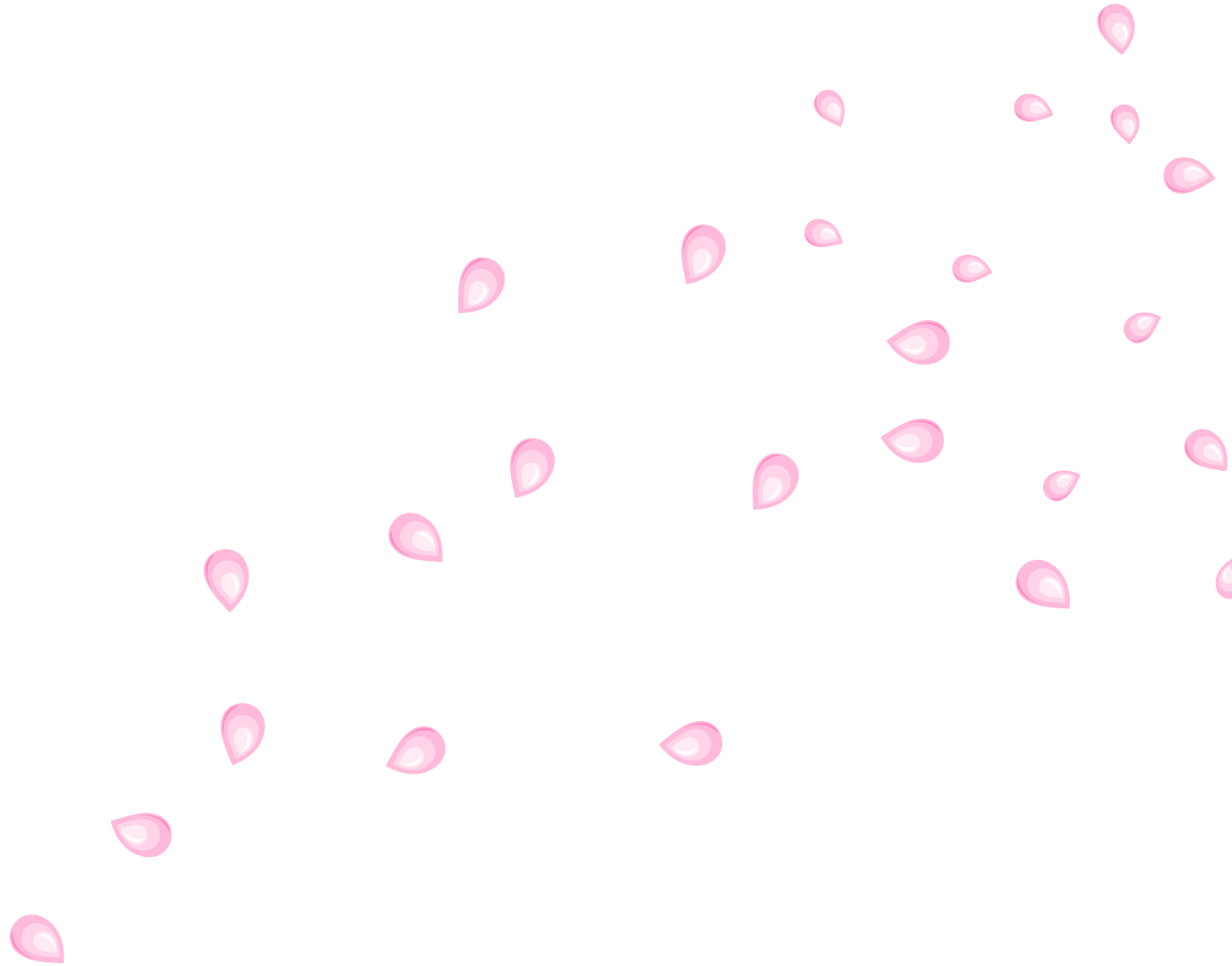
Set.

Go...

On to somewhere new.

This time...
our compass pointed to our
third continent,

All the way to Asia to the
peninsula of South Korea.



Everything felt new.

The language.

The food.

The mountains.

The music.

Busy cities filled with
bright lights.

Cherry blossoms blooming
everywhere.

The beautiful palaces that
shared stories from
Korea's rich history.

There was so much to
discover.



South Korea quickly became a place we would never forget.

We learned to bow as a sign of respect.
We became pros at eating with chopsticks.

Well, some of us.

We explored night markets, peaceful temples, and lots of Ramen.



While in Korea we visited Jeju Island, where we tried famous peanut ice cream on a black sand beach.

We visited Vietnam, where we saw a fire breathing dragon, took the world's longest non-stop cable car ride 4,872 feet into the clouds—that's 15-20 minutes of "Oh, my goodness, why did I sign up for this?"

Before leaving Asia, we visited Japan, where we crossed the Shibuya Crossing, the world's busiest intersection and spent a birthday at Tokyo Disney.



Korea was an EPIC adventure!

Keziah would go back for Korean barbecue and everything she loves about Korean culture.

Zhaniya would go back for boba tea, milk tea, K-pop and all the adventures South Korea had to offer.

We made friends who became family, like usual.

And just when we started to feel like we could call South Korea home...

Here we go again.

Ready.


Set.

Go!

On to somewhere new.

Like the dandelion,
we grow where the wind
carries us.
We bloom in unexpected
places.
And no matter where we
land...
we find a way to flourish.





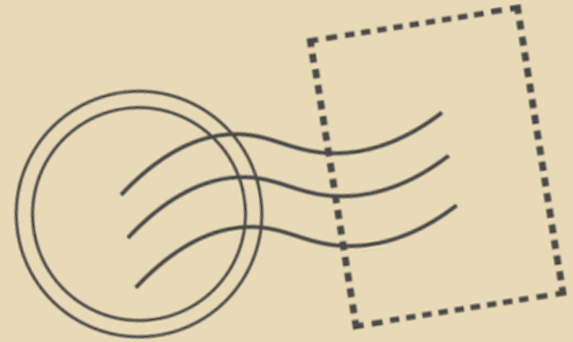
This time,
the winds have carried us
all the way to our fourth continent...

AFRICA!

Karibu!

Kenya, our new home!

POSTCARD



The world is a very big place.
Where will your next adventure be?

Ready.

Set.

Go.

Love,
The Little Family