



God Daughter

Alice | Niece

For my niece and goddaughter, Alice, I chose a poppy flower. When my sister was pregnant with Alice, she was tracking how big she was with an app that would compare the size of your baby to an object, like a fruit or a ball. When my sister was four weeks along she told us Alice was the size of a poppy seed. From then on out we started calling her “poppy” throughout the rest of my sister's pregnancy. Alice is the sweetest and cutest little human I have ever met. Becoming an aunt was the best thing to happen to me in my early adult life. Not only is Alice herself extremely special and amazing, she has now become the glue that binds my family. My sister lives far away and we have always been close, but now that we have been blessed with little Alice, our bond seems to grow ever stronger as I consistently stay in contact with my sister to watch Alice grow. Just like the poppy, Alice is beautiful and colorful.





...Vogler Boys...

The Voglers Boys

I chose forget-me-nots for my nanny family, the Voglers. I have nannied for the Vogler family for over a year now, and they have now begun to feel like family. Having the opportunity to watch them learn and grow during my time with them, is something I will never forget. Forget-me-nots are sure to put a smile on your face, just like the Vogler boys. They make me laugh constantly while simultaneously testing my patience. Everyday with them is different, while some days are bad and some are good, I always leave feeling loved. I have learned a lot from my time with them; they are always teaching me new things and pushing me creatively. Just as forget-me-nots inspire creativity, so does my time with this family. I am forever grateful for my time with them and their parents who always make sure to go out of their way to ask how I am. I am so thankful they have the Vogler family in my life.



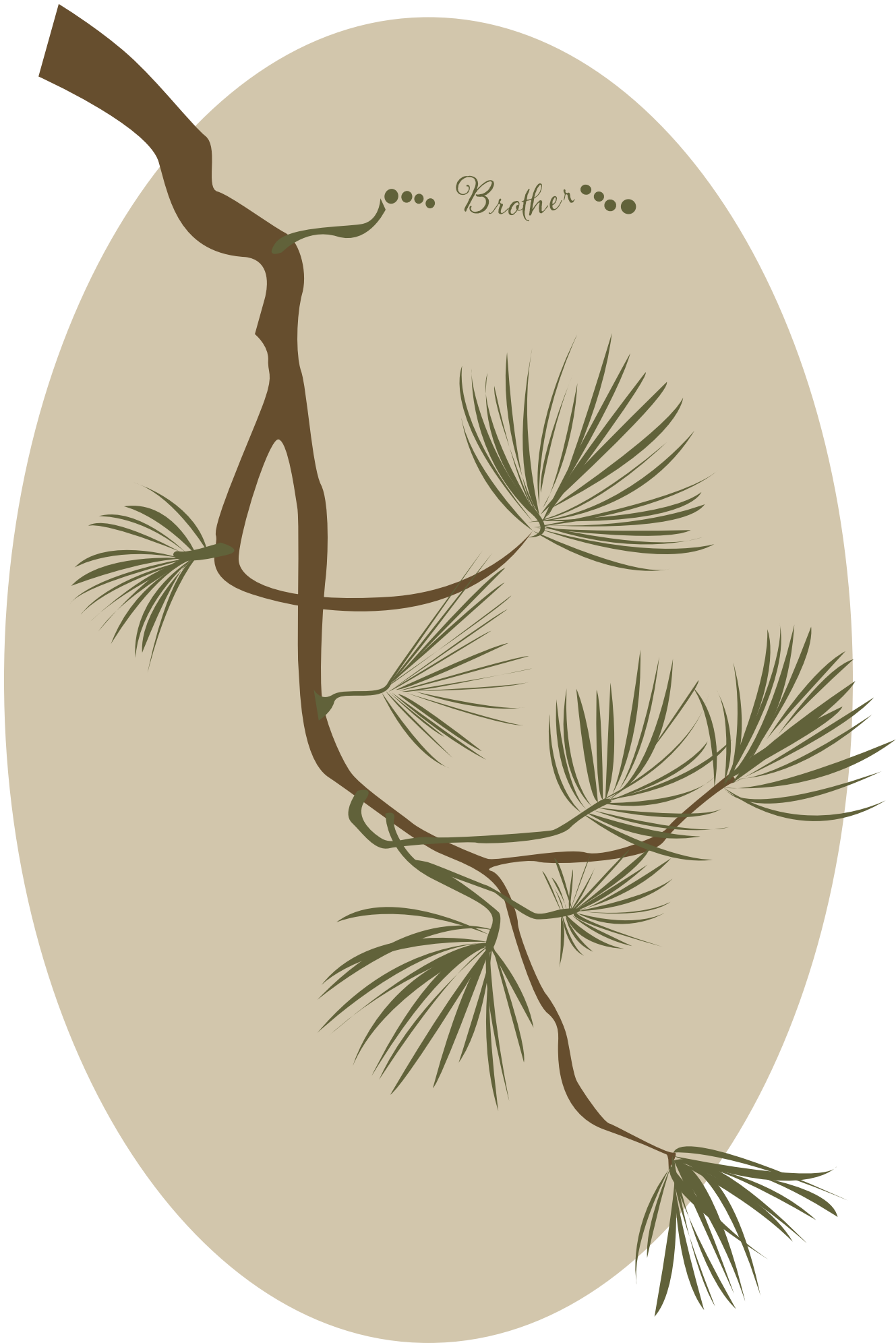


...Brother...

Casey | Brother

For my brother-in-law, Casey, I chose a blue columbine flower: Colorado's state flower. The blue columbine can be a symbol for foolishness. Although Casey is no fool, he makes my family laugh so much. I chose this flower because Casey and my sister moved to Colorado six years ago and they love it. As well as adventures and funny, Casey is a fantastic father. He always takes the time to care for my niece, Alice. He works hard to be a good parent and strives to do what is best for her and my sister. Just as the blue columbine is a native flower to Colorado, Casey is genuine. He cares for and understands my sister, Leah, better than anyone else. Though he does not always express it, I know he cares about me as well.





Eli | Brother

For Eli, my younger brother, I chose a ponderosa pine. After asking my brother multiple times for his favorite flower, he instead chose a pine, which is perfectly fitting for his stubborn personality. Later on, he told me he would pick a flower if I really needed him to, but I decided that technically not everyone in my life could be represented by a flower and he is definitely more of a pine than a flower. The pine tree is known for being a symbol of wisdom and longevity. Eli is known for his endurance and strength, which is mirrored in the ponderosa pine's sharp needles and ability to grow in most soil types. Eli is also consistent; he stays the same and does not change with the seasons. He may be a little too consistent, as he is stubborn at times, but he is constant and dependable just like the ponderosa. Though he is young, he is tough, like a ponderosa sapling.



Sister...



Leah | Sister

For my sister I choose a wild rose. In some cultures, such as some western Native American tribes the wild rose represents life. In ancient mythology the wild rose represents love and beauty. But for me the wild rose represents my sister as a wild rose. I believe she has inspired me to be everything I am today. Wild roses are typically depicted as delicate flowers who will wilt when difficult times come, but like my sister the wild rose reblooms through every winter and difficult time no matter how harsh and stressful life gets. I also choose to use three flowers to represent her because I believe above being a sister, she is a wife and a mother. She values and takes care of her family better than anyone I have ever see. There is no one I look up to more and aspire to be like more than my sister. As well as sweet, positive and beautiful my sister is wild and adventurous. She makes every trip and experience with her exciting. Although it may appear she views life through rose colored glasses, but in reality she just has the ability to see the good in everything.





...Friend...

Anna | Friend

For my friend, Anna, I chose a pink peony. They are her favorite flower and for some, they symbolize good luck. Anna and I have been friends since we were very young. They were a few years in the middle where we had lost touch, but in recent times we have become close again. I feel so lucky to have her back in my life so we can continue to make fun and lasting memories together. Anna is a very supportive friend and is always helping me stay positive. She is always there for me when I need someone to just listen, but she also gives great advice when I need it most. Just like the peony can be seen for both its beauty and its unseen medicinal uses, Anna is just as beautiful on the inside as she is on the outside. Having a friend who is always there for you is a gift that I am so happy I am blessed with. The peonies flower is actually on a bush, and although the flower is not always in bloom you know it is there. Just as I know that even when Anna and I are apart in life, she is still there for me.





Darryn | Dad

For my dad I chose the tradescantia spathacea, or boat lily, plant. When my dad retired, he began taking care of this plant as a hobby, which is why I chose the boat lily. He began by just having a couple, then would take a few shoots off and transplant them to a new pot. Pretty soon my parents' house was filled with this plant! This plant grows and spreads quickly, which reminds me of my dad's fast-paced spirit. It was inspiring to watch him gain a new skill of gardening, and it taught me to never stop learning. You should always try new things. There is always room to grow and change. My dad is a very hard worker and is always working to better himself and those around him. He is tough, yet can easily flip to his sensitive side, like the boat lily, which can tolerate both humid and dry conditions. I am very grateful to have a dad who is always so supportive of whatever I am doing and always makes me feel like I have value.





...Boyfriend...

Nate | Boyfriend

For my boyfriend, Nate, I chose a sunflower. Sunflowers are drawn to the sun as I am drawn to Nate's positive, kind, and funny traits. Nate is hard-working, just like sunflowers work hard to grow quickly and beautifully. Some sunflower varieties can grow up to 16 feet in height, and this sort of sturdiness and strength reminds me of Nate as well. He takes care of me, and makes me feel safe while always validating my needs and emotions. He has always been there for me through tough times, and I know that though we have many memories together already, many more will come in our future together. I am continuously impressed by him and in awe of his naturally sunny disposition.





Grandparents

Grandparents

For my grandparents I chose pansies because their petals are in the shape of a heart. The pansy flower has often been used to symbolize love from one person to another. One of the great things about my grandparents is that they have always shown me unconditional love. If you look closely, there is an image of a gentle face at the center of the flower. Even though we don't see each other often, seeing the face in the pansies reminds me of the gentle faces of my grandparents. Pansies often bloom in multiple colors. The four different colors that I chose remind me that I inherited gifts and genetic traits from all four of my grandparents. I also chose this flower because both of my grandmas like to plant these flowers in their gardens each spring. I am fortunate, as of today, to still have all four of my grandparents in my life.





Shannon | Mom

For my mom I chose a white lily. I chose a lily for my mom without really thinking about it. My mom's favorite flower is a sunflower and mine is actually a white lily. However, I believe she thinks of me as a sunflower and I think of her as a lily. Lilies can represent purity and rebirth. My mom is a Lutheran pastor and throughout my whole life I have had the wonderful opportunity to connect with God through her, even if I did not recognize the connection straight away. She has never forced religion on my siblings and me, but has always reminded us it is there if we need it. My mom is always making sure I am okay. She is sensitive, but knows how to handle tough situations. She is proud and strong, just like the white lily that sits atop a tall stem. My mother is incredibly smart and logical, and I commend her for her ability to embrace and connect both science and God.



