



# THE LADYBUG EXPRESS 3

“Final Edition”

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## Officially outnumbered!

We used to look at our friends with three kids and shake our heads, tsk-asking all the way: “Why let yourselves be outnumbered?” we’d ask. “How do they DO it?” we wondered.

We always vowed it would never happen to us. Two parents: two kids = man-to-man defense. A good ratio, especially if you grew up watching Indiana basketball. No self-respecting Hoosier played zone defense worth a darn, at least not in Bob Knight’s era.

But just as Knight took an unexpected hike to Texas, times have changed – and look who’s playing zone now! Yup, the joke is on us – and it’s a beauty!

On Sept. 12, 2007, Jeni and her mom, Liz, flew to China to meet the final member of the family while Chris stayed home to ride herd on Grace and LiLi. Five days later, in the Jiangxi



Province adoption office in Nanchang, we became proud parents of Cate Bo Qi, a 13.6-pound peanut from the Poyang

Social Welfare Institute, near China’s largest freshwater lake (scene of the current season’s “Survivor: China” episodes).

Miss Cate is the ultimate survivor. She spent her first 10 months in the care of the wonderful staff and nannies at Poyang. She waited for us while China, which changed many of its rules for adopting parents, decided whether we’d get this baby. She tapped her tiny toes impatiently while we waited for approval to travel and bring her home – an agonizing, 9-week process.



We’re convinced she’ll soon outwit, outplay and outlast her big sisters. Cate’s a bundle of energy, with personality to boot. She’s curious about everything and constantly on the go. She’s still tiny, wearing mostly 3- and 6-month clothes at 11 months old. But the best things indeed come in small packages!

As we all adjust to our new roles – as the parents of three children under the age of 5, as big sisters – we thank God for this final blessing from China and our adoption agency, FTIA, for fighting for us. We especially thank the women who brought all three of our girls into this world. And while we count our blessings each day, our hearts go out to those still waiting to bring their children home, wherever they may be.

**“An invisible red thread connects those who are destined to meet, regardless of time, place, or circumstance. The thread may stretch or tangle, but will never break.”**

An ancient Chinese belief

