



Jeremy and David





Hi, we're Jeremy (right) and David (left), and Renly (center).

Thanks for checking out our photo book!

Our Story

We met in the fall of 2018. Jeremy had recently left the Navy, and David had just arrived in Seattle. During our first date (lunch at a taco shop), we discovered shared interests in the mountains, experiencing new places and cultures, and watching Game of Thrones. Soon we were cooking together, road-tripping around the PNW, and meeting each other's friends.



Once Renly arrived, we felt like a family, and we moved in together a few months before the Covid pandemic began. We soon learned that we could still enjoy each other's company even while spending all our time together. We still love meals at home by ourselves, but we are happy to be back to exploring the city and seeing loved ones near and far.



One of the first things we bonded over was our shared love of the outdoors. We are passionate about the incredible natural beauty of Washington and take every chance we get to be in the woods, mountains, water, and snow. We love how getting away from daily life allows for deep conversations, and we especially enjoy teaching friends how to camp!



Snowshoeing at Mt. Baker



Canoeing on Whidbey Island



Backpacking in Olympic with Jeremy's brother and sister in law



On a road trip to look at fossils in Eastern Washington



If we're not outside, we're probably in the kitchen (or downstairs watching *The Great British Bakeoff*). We both come from families that cook together, and we value that tradition.

We especially love baking. Working together to perfect our bread, cake, and pastry skills has been a great way to grow our relationship (and to eat lots of delicious carbs and sugar).



We got engaged twice.

David proposed to Jeremy in a park, and our friends surprised us with a picnic and champagne.



Jeremy proposed to David while hiking in a mountain range we'd been planning to visit since we first met.



We got married at the courthouse in downtown Seattle in 2023.

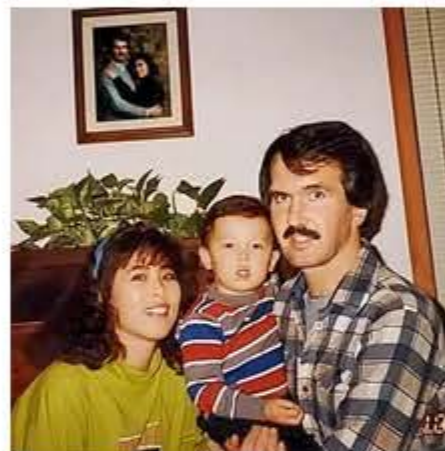


Meet Jeremy

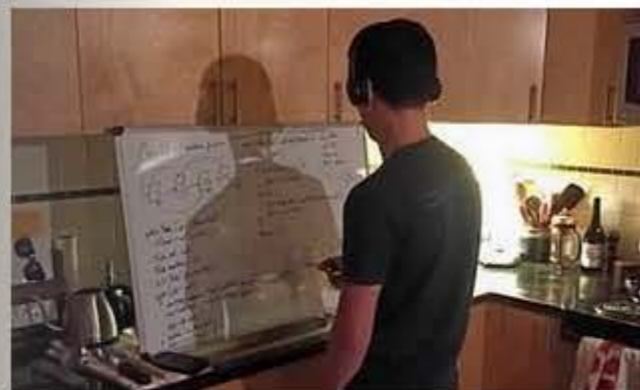


Occupation: Software engineer

Interests: Traveling, reading, live music, design, houseplants, Korean food, making good pastry



I was born in Atlanta, Georgia and grew up in the suburbs with my parents, older brother Nick, and younger brother Jason. The house was a mix of cultures - Korean from my mom, and midwestern from my dad. I have fond memories of holiday baking with my dad and helping my mom make Korean food without a recipe. Our neighborhood was full of kids, and I loved playing outside, imagining new worlds to explore.



I learned to code through an apprenticeship after getting out of the Navy. I sometimes studied in the kitchen.



I love being in the water - I can paddleboard and scuba dive.



My brother Jason and I climbed a volcano together.



I've traveled to 10 countries on my own.



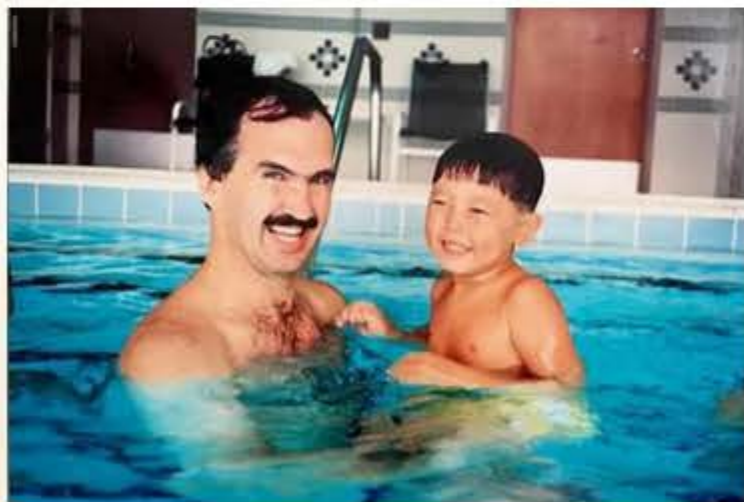
I'm learning how to make and restore furniture.



With my best friend CJ, who I met in the Navy, and his mom. I've become close with his whole family.

While attending college in Atlanta, I decided to join the Navy. I was stationed on a submarine in Washington. The Navy was challenging but rewarding, and I made some lifelong friends.

Shortly after I left Georgia, my dad was diagnosed with cancer. After a difficult fight over more than a year, he passed away. My dad was the foundation of our family, and we struggled to recover over the following years. The experience of losing a parent while serving in the military shaped how I view relationships, goals, and work. I recognize how brief a time we have with our loved ones, and how important it is to value how we spend that time.



With my mom and my brothers at Jason's house in Denver for Thanksgiving

I have a close community of friends who live in Atlanta, Seattle, and many other places. It's very important to me to see my friends and family as much as I can.



Being a groomsman at my high school friend's wedding



With my niece Claire



David and me at an outdoor concert with CJ and his wife



Hiking with my mom outside Seattle



Taking Georgia friends on the ferry to Bainbridge Island

Meet David



Occupation: Lawyer

Interests: Broadway musicals, hiking above treeline, politics, geography trivia, Italian food, owls



I grew up in a loving and supportive family in Ann Arbor, Michigan. My sister Rachel and I were surrounded by books and music, and we spent lots of time playing outside, watching Disney movies, and inventing "recipes" in the kitchen. Although we were not religious, I'm grateful that my parents taught us about our Jewish heritage and culture, and it was great to have bar/bat mitzvahs and holiday celebrations as a reason to see relatives and eat great food.



I was on Jeopardy (I lost).



I did a giant-bowl-of-pho eating challenge (I lost).



I love stories about dragons and wizards, like Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter.



I've sung in choirs all my life, including my college a cappella group. Making music brings people together like nothing else I've found.



I really love exploring and have driven across the US by myself three times. I think every place has something unique and worth seeing, and I'm happy to walk, bike, or drive around for hours to find it.



My love of baking started because my sister and I had a tradition of making pies with our grandmother.



I used to live in Washington DC and work for Congress. Following the news and engaging with issues I care about is very important to me.



I could happily eat pasta with red sauce every day for the rest of my life.



I really love dancing at weddings.



Me and my mom

My parents are no longer together, but I am still very close with both of them and love to visit my mom in Boston and my dad in Michigan. My sister Rachel and her husband Brian live in NYC, and she and I talk or text almost every day. I'm so glad that Jeremy and I both believe in seeing our friends and family as often as we can.



Jeremy, me, Rachel, and Brian



Me and my dad



Original & reenacted selfie with cousins at family bar mitzvahs



The first time Jeremy came to a yearly gathering of my law school friends



Celebrating my cousin's birthday with some cool hats

David says...

Jeremy works hard and gets the job done. He shows up with actions as well as words.

He supports his people through difficult times, he's always there to talk, and he gives amazing presents.

He's a keen and funny observer of the world around us. He makes me laugh all the time.

He's a gifted designer who keeps our home comfortable and clean. He has impressive common sense, and he's great at dealing with stuff like doctors and cable companies.

I know he'll be a great dad because he already takes great care of Renly and me.



Jeremy says...

David is kind and caring even when the world pushes back.

David is constantly learning and acts as our translator of any language when we are abroad.

David's ability to nurture and maintain relationships near and far is rare and he drives me to do the same.

His endless knowledge allows him to act as my personal search engine.

He cares and supports me in ways that I never knew existed and it's clear he will make an exceptional dad.

Meet Renly



Because Jeremy had already decided to get a dog when we started dating, Renly has been a part of our relationship from the very beginning. Renly loves going on adventures and also loves snuggling on the couch. He is great with kids, and he is incredibly loyal and affectionate with his friends and family. He has taught us how to be a team in caring for someone we love and putting his needs before our own.



Home & Neighborhood



We moved into our house in early 2022 and have loved making our home together. We've enjoyed filling the house with books, memories, and family pictures. Our kitchen is the heart of the house, and we want to keep it a warm and welcoming place for conversation and good food. We've also become good friends with our neighbors and other families on our block.

In our front yard shortly after moving in



Jeremy hosting our friends at the kitchen table



Renly hosting his friend in the living room



View from our front window



We're happy to live under the biggest tree on the block!



Elementary school playground and pedestrian street

We love living in our north Seattle neighborhood. We're within a few blocks of a pedestrianized bike/walk street, the local elementary school, and the library, and we're a quick walk from parks, bookstores, and bakeries.

Traditions

We treasure special occasions as a time to see our loved ones near and far. We place a high priority on being with (and cooking for!) our families at Thanksgiving and for Christmas and Hanukkah, as well as attending birthday and wedding celebrations whenever we can.



Thanksgiving dinner with Jeremy's family



Cooking for Thanksgiving with David's mom and sister



Our Christmas tree and menorah



Renly checking out his stocking



We dress up and carve pumpkins for Halloween.



We eat Korean barbecue as often as possible.



We love having flowers around and plant them out front each spring. Jeremy's mom used to be a florist and arranged the flowers for Jeremy's brother's wedding!



Renly has a tradition of sitting in our laps even though he is too big.

Dreams for our child



We've been lucky to have lots of kids in our lives, and we've learned so much from the parents and grandparents among our families and friends.

If we become parents ourselves, our fondest wish is for our child to be surrounded by unconditional love and support.

We want our child to be their own person, comfortable with exactly who they are - and to know that they can always talk with us about anything on their mind.



We hope to inspire our child to be independent, explore the world on their own, make friends with all kinds of people, and find passions to pursue and causes to fight for.

We want our child to have deep respect for other people and their feelings, and to comfort those in need. At the same time, we hope they feel free to be silly and to laugh at themselves, at us, and at the absurdities of life.



Open adoption aspirations

We have been exploring the idea of open adoption for a long time, and we are deeply committed to honoring our child's relationship with their birth family. We know that the voices and needs of adoptees and birth parents have been downplayed for too long. We want to be a part of changing that by respecting and celebrating that connection.

More personally, as gay men we have always known that we would not have a "traditional" family (whatever that means). We see our child having more love and family members in their life as a wonderful thing. We will work to create the trust and mutual respect needed for any relationship, while staying open to whatever evolves based on the individual needs and preferences of our child and birth family.

Thank you for reading!

