



CLARA  
&  
ROSE





Hello! We are Rose and Clara. We live in a large city in Washington and love going on adventures together. We enjoy spending time with family and friends, and cuddling with our cute pup, Bodie.

We appreciate you taking the time to get to know us and are excited to share our book with you.



CLARA



ROSE

# OUR STORY



We met on a crisp winter day in 2017. We chatted over lunch and bonded about both of us being from Southern California and going to college in the Northwest. We realized we both liked being outside and exploring on hikes. We went for a walk at the beautiful park and then were married there in an intimate wedding in 2019.

We have built our relationship on a foundation of love, trust and mutual respect. We both value family and quality time with loved ones. We work as a team everyday and we appreciate each other for the strengths we bring to the relationship.



# MEET ROSE

## CHILDHOOD

I grew up in a suburb of Los Angeles with my mom, dad, and older brother. Both my parents were educators; my mom taught elementary school and my dad was a principal. They instilled in me the importance of education and inspired me to become a teacher. My family is very tight knit. Growing up we spent quality time together playing games and going on trips, and would see extended family often. My grandparents lived nearby and introduced me to my hobbies of crafting and gardening. I grew up playing lots of sports, but basketball was my passion. My family has always been supportive of me and my endeavors, giving me the confidence to succeed.



My love of dogs began with my childhood pup, Sandy.



My first quilt, made with help from my grandma, using my high school basketball t-shirts.



Matching outfits with my teacher besties at school.



Victory picture after defeating our students at the annual staff vs. 5th grade kickball game.

## COLLEGE & CAREER

After high school I decided to leave California and go away to college in Washington. I got a degree in history and then was accepted into the Teach for America program, where I got my Masters in Teaching and started teaching in Las Vegas. I enjoyed my time in Las Vegas, but the Northwest was my true home. I have been teaching 4th grade here in Washington for the past 8 years. Being a teacher is a huge part of my identity. I care deeply about my school community and investing in the lives of students. I am looking forward to having a child of my own to share my love of learning and to prepare them for their future.



I love that I get to be silly at my job. This is from when the "Reptile Man" came to my school.



I help raise salmon at my school and take students to a local creek to release them into the wild.



I love spending quality time with my mom hiking.



My Grandma Arlene taught me how to quilt and I am keeping the tradition going by making quilts for my family.



## INTERESTS & HOBBIES

- Crafting, especially quilting
- Going for walks and hikes
- Playing and cuddling our pup Bodie
- Cooking for friends and family
- Listening to music and podcasts
- Caring to my plants and gardening
- Playing board games
- Going on adventures with my wife



I love caring for my indoor and outdoor gardens.



Getting to hold my nephew when he was 1 day old.



Seeing the beauty of Washington's National Parks, Mt. Rainier and Olympic.



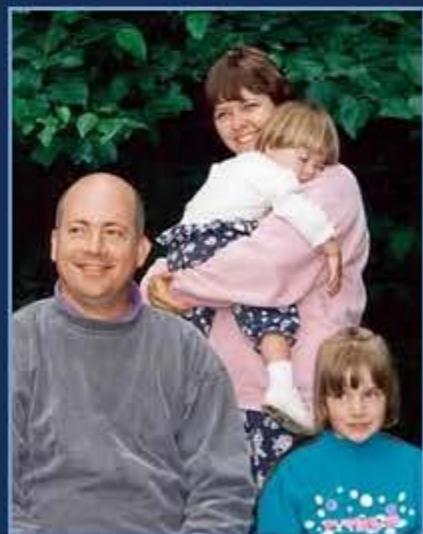
## THINGS CLARA LOVES ABOUT ROSE

- She makes me laugh every day.
- She has a goofy and expressive face.
- She's an excellent handy woman.
- She makes beautiful quilts for us, and our family.
- She is thoughtful in the ways she anticipates my needs and takes care of me.
- She works so hard for our family.
- She is a devoted and dependable daughter and granddaughter.

# MEET CLARA

## CHILDHOOD

I grew up with my parents and younger sister in the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles, California. Since I was a kid, my mom always was someone who I could talk to and knew would listen to me. My dad could always make me laugh. My paternal grandparents - Noni and Grandpa - were deeply involved in my childhood. They were there, with my parents, for all my choir concerts and my Girl Scout Court of Awards. My mom was one of six siblings, so I had more cousins on her side of the family than I could count. I loved going to Grandma's house for big family gatherings.



My college friends made the Northwest feel like home.



My first day of student teaching.

## COLLEGE & CAREER

I moved to the Pacific Northwest for college, after visiting the region on a Girl Scout trip and being awed by the natural beauty. While I never thought I'd move away from my family and settle here permanently, I fell in love with Washington. After college, I got a job at a local non-profit, where I worked for four years. I met Rose around this time, and saw her passion for teaching. This inspired me to go back to school to get my masters degree and teaching certificate. I have been working as a middle school math teacher for over three years.



Matching ugly sweaters with the 6th grade team at my middle school.



I love baking fresh sourdough bread and treats.



Meeting our brand new niece.

## HOBBIES & INTERESTS

- Listening to Broadway Musicals
- Baking bread and other delicious things
- Reading science fiction or fantasy novels
- Taking walks while listening to podcasts
- Playing board games
- Planning adventures



Rose likes to have me stand by the trees we planted to see how much they have grown.



Enjoying the Skagit Valley Tulip festival, a fun tradition we do every few years.



I enjoy hunting for my next great potato experience.



I love musicals. We were lucky enough to see Wicked on Broadway.



My sister, Abby, and I are very close. We are very supportive of each other and talk as often as we can.

## THINGS ROSE LOVES ABOUT CLARA

- She is loving, thoughtful, and appreciative
- She is a great listener and very insightful
- She is really smart and clever
- She makes the best sourdough bread and baked goods
- She loves her family and spending quality time with them
- She plans amazing adventures
- She has the best laugh and laughs at everything I say



Visiting the island of Santorini, Greece.



Walking across the Brooklyn Bridge in NYC.



Our teacher schedules have given us the opportunity to travel. We appreciate experiencing different places and cultures to learn more about the world.



Seeing the Harry Potter studios in London.



We have loved exploring the Northwest. We have a map of all the state and national parks in Washington and we pin each location as we visit them.



# OUR ADVENTURES





Bodie is our adorable little love pup. He is the ultimate lap dog, if you are sitting down, he is on your lap. He is very energetic and loves to play. He roams the backyard and helps with the yard work. He loves exploring new places and meeting new people. He gets a lot of quality time with Rose's parents' dog, Daisy. He is the perfect little snuggle bug.



Hiking with Clara's parents when they visit Washington.



All our closest friends and family gathered for our Wedding at Point Defiance Park in summer 2019.



Hosting Rose's family for Christmas at our house.



Spending the holidays with Rose's big Italian family.



Adventures with Rose's parents who live close by.



Having fun with our friends on our wedding day.



Our Tacoma crew takes turns hosting each other every month for dinner and board games.



Hiking trips with our buddy Casey.



We are very close with Rose's aunt and uncle who live close to us.



Adventures with Clara's family.



# OUR FRIENDS & FAMILY

## OUR HOME & NEIGHBORHOOD

Our house is comfy Craftsman with a great backyard to play in. We have enjoyed making our house a home since moving in together in 2018. We love decorating our house with unique crafted items made by Rose or Clara's mom, Patty. Clara loves to bake, so our house is often filled with the smell of fresh baked bread or goodies. We also have handmade quilts made by Rose for every season to cuddle up with on the couch. We love hosting our friends and families, making home cooked meals and using our pizza oven with crust made by Clara. We love playing board games and putting together puzzles. We love sharing our home with others.



We live in a cozy little neighborhood in a major city in Washington. We have two parks within walking distance, with playgrounds, a community garden, dog park, basketball courts, baseball fields and walking trails. We also can walk to restaurants, coffee shops, a library and a bookstore. Our community has an amazing parks system with wonderful events and activities. We live a short drive to many museums and great views of Mount Rainier and Puget Sound.



Start a capture

We love decorating for the holidays, especially Halloween and Christmas.



We enjoy making trunk displays for Rose's school's annual Trunk or Treat.



We find different holiday events each year. Christmas light displays are our favorite.



We love hosting our annual "Friendsgiving" with all the best side dishes.



We go on annual trips to Portland and the San Juan Islands.



Every year we exchange home made ornaments.



Family costumes for Halloween! Paul Bunyun, Babe the Blue Ox and Bodie the Log Dog,



## OUR TRADITIONS

We love going to the pumpkin patch each year.





## DREAMS FOR OUR FAMILY

We are hoping to building a life with our child where they feel confident and fulfilled, and where they are experiencing fun and joy every day. We can't wait to include our child in our family traditions, to take our child on adventures with us, and to read to them every night before bed. We want to create opportunities for our child to try new things, with and without us, and instill in them the confidence and curiosity to pursue whatever they want. We hope they will live a life that is happy and fulfilling. We hope to laugh with our child every day.

We want to create a home where our child feels safe, comfortable, and loved. We want to be parents who our child is able to trust and talk to about anything. We want our child to always know that they belong in our family exactly as they are.

Finally, we hope our child learns to create relationships that carry them into adulthood and throughout their life. We want our child to be a part of our lives when they grow up because they choose to, and we want to help them to build relationships with their birth family as well.

## OPEN ADOPTION ASPIRATIONS

We have learned from the voices of adult adoptees how important it is for children to be connected to their first families. Our child's first family will always be important to our child's life, and therefore, important to our life.

We are committed, as hopeful parents, to give our child all the love, care, and opportunity we possibly can. We also know that we cannot, alone, provide everything our child needs to be whole - no parent can. As an adoptee, our child will have experiences that are different from our own - and we hope to help them to connect with people, including their birth family, who can help support them in ways that we cannot. It takes a village, and we will strive to make sure our child's village always includes their first family.

For both of us, our families are deeply important parts of our lives. When we got married, we vowed to love each others families as our own. We will make that same commitment to the child we adopt.



