



DAVID & JESSE

Our Story & Family

HELLO & WELCOME!

We're David and Jesse.

Thank you for spending a little
time getting to know us
and our family.

We're excited and humbled
by the opportunity to share
our hopes and dreams
about open adoption
with you.





We met online back in 2010 on Match.com. Jesse couldn't resist reaching out to ask about David's photo with a giant baby's head sculpture. (So weird!) We soon met in real life on a rainy Seattle night at Jesse's favorite bar.

Jesse remembers that David was very tall (he exaggerated on his profile), wearing a black topcoat, and had an umbrella that would have happily belonged to an old man with a bowler hat. David was shy and sweet and charming. Jesse was silly and gregarious, and sort of funny.



Our love story started off a little slower than a traditional RomCom, but it's grown and evolved into something much more enduring than movies can capture.

We were lucky enough to be formally married in 2014 with all of our family and friends around us (yay Supreme Court!).

And our family grew by literal "leaps" and "bounds" with the adoption of our beloved dog, Alvin. He's so fancy he gets his own page in this book. (Page 11!)

It was a joyful wedding, but it has been an even better life together.





One of our shared loves involves traveling together. Whether it's exploring a new city in the United States or flying off to a destination abroad, we love spending time together in a new place. We are lucky in that we travel at the same speed and are happy hiking a trail, looking at art, or eating local delicacies together.

Both of us have very fond memories of traveling with our families as children and we hope to bring that thrill of exploration, fun, and adventure to our child.



When not exploring new places, we love putting "sweat equity" into our house. Jesse is happiest tearing apart an interior wall, while David is most at home in the plants and mud of the garden – but we both happily join each other for projects.

Home improvement and gardening hold a special place for us because we each learned these skills from our parents growing up. We have worked to make our home into the place we most like to be. We look forward to teaching our children what we have learned and sharing all our future home improvement and gardening adventures (and the occasional blunders).





DAVID'S STORY

I grew up in a happy home in Seattle, where my parents still live today. My best friend lived next door, and I spent my summers exploring a large nearby park with friends living throughout the neighborhood.

My parents were loving, valued education and travel, and supported my interests in artwork, baseball, and reading books galore. My two older sisters lived most of the week with their mom, but visited on weekends. I looked up to them as larger-than-life role models. It was always a thrill when they babysat and we could bake brownies, watch movies, and hang out together.



My parents raised me with commonsense good values that I try my best to embody today: be kind, be curious, and treat others as you would want to be treated.

I've always enjoyed education and schooling. I was never one of the most popular kids in high school, but I had wonderful friends who were smart, interesting, and diverse. After high school, I studied English literature at Reed College, which stood out as the place for me because the students all seemed to genuinely enjoy learning and were also a little bit nerdy like me.

I chose to pursue a career in law as a way to help people and to use my passion for writing and analysis. In 2019, I started a new adventure as an in-house lawyer for a tech company that operates a website and app for pet lovers to find and offer pet care. My co-workers are now people and dogs!

I've always felt very lucky to be gay. For me, it's not only about who I love, but also about being part of a diverse community that celebrates art, culture, and individual self-expression. I want everyone to feel that acceptance and freedom. I hope to bring a similar spirit of generosity and inclusivity to my role as a parent and to open adoption.

FUN FACTS ABOUT DAVID

- Works as a lawyer for a tech company
 - Puts Tabasco on everything
- Wants every night to be Taco Tuesday
 - His grandmother lived in Geneva, Switzerland, growing up, so he got to travel lots as a child
 - Loves nerdy Supreme Court trivia
- Once interned for a D.I.Y. magazine and enjoys arts and crafts projects
- Has a green-ish thumb - the garden is his happy place, even in the rain



"David is incredibly supportive, unfailingly loyal, wildly intelligent, incredibly handsome, extremely funny, and my favorite person to spend endless hours with. A good friend of mine told me, 'the pandemic shows you if you married the right person.' I married the right person." - Jesse



ALVIN

Our family grew a little bigger in 2013 when we adopted Alvin from animal rescue organization PAWS and welcomed him home.

He's a sweet 10-year-old German Shepherd mix who has joined us on many adventures.

Alvin bring so much fun and joy to our family! He's always been gentle and patient with kids, and has been a favorite of our nieces and nephews.

FAVORITE THINGS

- Chasing squirrels
(and the occasional bunny)
- Licking out yogurt containers
- Runs on the beach
- Cuddles on the couch after a long day of guarding the house

JESSE'S STORY

I was born in Minneapolis, MN and lived in the suburbs of the Twin Cities until I graduated from high school and went to college. I grew up in a very loving family and was raised with a strong respect for education, hard work, and fairness. I had a strong group of friends and a life full of school, extracurricular activities, athletics, and time terrorizing my older brother.

I am still close to my parents and am very happy that they recently decided to relocate from Minnesota to spend part of the year in Seattle and part of the year in the Bay Area near my brother and his family.

Some of my fondest memories are of tackling home improvement projects with the help of my parents. My parents were constantly working on the house while I was growing up and I absolutely inherited that drive to do the same. I take a lot of pride in working to make our house the place I most want to spend time and my parents have always been game to offer help, guidance, and counsel when projects go awry. I'm now better able to help them out with their own continued home improvement efforts. It's one of the ways we show each other love.



My professional life is a blend of working as a clinical psychiatrist, medical educator, and a medical administrator. I feel lucky to be able to have a job that allows me to explore all of these interests as I am deeply rewarded not only by working with individual patients, but by training a future generation of physicians and working within medical systems to make improvements that reach further than I ever could as a single clinician. I find my work to be very fulfilling and constantly challenging. I am never bored and feel good about what I do and how we work to help others.

My hopes for adoption and my future family are much like what I have been fortunate to have in my life thus far. I hope to have a warm, loving, supportive home that my family feels safe in and cared for. I hope and expect that my child, our relationship with a birth family, and the experience of raising a child will teach me and help me continue to grow into the loving and open person that I hope to be.



FUN FACTS ABOUT JESSE

- Works as a psychiatrist and medical administrator at a local hospital
- Loves traveling and has visited 46 out of 50 states
- Enjoys running (especially with dogs)
- Has a passion for home improvement (even the never-ending project)
- Enjoys carpentry and has made furniture for many friends
- LOVES bananas and peanut butter

"Jesse is loving, thoughtful, silly, and patient. He always puts in the hard work and dedication to provide for our family. I know he is going to bring the same love, thoughtfulness, silliness, and patience to welcoming our child and their birth parents into our lives." - David



OUR HOME

We live in Seattle in a beautiful craftsman house. We bought our home as a fixer-upper in 2012 and immediately rolled up our sleeves to tackle a series of remodeling projects. Luckily, Jesse grew up in a family that loves home improvement, so he knew how to tile a bathroom, install new flooring, build shelves, and paint everything (including occasionally the dog).

We're so happy with the finished product and can't wait to raise kids in our home!



OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Our neighborhood in Seattle is filled with families, dogs, and the occasional chicken coop. We love walking to nearby parks with playgrounds, tennis courts, and weekend soccer games, enjoying goodies from coffee shops and bakeries, and unwinding at our favorite local restaurants.

The neighborhood has good schools and a library, as well as easy access to downtown Seattle, Green Lake, the Woodland Park Zoo, and many other great destinations.



Pickleball with our niece, Thanksgiving gatherings, and competitive card games – oh my!



FAVORITE TRADITIONS

Both of our families enjoy big celebrations for holidays like Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter, as well as birthdays, weddings, and other milestones.

The Christmas season has always been a source of festivities and togetherness – hanging lights, baking goodies, and decorating the home with others. We love to host Christmas morning at our house for the whole family.

By tradition, David cooks a heaping (and delicious) breakfast with his dad and uncle.

Jesse has spiced up tradition by adding home-made donuts as a new mainstay – much to the delight of our nieces and nephews!



David and his dad are adventurous pie bakers for Thanksgiving. We love pumpkin and pecan, but always enjoy trying a couple new pies too!

Halloween is always fun and silly – this is us with "glitter beards." We've also been known to deliver surprise decorated pumpkins after dark!



Birthdays are a chance to celebrate a little extra. Jesse has planned surprise vacations, and David has organized scavenger hunts and trivia. We recently celebrated Jesse's birthday with a Garden Party theme transitioning into a Grunge theme.



We also love spending time with family and friends outside of holidays. We're lucky to have great friends – both new and old – who enrich our lives with laughter, supports, and adventures.

We enjoy gathering for backyard BBQs, board game nights, hikes on PNW trails, favorite TV shows, new Marvel superhero movies, and happy hour at our favorite neighborhood bar.



DREAMS FOR OUR CHILD

Our dreams for our child are much like the dreams children themselves have:
optimistic, endless, and full of joy.

We both benefited so much from families that supported us as we developed into ourselves and explored new interests and challenges, even when we were nervous or uncertain about our next steps in life. We want to offer that same encouragement for our child as they navigate the good and bad times alike.

We hope to raise our child to know love and affection, to respect hard work and effort, and to revel in all the joy and fun of life. We want our child to explore life, to express their creativity, and to delight in new things.

We want our child to know, respect, and love their birth parents and birth family. We hope open adoption will welcome their birth family into our home and their life, and that they will forge their own special bonds with their birth family. We know their path as an adoptee may come with questions and experiences that are different from our own, but we're committed to showing up for them with honesty, humility, and a shared understanding that we're all learning together.

We will make sure that they feel safe and loved in our home so that they grow into whatever extraordinary person they're meant to become, while knowing we are always here for every part of their journey. We know that journey will include not only highlights and laughter, but also disappointments, anger, and sadness at times. We hope they will confront those days with the understanding that this is a normal part of life and that they are never alone and can always reach out to us and others for help.

We hope to show our child so many different things, big and small, from travel, to reading, to sports, to creativity – it's hard to express them all! Mostly we plan to ensure that our child is loved along the way.





OPEN ADOPTION ASPIRATIONS

We believe in open adoption because it establishes a foundation of trust and community for a child, and we hope it will bring our child's birth family and adoptive family together with the shared goal of caring for and supporting them in important and different ways.

Families come in all shapes and sizes. We don't yet know what our family will look like, but we hope our child will grow up knowing their birth parents and birth family. We want our child to be able to learn from them, to share little jokes and big milestones, to reach out for advice, and to love and respect them as family. We value honesty and we want our child's journey as an adoptee to be knowledgeable and supportive.

We also know we can't do it alone. Every family is made up of so many unique personalities and perspectives, and kids learn from them all. We're committed to being there for our child throughout the ups and downs of life, but we're not always going to have the right answers or be the right people to ask. We hope they will reach out to all family members. We look forward to learning from our child's birth parents and to sharing ideas and insights among us.

We understand that building a relationship takes time, and we'll all need to work together to figure out what feels right for everyone with open adoption. We hope it could include touchstones like sharing photos and updates via text or phone, birthday celebrations, little league games and dance recitals, and school graduation. And we want our child's birth family to feel welcome in our home and at the dinner table.

What we hope for most in open adoption is a shared community of love and compassion for our child, and for all of us together to be able to be proud of the person our child becomes.