

Jess, Nick, and Dom

A Family Built by Adoption



We Love Animals



Nick Sews



Our Dogs, Carly and Cyrus

Hello!



Thank you so much for taking the time to get to know us. We are honored and humbled that you have chosen to learn more about us. We imagine this is a huge decision, and we have so much respect for you. We look forward to getting to know you and hearing your hopes and dreams for your child as well as maintaining contact with you so you will be able to watch them as they grow. We've come to value open communication through our son's adoption because we get to share his life with his birth mother, and we know that has been meaningful to her.

We wish you peace and comfort during this time. We hope this book helps you understand what makes us, us.

Us in a Nutshell



We are involved in the community. Jess has been involved in various community service projects since college. **Our current passion is dog rescue.** Since moving into our home we have fostered upwards of 30 dogs. Our pup Cyrus came to us through the rescue. We were both on site to rescue him and 16 other dogs from an abandoned home. While they all mean a lot to us, Cyrus stood out because of his instant bond with Carly. Cyrus has gone from reserved and unsure to confident and silly.

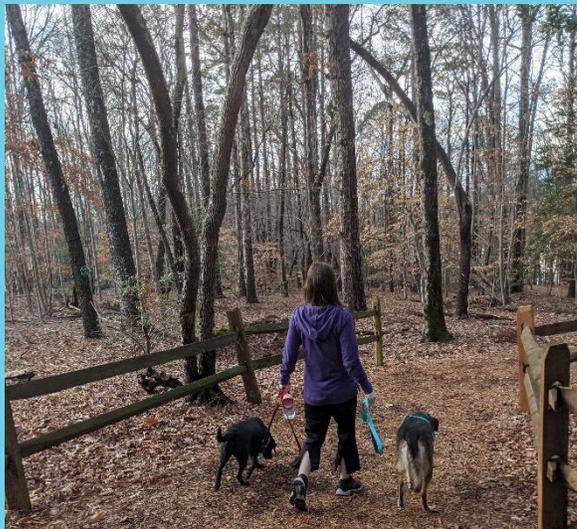
We are a family built by adoption. **Nick and Dominick were both adopted as infants** and Jess has several relatives who joined our family through adoption. We were placed with Dominick through the beauty of a semi-open adoption. It all happened so fast, and we were overwhelmed with love the minute we met him. We share photos with his birth Mother on a regular basis and have enjoyed speaking on the phone with her since the placement. Your child will always have someone who understands their story.



We share a love for the water. We were married on a beach and take any opportunity to go sit by the lake or pool. We recently met Jess' Mom in Myrtle Beach; It was not that warm out, but Dom still had the best time splashing in the waves and collecting shells. It made us so happy to watch him play and enjoy the beach as much as we do.

Jess by Nick

Jess has a heart for helping others. She has volunteered abroad at an orphanage in Uganda and in Nicaragua with a nonprofit. While Jess was in Uganda, she found a puppy on the side of the road and brought it back to the orphanage. She hid it from the kids until they could get her to the vet the next morning. When the puppy was given a clean bill of health, she brought her back for the children to play with. Even though the director of the orphanage was kind enough to let stay. The kids loved her and named her Sophia. Jess will teach your child to love and care for everyone.



Jess loves to walk or hike in the woods. On Christmas Eve Jess was so adamant about bringing Carly for a walk after work that she didn't notice the dark rain cloud coming in. She ended up back at the house 15 minutes later soaking wet.

Jess is a huge animal rights supporter and for that reason, she makes sure to only buy products that have not been tested on animals and is a vegan. She has even convinced some friends to try eating vegetarian. She made vegan nachos one night for some friends. Our friends were surprised by how good they were. She still respects everyone's eating habits and never makes anyone feel bad about what they eat. Jess will always make sure your baby is eating the most natural and nutritious foods, even if the food isn't vegan.



Nick by Jess



Nick is very family oriented. Whether it is helping his mom around the house with project or restocking his grandmother with Sudoku books, he never hesitates to do whatever needs to be done for the family. Recently, our sister-in-law wasn't feeling well. Nick didn't hesitate to take our nephew to the park for a couple of hours so she could go to the doctor and rest.

Nick is a very skilled skier. Growing up, his entire family would go on ski vacations, so he has been on skis since he was 3 years old. He has even gotten to ski the Swiss Alps! Nick remembers getting to the bottom of the mountain and taking a tram up a huge cliff before he even got the ski lift that takes you up to the trails, he was nervous but also very excited to ski the fresh snow. Your child will get to experience all kinds of outdoor adventures.



From an early age, **Nick's Grandmother taught him to sew**, and he loved it so much he continues to sew to this day. His most recent project was a little bag that attaches to his grandma's walker and a weighted blanket. It turns out sewing a weighted blanket is far more involved than he thought because he needs to sew all the spaces for the glass pellets; he still has quite a bit of work to do before it is complete.

Nick + Jess = Love



We met in a shared college class about Chinese Culture. Nick took Jess on an "unofficial" date on Valentine's Day. We were at the mall just hanging out and were hungry, so **we had dinner at Applebee's, it just happened to be Valentine's Day.** Nick finally asked Jess out a week later to a sushi restaurant. Nick was so nervous that we had paid the bill and were getting up to leave before he said, "sit back down I have something to say" and he asked Jess to be his girlfriend.

We loved the **sushi**, so it **became our go-to date night spot.** Whenever we go back to Vermont, we stop in for dinner and revisit where it all began. Nick is much braver than Jess and tries something new every time. Jess is a fan of the spicy sweet potato roll.



We have known for a few years that having biological children would not be an option due to infertility. However, we have experienced through adopting Dom that **love is so much more than biology.** We feel everything happens for a reason and are grateful for adoption as a path to parenthood and look forward to seeing how our journey and your journey have brought us together.

Dominick



Dominick is all boy and loves everything on wheels. We noticed from an early age that Dominick **loves the water**. We take him to the pool frequently and he is always all smiles. To make sure we are encouraging his interest as much as possible, we signed him up for formal swim lessons once a week. He always enjoys them and knows where we are as soon as we pull up! Your child will always be supported in whatever piques their interest.

Your child will have the benefits of having an older sibling. Jess grew up with an older brother and always idolized him. He loves to tell the story of when they were younger; he would ask Jess to get a snack out of the fridge she would run and get him whatever he needed as fast as she could. He was always there to play with Jess, help her when she needed it. Even as an adult Jess still values him.



Dom absolutely adores babies. When we take walks through the neighborhood, he always gets so excited if a family walks by pushing a stroller. Just the other day in Costco he yelled out "Baby! Baby!" as someone walked by with their infant in the cart. He even has a baby doll he holds and rocks back and forth with. We're sure this same **nurturing side** will carry over your baby.

Our Furry Best Friends, Carly and Cyrus

Carly and Cyrus are our rescue dogs. We **both grew up with a variety of pets**, so when we first moved into together, we made sure to find a dog-friendly apartment so we would be able to get a dog. That's where Carly came in. Cyrus came to us as what they call a 'foster fail' meaning we realized he was just meant to stay here even though we were set only to keep him until he found his forever home.



Our pups love children. Carly used to go to school with Jess to teach her students about responsible pet ownership. She loves being the center of attention and showing off her tricks. Carly and Cyrus have both been very patient with Dom and he is learning to be gentle with them. He likes to climb up on the couch and pet them while he watches Disney movies. They love to get their nighttime pets from Dom.

Cyrus **loves to take walks and play with his ball.** He loves to run zoomies. When he first got here, he didn't really know what toys were, but he certainly does now. Just the other day we got a little break from the humidity, so he chased his ball for over half an hour!



How We Fend Off Boredom



Our area has **lots of local parks** for children to play. Dom has become a big fan of the slide. He will go down over and over saying “more, more.” It always surprises us how confident and bold he can be about it. Your baby will get lots of time to safely run and climb to burn off that childhood energy. We’re both committed to allowing him to explore while still staying safe.

We are foodies and love to cook. Because Jess is a vegan, she has become pretty skilled at “veganizing” any classic dish. She recently pulled off a vegan shepherd’s pie. It was really savory, and you could hardly tell the difference. Nick is a talented baker, and he is a pro at making cheesecakes. His last experiment was vegan cheesecake eggrolls that came out amazing.

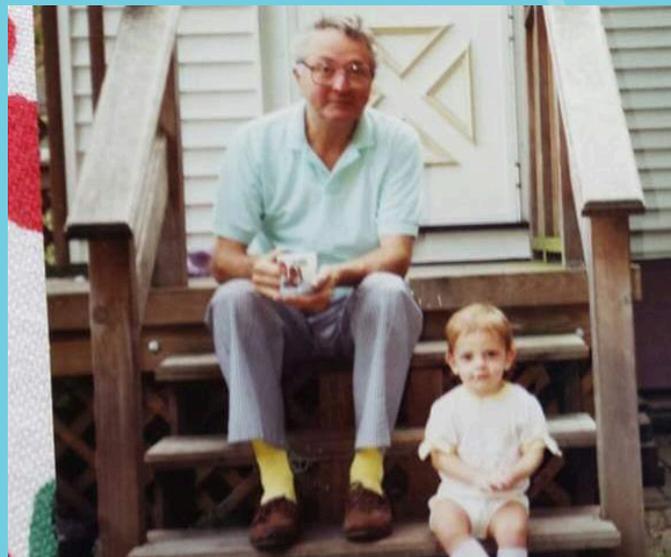


Our area hosts many cultural festivals, and it provides us a chance to **explore other cultures** close to home. One of our favorites is the **Chinese Lantern Festival** during the holidays. Last year we were able to go with Nick’s cousins and everyone had a blast. We loved dancing to the live music. Your baby will learn about other cultures.

Our Family & Traditions

Your child will have one great grandmother, one great grandfather, two grandmothers, two aunts, three uncles, and **four cousins**.

Our family has a dry sense of humor and just **a little sarcastic** at times. Jess' Grandfather had dozens of jokes the family still quotes to this day. For example, when it gets to be zero degrees in the winter we'll say "that's nothing" since the number zero is literally nothing. He usually only got a couple chuckles and groans but every time someone makes the joke, now we all smile.



We are lucky enough to **live right down the street from Nick's Mom and Grandma**. We all go out for dinner once a week. Nick's Grandma once accidentally ate an entire ball of wasabi at the local sushi restaurant, so she said, "next time we go out to eat, I want a cheeseburger." Your baby will always be a short walk away from Grandma's house.

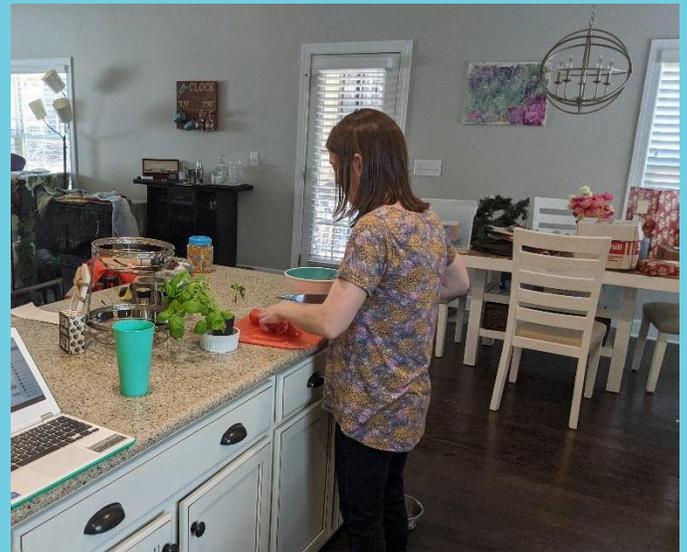
Adoption is a common thread in our family. Jess has cousins who have welcomed their children into their families through adoption. They have on-going relationships with the children's' birth mothers and have always been very open and honest about their adoptions, just as we are with Dom. Besides Nick and Dom being adoptees themselves, your baby will always have cousins to identify with as a fellow adoptee.





We enjoy lots of fun **family adventures**. Recently, we beat the clock on an escape room. Nick's cousin took the leadership role, but everyone worked together to solve the puzzle and we made it out with time to spare. Unfortunately, Nick's uncle had to crawl through a tiny trap door before Nick figured out how to open the regular door.

Our family loves food. Jess's Mom is a professional chef, Nick's Mom used to own a restaurant, and Nick's uncle is an amazing cook, who has passed down several recipes to Nick. It's taken a couple of years of practice he but has perfected making the gravy at Thanksgiving. We would love to learn some of your favorite recipes to share with your child and incorporate some of your family traditions.



We both **grew up primarily with our moms**. To this day we remain very close with them. We see each other all the time and love to talk about the latest gossip. Nick worked at the family restaurant from an early age and because of this was able to save a good amount of money for college.

Our Home

We live in a family-oriented neighborhood just 20 minutes outside Raleigh. There are always children riding their bikes and playing in their driveways. There is a social committee that plans all kinds of **fun family events from pool parties to chili cook offs**. On Halloween it's not unusual for us to have over 300 children come by. Last year Jess and Dom dressed up as Mickey and Minnie while Nick managed his socially distanced candy cannon for the children. All the kids and their parents love it.



As Dom has gotten older, we have added fun things to the yard to engage him outside. Our most recent addition is a sand table. He loves to push his trucks and scoop the shovels of sand. Just the other night Nick's Mom came over and the first thing he did was take her hand and show her his sand table. Your baby will get **lots of time in the yard with the whole family**.

We have a great fenced-in backyard where we enjoy **grilling**. We have perfected our grilled eggplant. Nick recently grilled some chicken wings with friends, and they came out amazing. Our outdoor table turns into a firepit. After the last time we grilled, we roasted marshmallows over the table. Luckily, we didn't make too much of a mess, and they were delicious!



Our Community

Our area always has opportunities to **experience art** and culture. There is a wonderful free art museum downtown that we always go to. Our favorite exhibit at the museum is the outdoor sculpture garden because it is such a beautiful sight.



At Christmas time we saw a band do covers of Trans-Siberian Orchestra songs and it was a blast. One of our **favorite childhood movies was Aladdin** so when we found out the musical was coming to Raleigh, we were excited to go see it. The performer who played the Genie was by far the best/funniest part of the show.

One of the newest places in town has quickly become a favorite. It is a **local, family run ice cream stand**. They also have a huge playground for the children and several rescued farm animals for the kids to meet. Dom loves the birthday cake flavored ice cream. They recently announced they will be doing Mommy and Me classes for the kids to learn about the various animals on the property. Jess is really looking forward to participating in that!



Our Weekdays

Jess taught preschool for a long time. Recently though she decided to be a **stay-at-home Mom**. Jess and Dom are really enjoying their quality time together and Jess still uses her pre-k background to make sure Dominick is getting quality experiences. They go to a library story time every week to interact with other kids and they also do art activities to keep those creative juices flowing. Your baby will get **lots of one-on-one time**.



Nick works as a cyber security consultant. He helps companies protect their computer and customer from the bad guys. He is fortunate enough to **work from home**. Working from home will allow Nick a lot of **flexibility** to be a very involved father to your baby.

At the end of the day, we usually take the dogs for a **walk around the block** to talk about our day. Then we come home to **make dinner and end up re-watching Moana** for the third time that day. We've noticed Dom likes to say "Hi" and "Bye" to all the characters. Dom loves the music in Disney movies. Just the other night we had a family dance party to the Moana soundtrack that he started by saying "Momma dance!" Your baby will get plenty of quality family time every day.



Thank You



Thank you again for taking the time to get to know us. We will ensure your baby knows they are loved not just by us but by you. We feel this cannot be an easy decision to make but we deeply respect you as we believe you are courageous. **We look forward to providing you with updates** on how your baby is growing and changing as you are comfortable. We hope to speak to you soon.

Jess Nick