

We are  
*Jess & Chris*



We got married in Santa Barbara in June 2017

### *What Brought Us to You*

We love the life we have created together and are incredibly blessed to have amazing friends and family in our lives to support us. We have so much to offer and love to give. We can't imagine a life without kids – their first steps, first words, soccer games, graduations, and everything in between. So after 4 years of struggling with infertility, we are so excited to adopt and share this wonderful life with a child!

Thank you for taking the time to read our profile! We know that you are looking for the perfect home and parents for your baby and we are very grateful for the courageous path you have chosen. We know that it is an incredibly difficult decision to choose an adoption plan and we admire your strength. We hope that we can make this experience a little easier and positive for you.

### *Our Story*

We met in 2007 through a mutual friend and connected immediately, but we lived on opposite sides of the country (Jess in California and Chris in Virginia) so our true romance was delayed for a while. We reconnected for New Year's Eve in 2015 and realized that we had found our "person" in each other. We have been inseparable since. We married two years later and immediately began trying to have a family.

Hello  
Amazing  
Birth Mom!

### Basic Stats:

#### Christopher

Hometown: Fredericksburg, VA  
Age: 39  
Height: 6'5"  
Education: BS University of Michigan  
Occupation: Aerospace Engineer  
(Satellite Communications)

#### Jessica

Hometown: Wasilla, AK  
Age: 43  
Height: 5'6"  
Education:  
BS Humboldt State University  
MS San Francisco State University  
Occupation: Botanist/Field Biologist



East Beach wedding 2017



Jackson Hole & Mammoth snowboarding trips



Wedding in the Santa Barbara Harbor



Visiting the redwoods with friends in Humboldt



We LOVE Halloween! (Well mostly Jess, but Chris is a good sport)



Tropical boat ride



Goofing off in Zurich

# Our Life

## Our Favorite Things

Jess loves to garden (both vegetables and native plants) and spend time in the yard. Chris is a big fan of amateur comedy, so there is no shortage of laughs and bad jokes. Our favorite activities together are traveling and snowboarding, luckily the two usually go hand in hand. We are both excited to teach a little one to ski.

Friends and family are the most important thing to us and they are scattered all over the globe, so we can't wait to travel and show your baby all of the culture and opportunities the world has to offer. We love all kinds of music and attending live shows, which have definitely been missed this last year.

Sports are often on the TV in our house, particularly University of Michigan (Chris's Alma mater) and Golden State Warriors. We both maintain active lifestyles; however, watching sports is often accompanied by wings and nachos.

## Our Home & Habits

We own our home in Santa Barbara. It is in a nice neighborhood and an excellent school district (Foothill). There is a little front yard and lovely neighbors that live behind us. It is a spacious house with plenty of room for a nursery and a guest room that will be filled with visiting family, ready to spoil the newest member.

We are both decent cooks and make dinner at home most weeknights. We often order take-out, entertain friends, or BBQ on the weekends. Enjoying food with friends and family is a central theme in our lives. We try to be responsible consumers, buy organic food, reduce plastic use, and support our local community as much as possible. It will be a natural and easy transition to provide a safe and healthy environment in our home for your baby.

Chris is an avid reader. Books and bedtime stories will be a big part of our daily routine. As college graduates, education is really important to us. It opens up so many opportunities in life. You can rest assured that your baby will have the best education we can give them. We look forward to teaching a little one about the world and all of its possibilities.



View of the front of our house



Spring bloom in the Carrizo Plain



Jess at work with friends



Honeymoon SUP and champagne in Tahiti

### About Jess

I grew up in Alaska and Montana but have spent most of my adult life in California. I am a bit of a nomad and have lived all over the state. I attended Humboldt State University in northern CA to study botany and biology, and still have many friends I love to visit there. I also attended San Francisco State University for a master's degree in Conservation Biology, which gave me the opportunity to explore city life for a few years. As a botanist and field biologist, my work involves spending a lot of time outside surveying for plants and wildlife. I would be ecstatic if I could convert my niece, nephews, and all of our friends' children into little scientists. I absolutely love kids. I never questioned whether I would be a parent. Kids were just meant to be a part of my life. We are not religious, but the outdoors is like my church in a way. It's my Zen place. I look forward to sharing many hikes, beach days, camping trips, and adventures as a family.

### Let me tell you about Chris

He is the most loving, smart, funny, and terrific guy. Chris is genuine, compassionate, understanding, and entirely devoted to me and our family. I have no doubt that he will be the most wonderful father. He has been so supportive through the difficult times dealing with infertility and we are stronger for it. Chris is an incredibly loyal friend and a great cook, specializing in anything BBQ. He is a big guy, with a huge heart, who cries at weddings and would do anything for his friends and family.

### About Chris

I grew up in a small town in Virginia. My parents moved there before I was born and still live in my childhood home. I still have many great friends from growing up there and now that many of them have children, we're looking forward to introducing them to their new "cousins". I went to the University of Michigan to study Aerospace Engineering which turned out to be a great decision! Not only has it allowed me a great career but, perhaps more importantly, I met a second family of friends, so even more "cousins" for the newest member of our family to play with. I lived in St. Louis for a few years after school before moving back to VA. After Jess and I reconnected, I knew I'd be moving to California pretty quickly.

### Let me tell you about Jess

She is amazing...the best...what more is there to say? Jess is the smartest, kindest, funniest girl on the planet. I knew she was extra special the day we met. She is the most hardworking, lovely person I've ever known, and I thank my lucky stars that she seems to like me. Jess is always up for an adventure from traveling the globe to visiting my or her family. I can't imagine these strange times without her, and I attempt to try to show her as often as I can. She builds me and I hope I do the same for her.



Swimming with sharks in Tahiti



Life Imitating Art in Santiago, Chile



Chris cannot resist a good sandwich



Enjoying sunny days at the Mission in Santa Barbara

## Parenting Style

We will strive to raise an independent, kind, empathetic, and curious child. We know that raising a healthy and happy baby starts with us and our behavior toward each other. We vow to treat each other with love, respect, and understanding, so that we can provide a stable and secure environment for your baby to grow and learn in.

As I'm sure all parents say, screen time will be as limited as possible. Music, crafts, dress-up, playing at the beach, or catching frogs in the creek, are all alternatives we will encourage.

Chris works from home most of the time and Jess can work from her office at the Natural History Museum or at home. We are grateful for this flexibility that will allow one of us to be at home with the baby during the first year. Nanny-share or daycare will also be important in the first few years, to teach social skills and provide exposure to other kids and adults.

As we have learned from watching our friends, disciplining a child isn't always easy. We will try to be consistent, practice patience, listen to what they need, set limits, and use positive reinforcement. We don't believe in spanking or think that it is necessary.

Most importantly, your baby will know that they are unconditionally loved no matter the circumstances or how difficult the situation.

## Friends & Family

Jess has one younger sister and one niece but comes from a big Catholic family (Dad is one of six kids). She also has 4 stepsisters. Aunts, uncles, sisters, cousins, plus their kids, and their kids' kids makes for huge family reunions that are always a good time!

One of Jess's cousins has two adopted children that grew up in her family, and they are now in high school and college. They are exceptional humans, and we are so blessed to have them as part of the family. We know from watching them grow up that adoption comes with its challenges, as is the case with any family situation, but that the benefits and love far outweigh the trials and tribulations.

Chris's sister, brother-in-law, and two nephews live in Brooklyn. We look forward to spending more time with them, when we can travel again. Chris's parents still live in Virginia and have been together since high school (over 50 years!). They are adorable. Many summers will be spent at their river house on the Potomac. Chris's family loves food and they love to travel and explore the world together.

We both have large friend groups that we have been close to since elementary, middle, high school and college. As we mentioned, your baby will be loved by many aunties and uncles and will have loads of cousins to play with!



Quality Cousin time,  
Go Giants!



Chris' family at our wedding  
rehearsal party



Sailing with Chris' s  
Mom in SB



X-mas Day beach time  
w/Chris' Dad & nephew



Jess  
and her  
Mom in  
NYC



The Nephews,  
5 & 9 years old



Jess's sister and  
niece, 12 years old



Jess and her Dad

# We Promise...

- That your baby will always know you love them and that adoption was a decision made out of your desire for them to have the best life possible.
- That we will support you and be there for you during your pregnancy and afterward, in whatever capacity you are comfortable with.
- That we will always love and respect each other, so that we can provide a stable, secure, and nurturing family environment for your baby.
- That we will do our best to raise your baby to be a thoughtful, hard working, caring, and independent adult.
- That we will teach your baby about science, spirituality, culture, food, music, and anything else that sparks their curiosity and brings them joy.
- That your baby will be adored and immediately accepted into a large and loving family.
- That we will love your baby unconditionally and we will always be there to support them, no matter what.



Thank you  
for Getting  
to Know Us!