



AMANDA + JESSICA



HELLO

so nice to “meet” you

Thank you for taking the time to hear our story and consider us as prospective adoptive parents. We know this is a weighty decision and we can't imagine how challenging it is. We also know that you love your child fiercely or you would not be considering their future so carefully.

We wish that we could offer you a hug, a hot beverage, and a chance to talk about your feelings. Since we cannot, we hope that reading our profile will provide you with some reassurance—that you will make the right decision for yourself and your child, no matter what that happens to be.

A little about us: we are Amanda and Jessica, currently adoptive parents to a sweet, amazing little boy named Julian who can't wait to be a big brother. We are hoping to expand our family through a second open adoption—we know that we have so much more love to give!

We know you're being presented with a lot of information, and it might be overwhelming. But please know that if you decide to place your child with us, we will do everything in our power to ensure that they grow up safe, happy, healthy, and unconditionally loved.

We would also like you to know that we will think of you with gratitude and respect every day.

with love,

AMANDA & JESSICA





THANKS FOR
OPENING OUR BOOK

this is our STORY

Ten minutes into our first date, at a Brooklyn coffee shop in 2015, Jessica asked Amanda, “Do you think you’re making a difference in the world?” That’s when we knew we’d connected: we both like to skip the small talk and get down to what really matters. Over more cups of coffee and tea – and the occasional bottle of wine

– we bonded over shared interests and values, including a love of literature and a passion for life-long learning. We married in 2019, in, fittingly, a used bookstore.



Our wedding was one of the best days of our lives!

We both dreamed of adopting from a young age, so when we decided to expand our family, we knew the path we wanted to pursue. We brought sweet Julian home in 2022, which changed our lives in amazing ways.

In 2023 we moved to Austin to be closer to family, and we love everything the city has to offer. Now that we’re settled in, we’re ready to welcome a second child into our home. We can’t wait to see what the future holds!



In Italy for Amanda’s brother’s wedding.



We do matching Christmas pajamas as a family every year!



why we are

ADOPTING

We started talking about adoption almost as soon as we started talking about a future together. As a same-sex couple with fertility issues on both sides, we knew that having biological children would mean challenging medical treatments. We knew we could love an adopted child just as much, so it seemed like a no-brainer! Though there was a lot we didn't know when we first began considering adoption, everything that's happened since has confirmed that it was the path for us.

We've gained family members not only in our son, but in his birth family as well. We love getting to join in the adventures Julian's birth mom plans for him (like the outing to a car show pictured here)! As we think about expanding our family once more, we look forward to developing a relationship with a new birth family. We hope we can support them in feeling their child is in good hands, and support a child in having a strong sense of identity.

Above all, we just love being moms! We love Friday family movie nights, reading stories at bedtime, and everything else that being parents entails. We can't wait to double the fun!



At the car show with Julian's birth mom.



WE BONDED OVER SHARED INTERESTS AND VALUES, INCLUDING A LOVE OF LITERATURE AND A PASSION FOR LIFE-LONG LEARNING.

WE'VE GAINED FAMILY MEMBERS NOT ONLY IN
OUR SON, BUT IN HIS BIRTH FAMILY AS WELL.





Friends say I am:
Kind, caring,
intelligent

Favorite Author:
Jane Austen

Inspired By:
Greta Thunberg

meet **AMANDA**

I'm a native Texan who recently moved to Austin after over a decade in New York City. As an urbanite at heart, I love exploring everything that my new city has to offer. I am also a language nerd who spends a lot of time reading and writing. My first graduate degree was in creative writing and I hope to publish a novel (or several) one day.

In the meantime, I teach fourth and fifth grades and I absolutely love my work. My main subject is reading and language arts, and I'm super passionate about helping kids develop a love for literacy. Before my current role in upper elementary, I taught college, middle school, high school, and even substitute taught at Julian's wonderful preschool. No matter the age group, the most rewarding thing about teaching has always been



I love being silly with my sweet kiddo.



Love being an auntie to Hart!



Caring for Julian as a newborn was so special.



We dressed up for Taylor Swift's Eras tour!

forming relationships with students. I really value the time I spend with them, although the best part about my career is having long breaks to focus on being with my family!

Being a mom is my absolute favorite thing in the world. I feel like my heart has expanded in ways I couldn't have imagined, and it's turned me into a better, more patient, kinder person. I love spending time with kids in general, but time with my son is one of the most precious things to me. I look forward to seeing how I will learn and grow as a parent to a new child.

Some of my hobbies include:

Reading and writing, knitting, gardening, travel, cooking and baking



meet **JESSICA**



Friends say I am:

Compassionate,
thoughtful, intellectual

Favorite Book:

Reading Lolita in
Tehran by Azar Nafisi

Inspired By:

My mom

After a decade in small New York City apartments, I've been relishing the space our Austin, TX home has to offer, especially our beautiful backyard. Growing our own vegetables has been so much fun! As a new gardener, I'll admit not all our plants made it, but as I'm writing this our first tomatoes are ripening (I had one, it was delicious).

I also love reading – both to escape into new worlds and to learn more about this one. As a busy mom, “reading” these days tends to look more like listening to an audiobook or podcast while cleaning, but it still brings me a lot of joy; lately I've been delving into child development and parenting resources. Reading with my son is wonderful too – he loves trains, so *The Little Engine that Could* has been on heavy rotation.

In my professional life I manage a team of anti-money laundering compliance professionals. Together, we identify and report potential financial crimes. I work hard and am proud of the work I do, but family comes first – I'm so excited to see my wife and son when I close my laptop at the end of the day!

Family means the world to me. I love watching my son learn and grow – seeing him develop from a squishy newborn to a rambunctious toddler with a hilarious sense of humor has been the most incredible experience of my life. I've learned so much along the way and **I'm looking forward to welcoming a second child into our lives as a more seasoned parent – although I know they will have so much to teach me as well!**



Family wedding in Tuscany.



Getting ready to bring Julian home.



Play time in the pool.



Trip to the farmer's market.

Some of my hobbies include: reading, gardening, travel, home improvement projects, walking



“Her quick wit and compassion light up the world around her.”

AMANDA in Jessica's words



The day I met Amanda I couldn't stop smiling – her quick wit and compassion light up the world around her. Watching her bring these qualities into her parenting has been inspiring. Even as a busy working mom she manages to extensively research child development and finds the best ways to help our son and her students thrive. **On top of being brilliant and kind, she's also hilarious: she keeps Julian and I laughing for ages!**

JESSICA in Amanda's words



I think Jess is the best mom in the world. She's always looking for ways to make things better for everyone else and has a genuine desire to see everyone's perspective. She's thoughtful about every single decision she makes when it comes to parenting Julian, and she is the number one go-to mom when he is sick, hurt, or otherwise needs a good cuddle."



"She is the number one go-to mom when Julian is sick, hurt, or otherwise needs a good cuddle."



meet **JULIAN**

We met Julian in January of 2022, on his second day of life, and brought him home two days later. Watching him grow and thrive has been one of the greatest joys we've ever experienced. He is kind, caring, funny, and inquisitive. He loves all vehicles (but especially choo choo trains), sports, sandboxes, and playing pretend.

We know he will make the best big brother: he loves spending time with family, babies, and being a helper. Through our ongoing visits with his birth mom, he's been able to connect with his younger biological sister, and their sweet relationship is one of the best gifts open adoption has offered us. He's also very close with his adoptive cousin (six months older), all his grandparents, and his aunts and uncles. We cannot imagine a more loving, caring son, or a more open and welcoming member of our family.





Julian and his birth mom at Halloween.



He is a huge fan of trains!

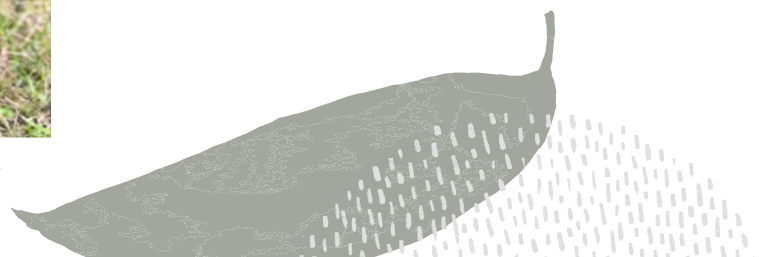


He loves to be a helper! Here he is watering flowers.



Julian rides his bike when we go on family walks.

HE IS KIND, CARING, FUNNY,
AND INQUISITIVE. HE LOVES ALL
VEHICLES, SPORTS, SANDBOXES,
AND PLAYING PRETEND.



our HOME

We bought our house in mid-2022 and have been slowly making it into our dream home ever since. **The backyard and the playroom are our favorite parts. We love our beautiful pecan trees, fenced-in swimming pool, swing set, and garden! On days when the rain or Texas heat keep us inside, we can always build epic train tracks or block towers in the playroom.** We also have four bedrooms and an open-concept living area.

Our neighborhood has a suburban feel but is only a short drive from downtown Austin. We love that we are part of a diverse, welcoming community of neighbors. We are still meeting new people on walks around the block! We also love to take advantage of parks, nature trails, and other kid-friendly activities in the area.





We love swimming in our pool together!



Our playroom is so fun and colorful; we love it in there.



Christmas in our living room!



Room for gardening AND lots of play.



meet our cats ZOE AND WASH

Our kitties have been part of Amanda's life since 2013 and Jessica's since we met. They are both great with kids and give lots of snuggles!

our FAMILIES

Family is what drew us (back) to Texas. Both of Amanda's parents, as well as her sister and sister's family, live near us. Our nephew even goes to the same preschool as Julian! Her brother is close as well (in Houston), and her other sister, though she lives in California, loves being an auntie and prioritizes family time. We love gathering for major holidays, birthdays, or any other excuse to celebrate.

We are very close with Jessica's mom, who we visit multiple times a year and talk to several times a week. She lives in upstate New York, where Jess is from. We also talk regularly to



We love visiting Julian's nonna's (Jess's mom) house!



Kisses and hugs from grandma and Auntie Lauren.



Admiring Julian's birthday cake.



Amanda, Julian, and Jess's dad and stepmom on a picnic!



Amanda, Jess, Jess's mom Donna, Jess's sister Arianna, and her wife Jalana



Us with Amanda's sister Jenni, her husband Mike, and their son Hart.



In Thailand with our friends and Amanda's dad and stepmom.



Julian wearing "Pop pop's" hat.

Jess's sister and sister-in-law, who live in Denver, and her dad and stepmom, who live in Canada. We wish they lived closer, but it is great to have so many fun places to visit and guests for our guest room!

We love keeping family traditions alive. At Christmas, we do spaghetti and meatballs on Christmas Eve with Amanda's family and bake Jess's grandmother's Christmas cookies. We also try to take family trips abroad every few years—check out the picture of us petting an elephant in Thailand!

Seeing our parents and siblings become grandparents, aunts, and uncles has truly brought out the best in every one of them. We know they will be just as present, loving, and supportive when we add a new child to the family.



BEFORE YOU GO

we want you to know

We want to thank you one more time for looking through our profile book. We hope it helps you make the right decision for you and your child, and we are beyond grateful that you are considering us as potential adoptive parents.

IF YOU CHOOSE US WE COMMIT TO:

- Center the child in all of our decisions
- Encourage them to pursue their passions
- Support their educational and career aspirations
- Hold firm but loving boundaries with the child, never using fear, shame, or corporal punishment
- Celebrate the child's ethnic and cultural heritage
- Speak to you and about you with kindness and respect
- Honor the commitments we make in an open adoption plan

Above all, know that any child placed in our home will be loved fiercely and unconditionally. Although we can't imagine the difficulty of the decision in front of you, we have full faith that you will know what's best for you and your child, whether you ultimately decide to parent, place the child with us, or place the child with someone else. We will hold you in our hearts as you walk through this journey.



with love and gratitude,

AMANDA, JESSICA, & JULIAN



“ ADOPTION HAS THE DIMENSION OF CONNECTION – NOT ONLY TO YOUR OWN TRIBE, BUT BEYOND, WIDENING THE SCOPE OF WHAT CONSTITUTES LOVE, TIES AND FAMILY. IT IS A LARGER EMBRACE. BY ADOPTING, WE STRETCH PAST OUR IMMEDIATE CIRCLES AND, BY REACHING OUT, FIND AN UNEXPECTED SENSE OF BELONGING WITH OTHERS. ”

- Isabella Rossellini