

INTRODUCING

*C.C.
& Cheryl*



HELLO THERE!

We're a family of three living in Los Angeles. We adopted our son Dash at birth in 2015, and we're excited to expand our family again through adoption. Placing a child for adoption is a huge decision. Not only are you making a plan for your child, but you're selecting people you'll have a connection to for life. We're honored to be part of your story, and we look forward to getting to know you.

Recently Dash told Cheryl, "Even when I'm mad at you, I still love you." We knew in that moment that we'd instilled one of our most deeply held values, the "no-matter-what-ness" of love and family. We believe that unconditional attachment, including a connection to our children's birth families, is the foundation for a good life. With that in place, we can communicate honestly and tackle any problems that come our way.

With Love,

*C.C., Cheryl,
& Dash*



ABOUT US



We met in 2006 and bonded over our love of books, movies, culture, and our Southern California community. We traveled to get married in Vancouver, Canada, in 2010 and welcomed Dash five years later. He has upended our lives (and sometimes boxes full of toys) in the very best way. Our extended family members—including Dash’s four grandparents, two aunts, two uncles, and younger cousin—all live locally. Spending time with them and our close friends is important to us. We’re looking forward to growing our circle.

We like exploring with Dash and discovering the world through his eyes, whether we’re camping on Catalina Island or swimming at our local YMCA. In addition to the things we do as a family, each of us has special activities we do with Dash. C.C. loves gardening with him and taking him to Dodger games. Cheryl likes taking him to the library and reading with him at bedtime. He often helps her make pancakes and lemonade.



ABOUT CHERYL

by C.C.

Cheryl is a hard worker who values honesty and kindness. She was raised in Manhattan Beach, CA, by an optical engineer and a children's librarian (which led to Cheryl's lifelong love of books). Her mother passed away in 2003, and Cheryl's family recently honored her memory by dedicating a grove of redwood trees in her name. Cheryl is passionate about helping her community. After attending UCLA and CalArts, Cheryl worked for several nonprofit organizations, including currently supporting students from under-resourced schools.

Cheryl is a language person, her third book will be published next year. She loves chatting and asking questions. When we adopted Dash as a newborn, she was a patient and attentive mother, focused on his communication and needs. Now that Dash is six years old, he feels comfortable sharing the toughest parts of his day with Cheryl and laughing about the happiest parts.



MORE ABOUT *Cheryl*

OCCUPATION: Writer, nonprofit worker

FAVORITE BOOK: *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison

FAVORITE PLACE: The rainforest

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: Books

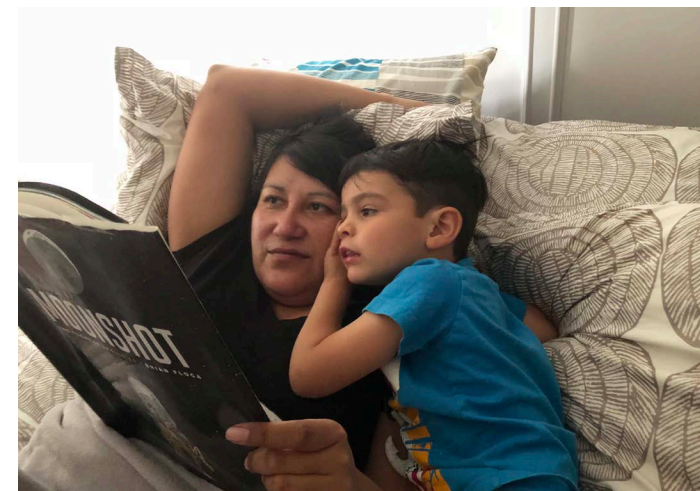
MY PERFECT DAY: I'd have a quiet morning of reading and writing, and then go on a picnic with my family and a few friends; we'd watch the kids play and eat really good burritos.

ABOUT C.C.

by Cheryl

Before our first date, C.C. warned me "Sometimes I run late" and I thought, Wow, this is a person who knows herself! She's gotten much more punctual over the years, but her comfort in her own skin is still one of her strongest qualities. In her work as a therapist and her role as a mom, she helps other people grow and accept themselves. She is social and playful, and found ways for us to (safely) keep in touch with our friends even during the pandemic. I love watching her and Dash play catch in our backyard and set up our tent when we go camping.

C.C. grew up in Santa Ana, CA, and has folded me and Dash into her large Mexican-American extended family. Her family is laidback and welcoming. C.C. comes across as happy-go-lucky, but she is also loyal and persistent. Her quiet dedication to our relationship has gotten us through some true challenges, like when I had early-stage breast cancer eight years ago. Everyone deserves a C.C. in their life!



MORE ABOUT *C.C.*

OCCUPATION: art school administrator, therapist in training

FAVORITE MOVIE: *Little Women*

FAVORITE PLACE: Dodger Stadium

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: Friends

MY PERFECT DAY: I'd spend the day with friends and family, eating good food and doing something physical that I've never tried before—maybe rock climbing or water skiing.

ABOUT DASH

Everyone who meets Dash tells us, “You gave him the right name.” He’s fast on his feet and can’t stop moving his body. He has his birthmom’s eyes and determination, and is mechanically inclined like his birth father. Like his moms, he loves stories and frequently acts out complex dramas involving his bath toys.

Dash loves playing and learning with other kids, and he’s great at sharing. He’s incredibly goofy (apologies in advance for the fart jokes you’ll hear if you meet him), but also quite sensitive. He can’t wait to have a sibling, and we think he’ll make a great big brother.



MORE ABOUT *Dash*

AGE: 6

OCCUPATION: CEO of All Things Star Wars

FAVORITE MOVIE: *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*

FAVORITE PLACE: “My house with my toys”

CAN’T LIVE WITHOUT: The teddy bear he got the day we adopted him

MY PERFECT DAY: Playing hide and seek with friends, petting sea creatures at the Science Center, and a trip to the ice cream truck!

FUN FACTS

*About
C.C., Cheryl
& Dash*



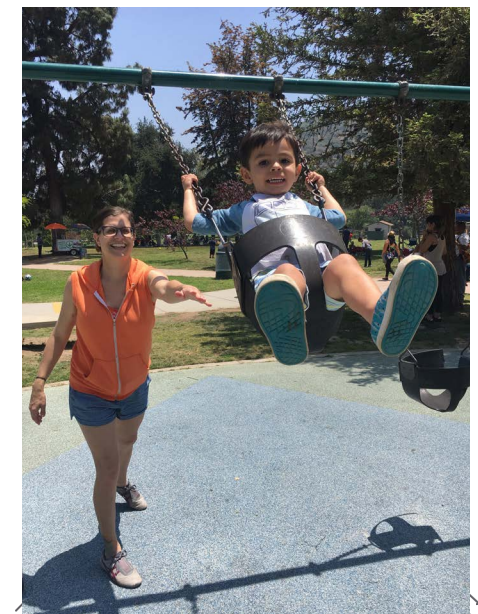
We like to travel, especially if it means visiting far-flung friends. As a family, we’ve spent time in Northern California, Atlanta, and Mexico City.



The pandemic has been tough, but we’ve developed a closer relationship with our next-door neighbors, and they’re almost like cousins now. Dash has learned a few Spanish words and phrases from them.



Dash has several wooden toys that Cheryl’s mom and dad made by hand. We love seeing them enjoyed by a new generation, and Dash will be excited to share them with a new sibling.



OUR HOME

and community

We live in a California bungalow-style home with lovely front and back yards in a diverse part of Southern California. Dash loves playing with the girls next door, and we can frequently be found playing “Monster” as we chase them through our back yard. Our walkable neighborhood is bursting with parks, kid-friendly restaurants, libraries, and cultural centers. We like being involved in Dash’s elementary school, where he’s enrolled in a STEM magnet program. Before he started school, Dash attended a wonderful local daycare/preschool program a few days a week, and they’ve saved a spot for his future sibling.



OUR PETS

We have two indoor-outdoor cats, who are both gentle and friendly to kids. Ollie is a middle-aged black cat who befriends all the neighbors during the day and curls at the foot of our bed each night. Roadie is a young, fluffy tortoiseshell who is very affectionate with humans but terrorizes lizards.



OUR EXTENDED FAMILY

Cheryl's family traces their roots to England and Eastern Europe, but they've lived in Southern California for several generations. Cheryl's dad and his partner, sister, and brother-in-law all live in the beach cities just south of Los Angeles. Gramps restored a classic Thunderbird, and Dash loves to sit in it and pretend to drive. We like to go on walks and hikes together, and we've been eating at our favorite local Mexican restaurant since Cheryl's dad was a toddler in 1948!

C.C.'s Mexican-American family has also lived in Southern California for a few generations. In addition to her parents, sister, brother-in-law, and our niece, C.C. has a dozen aunts and uncles who live locally. We often get together for big Christmas, Easter, and Fourth of July celebrations. C.C.'s family likes to garden and share food at potlucks. Her mom's salsa and potato tacos are staples. Dash adores his little cousin, and she squeals with glee whenever he picks her up.



On the Central Coast



Dash and Gramps exploring



Visiting the local stables



Celebrating with Nana and cousin

Our Friends

Our circle of friends is important to us, and one of the many fun things about having a child is getting to know other families. We've always had friends from many ethnic backgrounds (Latinx, white, Asian, Black, and Armenian), but since adopting Dash, we've been more intentional about also cultivating friendships with other adoptive families, and families with same-sex parents. Dash's best friends are Latino twin boys who have two adoptive dads (who are Mexican and Italian, respectively) and a Black toddler sister. As two women, we've also tried to make sure Dash has strong male role models. In addition to his grandpas and uncles, his godfather ("Nino") is a steady presence in his life. He's an affectionate and gregarious Latino man who has taught Dash to swim and ride a bike, and he is one of our closest friends.



Dash and Nino Alberto



With our friend Yolanda



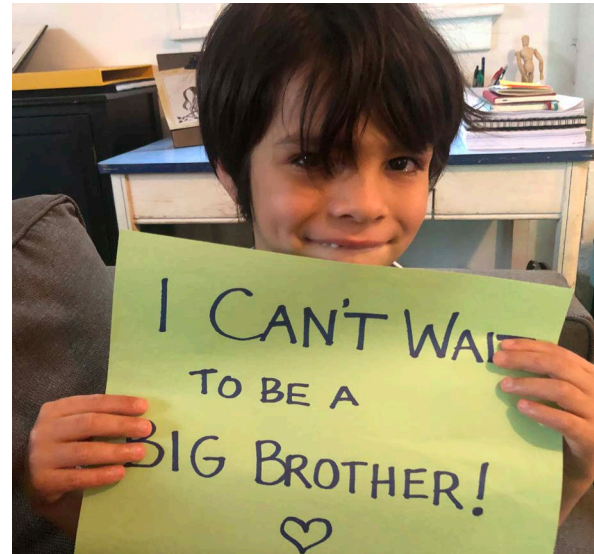
Silly times with Chloe!



Picnic with LGBTQ+ families

WHY ADOPTION?

Adoption runs through our family tree: C.C.'s mom was adopted, and Cheryl has cousins who were adopted. We are building a network of friends with adopted children Dash's age. Before we even met, we both read *The Kid*, Dan Savage's memoir about adopting his son through open adoption. It made perfect sense to us and served as a foundation for our conversations about growing our own family.



Celebrating Dash's adoption finalization

Our promises:

- » We promise to love our child unconditionally, recognizing that they will always be both your child and our child, in different but equally meaningful ways.
- » We promise to work with you to create a contact plan that feels right to you, and to honor the terms we all agree to (and to make updates together over time as needed).
- » We promise to speak openly, honestly, and lovingly with our child about their birth family and about adoption.
- » We promise to continue educating ourselves about our child's birth culture, and to recognize that their experience as an adoptee is different from our own. We will approach new traditions and experiences with a sense of humility, respect, and curiosity.
- » We promise to listen to our child's needs and do our very best to meet them.



THANK YOU!

We imagine that considering adoption and making an adoption plan are bittersweet endeavors. We're grateful to you for taking the time to learn more about our family. Wherever the next chapter takes you, we wish you the best outcome, and a sense of peace. Thank you.

C.C. & Cheryl



“ We must take care of our families,
wherever we find them. ”

- Elizabeth Gilbert

