

Jared and Celia



Jared is an
Adoptee



With
Minette and Daisy



Celia loves
Baking

Celia parle français!

Hello!

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us! We are humbled to be a part of what we see as a careful, loving, and courageous decision that you are considering.

If you decide to walk this path with us, we want to assure you that your child will know how much you love them, and know that their story is deeply connected to that love. If chosen, we promise to cherish and love your child with our whole heart, to provide a safe and happy home, and to give your child every opportunity possible.

We wish you peace and strength during this time.



About Us

Our family has been built by adoption. Jared was adopted from Colombia as a baby. Growing up, people often asked Jared, “How did you feel when you found out you were adopted?” He never had a specific answer for them, because being adopted was something that he always knew and he felt more loved because of it. Jared’s adoptive parents taught him that his mother loved him so much that she wanted more for him than what she could provide, and she knew that this was the best way for him to have the life that she wanted for him. Jared is completely in awe and appreciation of her sacrifice every day. Your child will always have someone to talk to who knows what it is like to be adopted.



Our home is filled with Lego creations! Jared usually has two or three Lego sets waiting to be built at any given time...even if there is no clear place to put them when they’re done. Celia has caught the Lego bug too. Right now, she is building the *Animal Crossing* sets but once a year, we build a larger Lego set together, to build up our own little Lego city. So far, we have a hotel and a bookshop, and we are planning to build a natural history museum this year. Celia likes to organize all the pieces first, while Jared likes to dump out the bag and start building right away but our creations always turn out awesome, despite our different approaches.

We love supporting our local professional soccer team, and we go to games often! Our favorite seats are close to what Celia calls **the “shenanigans” tunnel**, which is where the mascot, adoptable puppies, and members of community organizations come out during the pre-game festivities. But, the best surprise of all was recently when **a newly signed player** came onto the field to be introduced, and walked right by our seats! Jared had really been looking forward to seeing him, because he was formerly a Premier League player in England. We screamed his name and cheered super loudly for him, and he **turned and waved at us**. We like to think that we were the first fans to welcome him to his new team!



That’s us!

About Celia

(BY JARED)

Celia sees the beauty in small things. She loves taking bits and pieces from cast off things and putting them together to create something new. She often makes collages as a way to both express her creativity and reduce stress, and she loves to incorporate old things into new contexts. Recently, we were going through boxes of my childhood things at my parents' house. Celia kept sneaking little objects into her pockets, and when we got home, she surprised me with a shelf full of nods to my childhood favorites. It was a beautiful surprise that honored my childhood story in our home together.



Celia is a storyteller. As a teacher at a private elementary school, she loves getting to sit on the floor and tell Bible stories to the children. She always emphasizes God's love for all people, and helps the kids think of ways they can love others. She uses simple materials like colored felt, building blocks, and miniature toys to bring the stories to life. One day, Celia came home so excited because one of her older students told her that he "used to think she was magic" when he was younger because of all the stories she could tell with just a few wooden blocks and figures. Your child will be raised in a world of stories, and learn to use their imagination to bring stories to life.



Celia is an ambitious amateur baker! She learned to bake by taking Zoom classes with contestants from the Great British Bake-Off. I bought her a gift certificate for a few classes as a Christmas gift two years ago, and she's been hooked ever since! One of her very first bakes was a Swedish prinsesstårta, which she had seen on the show. Besides the actual cake layers, she made green and pink marzipan and homemade raspberry jam from scratch, whipped up a whipped cream and vanilla pastry cream, and assembled it all into a domed beauty that she couldn't believe she had made herself!



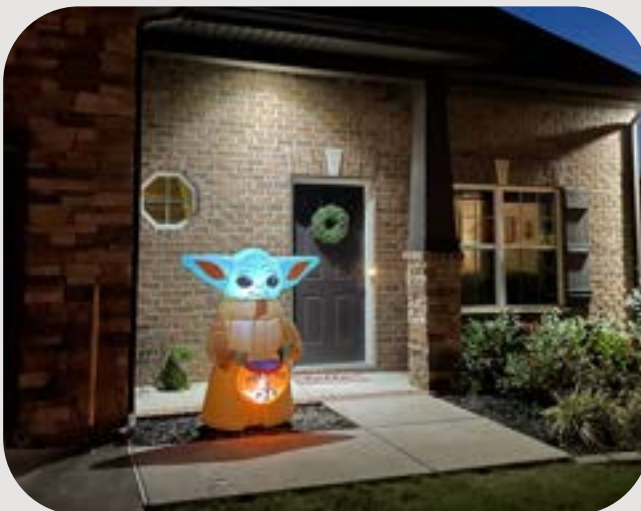
About Jared

(BY CELIA)



Jared is a **child at heart**, and this shows through his Pokemon expertise. Most Saturday mornings, Jared wakes up early to watch Pokemon cartoons while he eats his breakfast. His favorite Pokemon is Squirtle. One Halloween, we made a Pokemon Go themed car for a local Trunk-or-Treat event. Jared dressed as Snorlax and handed out balls for the kids to toss into themed buckets to win candy! The kids came back again and again to try and win more! Your child will have a dad who embraces, encourages, and enjoys the fun of childhood.

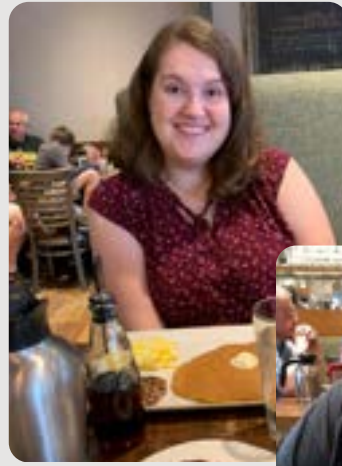
Jared is **one of the most patient people** I have ever met. When we were dating, Jared asked me if he could borrow my vacuum, since his vacuum wasn't very good. On the way to his apartment, the vacuum spilled out used cat litter all over Jared's car! It was a horrifying and disgusting mess, and I was mortified...but Jared didn't get upset at all. He just drove to the nearest car wash so we could use an industrial vacuum to clean it up.



Jared is **always up to date with the latest technology**. When we moved in to our current home, Jared set up smart locks on the exterior doors, automated thermostats and lights, and a doorbell camera. During the holidays, Jared sets up inflatable decorations that automatically inflate each day. Last Halloween, the camera caught a sweet video of one of our little neighbors running up to give our inflatable Baby Yoda a hug! It was such a sweet moment that Jared's ingenuity made possible!

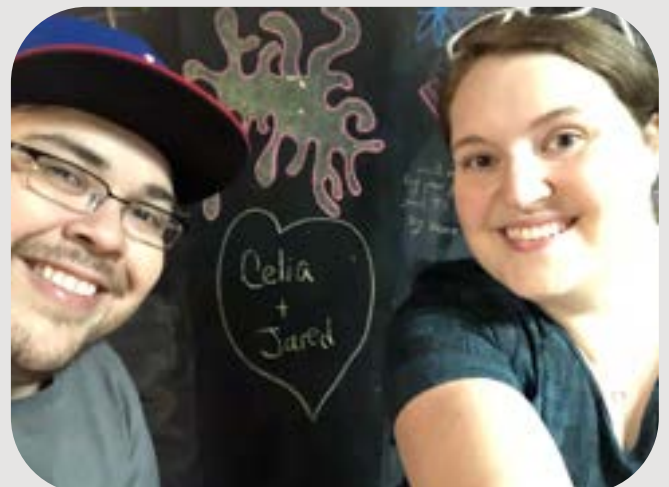
Our Story

We met online. The first time that we connected, we talked all night long. We moved from texting to a phone call because our thumbs were getting tired! We finally hung up around 8am, with plans to meet for breakfast that weekend. Immediately, Celia drove across the city to a meeting on zero sleep. Celia was hyped up on coffee, donuts, and excitement, and everyone was confused about why she was so positive at such a pointless meeting! When we met for breakfast, we stayed all the way through the lunch rush, too. Jared was late to a family event that day, because he didn't want to stop hanging out with Celia. His dad commented that, "She must be some girl."



Even though we have a lot in common, we are always learning from each other. When we started dating, Jared's best friend commented that it was great because "Celia would make him go out and do fun things." He was right! For our third date, Celia suggested going to a trivia night at a local barbecue joint. Jared wasn't very talkative, and Celia worried that we had already run out of things to talk about. **What if the relationship was over?!** It turned out that Jared had a cold, but didn't want to cancel the date! We left early since Jared wasn't feeling well, but don't worry - we were losing terribly anyway!

We have both always wanted to be parents - Celia because she loves helping children to learn and grow, and Jared because of his own adoption story. Jared is a third generation adoptee in his adoptive family. He has always understood that **it was through the love of his birth mother** and her trust in his adoptive family that Jared was given the opportunities that he has had in life, and he has always desired to love and support another family in this way by adopting a child. We look forward to learning how our paths have brought us to you.



Minette and Daisy



We love animals! While **Jared grew up with dogs**, **Celia grew up with cats**. Now we have both! Minette was Celia's cat before she met Jared. Jared was hesitant around her at first (and vice versa), but now Minette often jumps up on his lap while he is sitting at his computer. Jared is always sure to text Celia a picture of his smiling face when Minette jumps up. Daisy was Jared's parents' dog, but after Jared's mom passed away, his dad didn't feel he could care for Daisy anymore. Having Daisy was so healing for us in that hard time, and now we can't imagine life without her!

Daisy is cuddly, friendly, and gentle with kids. Recently, at a family gathering, our five-year-old niece kept bringing out her stuffed animals for Daisy to see. Soon, **Daisy was surrounded by squishmallows** and a huge stuffed sloth! It made everyone laugh to see how easily Daisy blended in with all the stuffed animals, and our niece (who is often shy at bigger family gatherings) had the biggest smile on her face and kept talking about other stuffed animals she could bring out to share. Daisy's gentle spirit made our niece feel at ease with so many people around.



Minette and Daisy are always **good for some laughs!** In fact, it seems like our cat picked up some skills as we were training our dog! We have been teaching Daisy various tricks, such as "shake," "high-five," and "spin"... but "spin" only works if there is a treat at stake. Recently, we realized that Minette was spinning in circles when she wanted a treat! We couldn't believe it, and we laughed as we tested Minette with more treats and she kept walking around in circles! Now, Minette does this trick all the time.

Our Family

IF YOU CHOOSE US, YOUR CHILD WILL HAVE FOUR GRANDPARENTS (PLUS ONE GRANDMOTHER LOOKING DOWN FROM HEAVEN), THREE AUNTS AND UNCLES, AND **SIX COUSINS!**

Our family **loves exploring new places**. When Celia was growing up, her family often traveled to new places around the country. When her parents retired last year, our whole family celebrated with a trip to one of our favorite past vacation spots - Nags Head, North Carolina. While we were there went to the Wright Brothers' National Memorial, to see where the first airplane was flown. Celia had been there as a child, and was so excited to show Jared around, because Jared is a big history buff. It was super crowded, and we got separated from the rest of the family at one point, but we knew right where to find Celia's dad - in the gift shop, buying a commemorative patch. He buys one at every park, to show all the places he has been.



Our family loves **coming up with silly traditions** that are our very own, like Celia's mom's "Cocoa Races" that we have at Christmas time. She has a set of little wind up cars that everyone races to win different prizes, before sharing hot cocoa together. The first year that she brought out the toy cars, we were all confused and skeptical, but by the end, everyone really got into it! Jared was very new to the family, but he won the first ever Cocoa Race! His prize was a puzzle of the St. Louis Cardinals' mascot - something that Celia's mom had picked out specifically for him, because she knew the Cardinals are his favorite baseball team. Your child will be part of a family that finds creative ways to have fun.



We **honor the values learned from family**. A year into our marriage, Jared's adoptive mom passed away from breast cancer. When we remember her, we remember how she always went out of her way to **make everyone feel loved**. She never missed anyone's birthday, and Jared's mom always called Celia her "daughter-in-love," welcoming her into the family with open arms. The first time that Celia visited Jared's hometown, his mom had a local business at the edge of town put up "Welcome, Celia!" on their marquee! Adoption is one way that we hope to honor her legacy of loving others. Just as we continue to tell her story, we will also tell your child about you, your family, and your great love for them.



Traditions

We celebrate Christmas with the Peanuts gang! Every December, we go to see a live performance of the music from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. They always invite members of the audience to come on stage and sing “Hark the Herald Angels Sing!” Last year, **Celia finally got up the courage to go up on stage and join the choir!** She got right up next to the pianist, and had a huge smile on her face the whole time! We also have a Christmas tree full of Peanuts themed ornaments, in addition to the tree filled with a mishmash of ornaments from our childhoods.



Every year, we head downtown for the annual “**Best of the City**” food fair. Last year, we tried **Korean corndogs** for the first time, which are half-hot dog and half cheese stick. The cheese-pull of Jared’s first bite was incredible! Now we keep a close eye out for when that food truck is coming to our area so we can savor this gooey treat all over again.

Celia’s family observes a made-up holiday season called SOKBIGIOFTS, which stands for: “**School’s OK But I’m Glad It’s Out For The Summer!**” To begin SOKBIGIOFTS, Celia’s mom always presented summer family calendars, filled with fun ideas of how to spend the time off from school. Nowadays, our SOKBIGIOFTS calendar always includes visits to some of our favorite hometown sites, including a wildlife adventure park near Jared’s hometown. A couple of years ago, a ring-necked turtle dove landed right on top of Celia’s head! It stood there calmly while Celia froze in delight and slight alarm. We hope to learn about your favorite traditions, so your child can grow up experiencing them, too!



Our Home and Community



We love to spend evenings around the fire pit in the backyard of our central Tennessee home. The first time we ever used the fire pit, though, it was not such a cozy experience. **It was absolutely freezing outside, but we were set on using the brand-new fire pit** while Celia's family was staying at the house for Thanksgiving weekend! Jared kept manning the fire, stoking it to try and make it bigger, while Celia kept running in and out of the house, bringing back blankets and extra pairs of socks for everyone to stay warm. For a while, Jared even had Daisy zipped up inside his coat! Now, we are much more experienced around the campfire...both in building the fire and in knowing when it's best to just stay inside! Your child will have a safe and cozy place to call home.

We love go see shows at our local community theater. Recently, we got to see a production of "The Play That Goes Wrong." In this show, set pieces fall apart and actors "forget" lines on purpose! The funniest part was when the actors "got stuck" in the same dialogue loop for seven repetitions of a single scene, because one actor kept saying her first line in place of her last line, which would start the scene all over again. Jared said afterwards that he kept wanting the play to end, only because his sides hurt from laughing so hard!



We live in a growing college town that is close to a major city but also has its own **small-town feel**. When we first moved in a few years ago, Jared noted that he couldn't wait to see how the community would develop. Since then, several new restaurants and a grocery store have been built within one mile of our house, and a new park is being built nearby as well. Recently, we were excited to try a new old-fashioned soda bar that opened up near our neighborhood. We sipped our milkshakes (peanut butter buckeye for Jared and cookies and cream for Celia) while **watching kids and families enter to take a break from ice skating** at a seasonal ice rink that was set up just outside the shop!



Fun Times Together



We love to explore the world through food! We live near a large city with a lot of different cultural communities, and we love to explore all the different restaurants. Last year for her birthday, **Jared surprised Celia with éclairs from a French-owned patisserie** hidden away downtown. As a French-speaker and all around francophile, Celia couldn't wait to go back with Jared and check it out! She spoke French with the owner, even though she was a little shy! Occasionally, Celia gets the opportunity to teach a French introductory elective to 5th grade students at the school where she works, and she always surprises the kids with croissants from this sweet little bakery as an end-of-course treat. She loves the excuse to snag a pain au chocolat for an afternoon snack!

Mondays are pool days in our family; we love to go to water aerobics classes! Celia started going a couple of years ago, and Jared quickly joined in when he heard her talk about how fun it was! **Water aerobics might bring to mind a light workout for little old ladies, but we've found that it can be pretty intense!** One time, we were doing a new exercise of lifting weighted medicine balls held between our ankles, and Jared dropped his ball to the bottom of the pool. It took him the rest of the exercise set to get a good hold on it and bring it up to the surface. Celia laughed and teased him good-naturedly as he chased the ball around the pool. Now when newcomers drop their equipment, Jared tells them not to be discouraged because it's like a rite of passage.



Jared has been a baseball fan since he was a kid, and it's all because he saw a baseball player from Colombia on TV. He felt a connection to the player, and his team instantly became Jared's favorite. Looking back, Jared sees that this really taught him **the value of representation**. Nowadays, whether we are at a baseball game or more often our newer favorite sport of soccer, we always love coming together with such a diverse group of people in support of the same team. Your child will be encouraged to connect with their own culture and with other cultures at every opportunity.

Weekdays



Jared is the billing manager for an email marketing company. He **works from home**, usually with Daisy and Minette curled up under his desk in their own pet beds. His home office shares a wall with the room that will be your child's nursery. With his **flexible** work schedule and environment, Jared will have the ability to attend appointments, school events, and other activities that allow being a dad to be his number one priority!

Celia teaches at an acclaimed private elementary school, where your child will also attend. As a teacher, Celia's work days end around 3pm, and she always has **summers and holidays off**. Because her class schedule varies day to day, Celia also has **flexibility** to leave early or come in late if there is a family commitment that needs her attention.



Most evenings, **we go for a walk through our neighborhood with Daisy**. It's a great way to unwind and connect at the end of the day. One particularly windy evening, Daisy started sprinting after a leaf that was blowing down the sidewalk. We had to run to keep up with her as she zigged and zagged until she caught the leaf, which she carried proudly for the rest of our walk together. Not wanting to spoil her happiness, we let Daisy bring the leaf into the house, where she quickly tore it to tiny shreds that got all over the floor. Now we know to hold the leash a little tighter and get ready to run whenever leaves are blowing around! Your child will have quality time to connect with family every day.



Thank You

We want to thank you again for taking the time to get to know us through this book, and for considering us to love and care for your child. We believe that you have likely not come to this place lightly, and we believe you are brave to consider this path.

Should you choose us, we promise that your child will know your story, and know your great love for them. **We hope to stay in touch with you** and share photos and updates in the years to come.

As you move forward, we hope for nothing but the best for you and your baby. We are honored that you have taken the time to consider us.

Fared & Celia

