

David + Ashley



# Mello

Thank you for taking the time to learn about us! We know that you've got a huge decision ahead of you, and you're probably reading quite a few of these books and letters. And if we're being honest, they probably all start to sound the same after a while. There may not be a ton we can say that would be different, so we hope that through this peek into our lives, you can see what a wonderful home and life we would create for your child.

We want whatever is best for you, and to be able to encourage you through this journey. Thank you for your consideration, and whether your baby becomes part of our family or another hopeful couple, please know that you will always be a mother and we are simply the ones fortunate enough to steward your child through life.

All our love,

David + Ashley







## *This is Us*

Dave and I knew each other for 10 years before we started dating. When I moved to our city, we were part of the same friend group and saw each other whenever everyone got together. It took being in the right place at the right time for us to become a couple though, and since that happened on December 31, 2017, we've rarely spent a day apart. We were engaged a year and a half after we started dating, and got married the following year.

In the six years we've been together, life has dealt us plenty of ups and downs, but there's no one either of us would want to experience it all with other than each other. From new jobs and exciting vacations to the lows of infertility and losing my dad to cancer, we've taken it on as a team, which is exactly how we plan to approach parenting as well. We know we are better together, and can't wait to share that love with your child.

Hi I'm

Ashley

I grew up in a rural Southern town where I spent more time outside than in! I have loved the outdoors my entire life and feel most at home on some type of water. Growing up, I had a large extended family nearby and spent tons of time with my grandparents and aunts and uncles. My favorite memories are fishing adventures with my dad!

I work in marketing, and I get to do fun things like help make tv commercials. Even better, I work from home, so I'll always be able to prioritize our family's needs.

In my spare time, I still love the outdoors, particularly fishing with Dave- he taught me to fly fish not long after we started dating. I also love to read and play with our pups. I'm a member of our neighborhood tennis team, and love to cheer on my college alma mater's football team! One goal I have is to travel to all 50 states, and right now, I'm at 45!



### *What He Loves About Her*

Ashley is a caring and loving woman and I love getting to spend each of my days with her. Her laugh is contagious and we can have fun just goofing around the house. She has an adventurous spirit and is always ready to see what's around the next corner. Our vacations have taken us to some of the prettiest places in the world and I doubt I would have found all those places without her. Watching her catch some huge trout when we fly fish or reeling in an epic tuna just puts a huge smile on my face and I wouldn't want any other fishing partner in this world. Together we are a perfect team. She makes me strive to be a better person every day, and I know as a mom she will show incredible love to our child. I can't wait to see her thrive in that new role!

Clockwise from top left: At our home, snuggling with Ruby the golden retriever, In front of the London Eye, with friends In Puerto Rico



# Hi I'm David

I grew up in the South and have lived in four states throughout my life. Each place has given me some of the greatest memories to look back on through the years. Thankfully I was able to spend a lot of my summers with my grandparents and cousins. I grew up loving cars and trucks and building things which I eventually turned into a career in construction. I get to move dirt and put some pipe in the ground and reshape the earth. We have all the big tractors that kids love to play with, and I can't wait to show our child the ropes!

I really enjoy the outdoors and spending time in nature. I've been camping most of my life and it's the greatest way to relax and just let life reset. I play a lot of sports from golf to disc golf to tennis and mountain biking. If it's outside then I want to do it. Fishing is probably my number one priority when I get a chance to get to the water. Having a willing fishing partner in Ashley always makes the trips that much more fun.

I also listen to a lot of music and always have some kind playing in the background, and I never turn down the chance to go to a live concert.

Photos Clockwise from top left: At our home, Halloween with our pup Ruby, and playing frisbee golf in Ireland



## *What She Loves About Him*

Before Dave and I were dating, I knew how loyal of a friend he is. He's the guy our friends call if ever they need help with something, and he's always there for them. Then when I met his family, I saw what a loyal family man he is too. An aunt once told me I needed to find someone who enjoys cities, travel and all the comforts of city life, but who can appreciate that I'm a country girl at heart. I found that and so much more in Dave. Every day, I count my blessings that he chose me. He is kind, thoughtful, and he makes me a better person.

Early in our relationship, I knew I wanted to have a family with him. If we were at a restaurant or out somewhere, and a child came in, his eyes would light up. He's going to be an incredible dad and I count myself lucky that I get to be his partner in parenthood.



## Where We Call Home

We live in a four bedroom, 2.5 bath home that we bought about four years ago. When we were looking for this house, we had specific needs of course, but one of them was that it be spacious enough to grow our family. Another desire Ashley had was to have a large dining room table where we can welcome friends and family. We love hosting people, and have an open door for those who need a little comfort and extra love. As the saying goes, build a bigger table, not a taller fence.

We live in a neighborhood filled with kids and there are always neighborhood activities for them - whether it's caroling at Christmas, popsicle day at the community pool, or family movie night under the stars. In our community are tennis courts and a swimming pool that we enjoy with our neighbors, and a playground perfect for the littlest residents!







## Life Together

When I asked Ashley to marry me, I asked if she would spend the rest of her life going on adventures with me, and in the years that have followed, we've been on so many! We enjoy traveling and are looking forward to sharing that with your child. In the last few years, we've been to several countries and a lot of U.S. states and know that experiencing other cultures gives us gratitude and appreciation for our own lives, as well as makes us more accepting of others. Being kind and inclusive is a lesson we will be sure to teach your child.

Clockwise from top left: At our neighborhood shaved ice night with our golden retrievers, Ruby and Reba, Exploring Telluride, Colorado In December (it was sooo cold!), before a luau In Hawaii,



# We Are Family

We are both fortunate to have loving, supportive families! Both of our parents celebrated their 50th anniversary in the last couple of years. Unfortunately, Ashley's dad passed away last year, but she is very close with her mom, and her mom can't wait to be "Granny." David's parents, Nana and Papa to their grandkids, live about 20 minutes down the road and are thrilled at the possibility of welcoming a new family member. Our niece and nephew were adopted, and we have several cousins who are also adopted.



Both Ashley and David's families are excited about the possibility of adoption, and we are open to transracial adoption. We have cousins both biological and adopted who are African-American, Roma, and Creole.







## *Our Promise*

We promise to provide your child with stability, love, lots of laughter, and every opportunity to succeed in life. The love we have to give your child is everlasting and our commitment lifelong.

We promise to always let adoption be part of your child's story; one they are told early and often.

We promise to always be the best parents we can be. We know we won't be perfect, but we promise that there will never be a time we aren't trying to do our best.



Clockwise from top: Fly fishing- we go several times a year!, ATVing in Costa Rica, White Water Rafting in Tennessee (that's us In the front!)