



OUR STORY



We are college sweethearts. We met when Keaton was performing in a production of Avenue Q at the University of Utah. After several failed attempts of trying to find out if she was single, Jessa's family friend and the director just asked Keaton if he could give Jessa, Keaton's number. It was the best first date either of us have ever had and, in true lesbian fashion, we ended up going on a date every day that week and then just kept dating forever.



We dated for about a year and a half before getting engaged, and then got married about a year later, and rescued our dog Gypsy shortly after. A few years after that we had the kiddo, and tonight we sit here typing up this message in hopes that someone will see it who will help us find our next family member. We are so thankful for you for reading this far.

In between that first date and tonight has been a lot of fun. We used to joke that we wished someone would just pay us to hang out together, and then the pandemic happened. It was certainly not what we meant by the statement, but it did mean being at home together 24/7 for almost a year, and even after that we still want to spend as much time together as possible (but you know, without all the hardships of a pandemic). We love life, and we have crafted a very happy one. It is not something we take for granted, but it is something we are so excited to share with our kids as our family continues to grow.



MEET JESSA

Hi, I'm Jessa! I'm a 31 year old Musical Theatre nerd and lover of snacks. My extended family loves to give me grief for the fact that I literally took a clowning class in college. I work part-time as a high school theatre choreographer, and am the primary stay at home mom (where I use the skills I learned in clowning class regularly, thank you very much).

Growing up, I trained to be a professional dancer and in addition to dancing as a youth cast member for Ballet West and Odyssey Dance Theatre, I can be seen (barely) in the Disney films High School Musical 2, High School Musical 3: Senior Year, and MTV's The American Mall.

I feel so grateful that we are able to afford having one parent home with our kiddo. It has given me so much time to create a strong bond with the kiddo, and be able to have a hands on approach to his education. Most importantly, it means I get to spend the majority of my time being his human canvas, crafting, and playing trucks (while my sink full of dirty dishes begs, unsuccessfully, for my attention).

Books truly delight me, and I get so excited each June when we put up our reading tent in the living room to kick off summer reading.

You should know: I can't send a short email to save my life (as you can probably tell from this bio), but do put a lot of care into each and every word. My family is the most important thing to me, and I promise to love and care for any child that is entrusted to me with integrity, gentility, and an abundance of goofy love.



Education

BFA Musical Theatre

University of Utah
Class of 2014

MA Theatre Arts

Regent University
Class of 2017

Trained Rape Crisis Advocate
CPR Certified

MEET KEATON

Hi, I'm Keaton! I'm 29 years old, and very much an introvert. I was telling Jessa the other day how much I love the system at our new storage unit facility. I signed up online, got the lock straight from our storage, unloaded our things, and never had to talk to a single person. That's the dream.

I have many interests, and regularly find new things to pursue. I've really gotten into board games the past year or so. Jessa and I do a weekly game night with our brothers that is one of our favorite traditions. I love to bake (I grew up baking with my mom and grandma, and now share the love with the kiddo), and when I was pregnant I fell in love with birth. I love it so much that I am currently working towards becoming a certified Labor Doula. If you are a gestational parent considering us, and it's something you are comfortable with, I would love to support you through labor. But know that there is zero pressure. Your birth is yours, and we are here to support you in whatever way feels best for you.

Each spring we have caterpillars and watch them go through their transformation to becoming butterflies. I love to sit and watch them, but especially on the day we release them. It is so magical to see them take flight for the first time. I feel like motherhood has similarly transformed me. I know that I will go through another transformation when we get to adopt. If you are considering us, I want you to know that I will make that transition with as much grace, compassion, and love as I have in me. I know that, when the baby is born, our transitions will look very different from one another. I am prepared to honor those differences and make sure our child knows how deeply loved they are, by all of us.

Education

BA Theatre Arts

University of Utah
Class of 2016

Labor Doula Certification (In Progress)

MaternityWise International
Will be complete Aug 2023

CPR Certified



Hi, I'm "The Kiddo"! I'm 4, and in the spirit of "clear is kind" this is not really me typing. I'm bright, but believe it or not, I can't yet type up my own bio.

MEET THE KIDDO

Things that actually matter: I will talk to you about trucks all day long. They are pretty much the best thing in the entire world. Besides bike rides. Oh wait! Or tomatoes. I like to eat those right from my garden. I know not to eat them when they are green, but sometimes I can't resist a small lick anyway.

I am very excited to adopt a baby. I let my moms know everyday how ready I am, draw pictures for the baby, and have already picked out my outfit for the day I get to meet them. I have told my moms repeatedly how I will hold the baby very gently, and will be a great big brother (true story).



MEET GYPSY ROSE



Gypsy is a master of naps.

And eating human food off of the table when no one is looking.

And naps.

She's awesome.



We love swimming! Keaton's parents have a pool so we spend a lot of time there.



OUR HOBBIES

Reading in our summer reading fort.



Travel! Above pic is from Puerto Rico.

We do lots of family bike rides!

We LOVE Holidays



We play lots of board and card games. We do a weekly game night with our brothers, but don't have any photos of it!



OUR CHOSEN FAMILY

As members of the LGBTQ+ community, the idea of chosen family is not new for us. We have a large support system (many of whom are not pictured here) that we absolutely consider our family.

They are friends from high school, college, work. Many were in our wedding line. Several we have yearly traditions with. All of them are Aunties and Uncles to our son. We are aunties to their kids. They are just as much a part of our family as our nuclear family members, and we adore them.

OUR COMMUNITY

Our community is our super power. We are lucky enough to have a HUGE network of friends and family who love us very much. They are the type of people who rally with us when we need them, and celebrate our joys along side us. We are very fortunate to have an unwavering support system. When the kiddo was 3 months old Jessa broke her arm. Friends and family took turns coming to help her when Keaton was at work. They cooked dinner, and changed diapers (some for the first time), and it was one of the many times they have been a critical part of our village.



MEET JESSA'S FAMILY

JESSA'S MOM AND BROTHER



Jessa is close with both her mom and brother. Her mom, Cindy, is a licensed esthetician, and also fills her house with house plants. Jessa's brother, Sonny, is 5 years younger than her, and is truly one of her best friends. Jessa talks with both of them several times a week, and we see them each at least once a week. We have a standing lunch date with Jessa's mom (who the kiddo calls Gaga), and Sonny comes over for weekly game night. They both live close, which we love. Sonny dropped everything to come help us deep clean our house the night before our home study.

JESSA'S EXTENDED FAMILY



Jessa's mom is the middle of three sisters. One aunt and her kids/grandkids live in Utah, and the other is in Idaho. We love spending time with them on holidays throughout the year.

MEET KEATON'S FAMILY

KEATON'S FAMILY



Keaton's family defies the traditional family mold, for sure. Keaton's mom was a teen mom, and Keaton was born before her senior year of high school. Her siblings came from two of her mom's marriages. Her mom, Marcee, and dad, Chris, have been happily married for 11 years. Chris officially adopted Keaton in 2019 on the same day Marcee adopted Darby. We see her parents at least once a week. Her brother, Josh, comes over for weekly game night, and we see her sister Darby and her husband, Wylee regularly. This pic was from this year's Trunk or Treat.

KEATON'S EXTENDED FAMILY



Keaton's mom is one of 9 siblings, so the extended family is HUGE! Her aunts, especially, hold a special place in her heart. She even has a tattoo dedicated to her Aunt Merilee (Merner), who passed in 2020. She went to get them with her mom, sister, aunts, and cousins. Keaton's is the boat.

HOW WE PARENT

Gentle parenting is non-negotiable for us (even when it is so hard), and we use a child-led, Montessori-style meets unschooling approach to learning and are able to nurture his interests to make learning fun! We are very strict with teaching consent, and make sure our son knows that he is the boss of his body, and safe adults will not ask him to keep secrets.

We prioritize health. Our son has regular wellness visits, dental cleanings, eye exams, etc. We exercise together every day, and make conscious efforts to learn about nutrition. We all eat the same foods, and do our best to try new foods often. We do lots of art, and play and are silly most of the time.

We spend a lot of time together as a family, and make sure the kiddo gets one on one time with each of us, regularly. We read a lot to make sure we are parenting in a way that will help our kids thrive, and we do not shy away from the hard topics.

We really struggle when people use “sperm donor” to describe a dead-beat dad. That doesn't describe our son's donor AT ALL. He is thoughtful, and caring, and donated such an incredible gift for our family. It's a term that should be celebrated! He holds a very special place in our heart, even though we don't have regular contact, and our son has never met or talked with him. Even at 3 our son knows that the people who give you your genes and your parents are sometimes the same, but sometimes not. He also knows that each person in the equation is important to who he is, and therefore important to our family.





Thank you for your consideration! We look forward to hearing from you!