

6.7 We are Moving Across the Country!

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SPEAKERS

Jasmine (80%), Carter (20%)

Jasmine Bradshaw

0:00

You're listening to the First Name Basis podcast, Season Six, Episode Seven: We are Moving Across the Country!"

Jasmine Bradshaw

0:14

Teaching our children to be inclusive and anti-racist starts with us within the sacred walls of our home. First Name Basis is designed to empower you with the competency you need to be a leader in your family and a change maker in your community. Together, we will wrestle with hard questions and use the answers to create the world we want, a world that reflects our values of inclusion, compassion, and courage. I'm your host, Jasmine Bradshaw, and I am so excited to be on this journey with you.

Hello, First Name Basis fam. I am so glad you are here. Oh my goodness, have you seen the news? If you have been anywhere near my Instagram over the last few days, you know that we made a super huge announcement; we've been keeping a super gigantic secret: me and my family — or I guess I should say my family and I — are moving across the country! So we currently live in Mesa, Arizona, and we are moving to DC! We're actually moving to a suburb of DC. It's in Maryland. And we are so excited. We have planned this whole episode around all of your questions about the big move We're going to tell you why we picked Maryland, why we're moving, and how excited we are for this new adventure. So buckle up, because it really has been two years in the making, this move. And so we'll take you through the timeline of how we decided and where we're going and why. I almost forgot to say I have a special guest for this episode. My husband Carter is joining me on the mic today.

Carter Bradshaw

1:57

Hey, everybody.

Jasmine Bradshaw

1:58

So as I said, we are moving from Arizona to DC and we're actually moving to a suburb of DC that's in Maryland. And that's really as specific as we're going to get, not because we don't like

you and don't want to tell you, but just because the internet is kind of a scary place, and sometimes scary people go looking for you. And also, we have noticed that the cities in Maryland are so much tinier. I mean, just kind of on the East Coast in general, they are so much smaller than they are here in Mesa. Like, we live in a city that is over 130 square miles, and the place where we're going to is just way, way small. So we are moving to a suburb of Maryland. And if you live out there, maybe we can connect and see each other. But as far as sharing with the public exactly where we're going to live, that's just as specific as we're going to get right now, just to protect our little family. Okay, so the first question that most of you have is why are we moving? And it's kind of a wild ride.

Carter Bradshaw

3:05

So here's how I remember our journey when we first started First Name Basis. And basically it was the fact that I'd met Jasmine, and we became really good friends. And then we started dating and she just changed my life and taught me so many things that I never thought about or even paid attention to before. And it's not that I didn't have any Black friends or acquaintances. It's just that I wasn't really close with anybody, or didn't really ever take time to have these deep conversations that Jasmine and I had that led to me learning so much and changing so much. And so I thought, "You know, the place where I grew up, Mesa, Arizona, it's not really famous for its diversity exactly." And I thought, "Man, if more people could have the experience that I had, in getting to meet someone who's not from the same culture or from the same race as they are and be able to talk and get to know each other, then maybe more people could experience the same positive changes that I did. So kind of the theory behind that. I just thought, "Okay, even though Mesa isn't the most diverse place, you can still be intentional about that. You can seek that out if that's a priority for you. You can make that happen." And so that's kind of where we started with First Name Basis. We went to cultural events and museums just trying to broaden our circle and to try and learn more about different cultures and different people.

Jasmine Bradshaw

4:30

And we even, like, tried to put that in the name of First Name Basis. We went through so many terrible names before we got to First Name Basis, like, I remember "backyard." "Backyard Neighbor" was one of them because we wanted people to see that you have all this right in your backyard. That is, like, if you just go looking for it you can find people and different cultures and lots of things to learn about and immerse yourself in. And what were some of the other ones?

Carter Bradshaw

4:57

We told we told ourselves that it was okay, we were just brainstorming. There were no bad ideas, but we did in fact have a lot of bad ideas

Jasmine Bradshaw

5:06

Yeah, some bad ones.

Carter Bradshaw

5:07

We tried to be local and talked about Saguaro?

Jasmine Bradshaw

5:11

Yes, because there's lots of cacti here...or oh, scorpions! Yes. And we even had one that was called "Mix Well," because when you're baking, and you add all the ingredients together, you have to mix it well, in order for it to taste good. Anyway, we're really glad we landed on the name First Name Basis. But the whole point of First Name Basis, before it was First Name Basis, was because we really wanted people to see that they have opportunities to diversify and make their lives more inclusive, right in their own backyard. So as we were creating the resources and connecting with all of you, one of the things that we realized is that, "Oh my goodness, this is such a huge value of our family, and we actually don't know how well we can live out that really prominent family value here in Mesa." So one of the things that I found when I was researching for an episode really early on was that children, not just children of color, all children, in order to fight the prejudices that are presented to them in their everyday life by living in a society that is based on white supremacy, they need people in their life who are going to mentor them, coach them, people who they're going to turn to for guidance and advice. They need those people to be people of color. They need Black leaders, they need people from all different backgrounds and ethnicities and religions in order to break down the stereotypes that they have in their minds. Representation on TV, representation in books, in their doll collection is just not enough. And that's what we had here. We have TV, we have our doll collection, we've got the books, and we just thought, "Where are our children going to have this representation outside of our own family?" So as many of you know, I grew up in Arizona, I'm originally from San Francisco, but we moved here when I was five. And my family was one of the only families of color in the neighborhood, in my school oftentimes. And one of the things that my parents didn't know, when we were growing up, because there wasn't as prominent research or the research wasn't as available as it is right now when it comes to multiracial children, is that they really need representatives from their own culture in their life who are outside of their family. So I'm Black-biracial, and my dad is Black, and my mom is white. And some of the only Black people that I knew were people who I was related to. And the research about multiracial children and about children in general, is that they need people of color in their life to be prominent figures to help mold them and shape them and guide them and direct them in order for them to fight the prejudices that they are inhaling in the air that we breathe all the time. So I remember coming across that and talking to Carter, like, "Should we move? Should we consider moving?" And we even talked about I mean, we live in Mesa, we talked about moving to Phoenix because it is more diverse than Mesa, but we weren't sure if that really would be enough. And then during May of 2020, when the Black Lives Matter protests were going on after George Floyd was murdered, and Breanna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, we were really sitting with ourselves and thinking, "What do we want for our kids? How are they going to learn these values if we are in a place that is so against almost everything that we believe in?" It just didn't feel like a good fit. And I have a really distinct memory — so one of my friends, she is white, and her family is white. They live in a small town in Idaho, and she was telling me that they were considering adopting a baby. And she was saying, "If I were to adopt a child of color, do you think I would need to move away from Idaho?" And immediately when I was responding to her question, I was like, "Yes, you need to go. If you're going to raise a child of color, that is not a good place to do

it. And especially if you're in a transracial adoption, where they don't have representative within their own family who looks like them and who understands their culture. Yes, you have to basically get out of there.” And then when I was telling Carter about all of this, I was like, “Why aren't we doing that? Why aren't we doing that for our own kids?” I mean, they are multiracial children, they are Black-biracial. I don't know exactly how they will identify when they get older, but I'm Black-biracial and Carter's white, and I feel like being Black is going to be a big part of their upbringing. I want it to be a big part of their upbringing. And so it just doesn't make sense to do it in a place where it is so so, so hard to be Black.

Jasmine Bradshaw

10:03

So obviously, the United States is built, I mean, the foundation of our country is white supremacy, right? So I understand that it's not easy to be Black anywhere because racism is everywhere. But it is, it seems to me, especially hard to be Black in Mesa, Arizona.

Carter Bradshaw

10:25

The places in the United States that are exclusively white or mostly white did not become that way by accident. White people are not native to this land. And there were a lot of terrible things done to make predominantly white communities that way.

Jasmine Bradshaw

10:41

Yeah. So I mean, we had this idea just kind of floating around in our minds, like, “Should we move?” But my family's here — I have my parents here, and my sister, and her girlfriend. And then Carter's family is here. He's one of nine, and almost all of his siblings live in town or are planning to move back to Arizona, and we all live within like a 10-mile radius of each other where we could get to each others' houses in less than 15 or 20 minutes. So the idea of moving away from so many family members was kind of super daunting, wouldn't you say? And so we just weren't sure what we were going to do. And then in October of 2020, I was on a walk in the neighborhood — it's still the pandemic, so I'm trying to social distance — and I remember seeing a couple of streets down from me, there was a house. And you might remember this if you follow my Instagram, but there's a house that had this horrible Halloween decoration. And it was like these skeletons, and half the skeletons were dressed up like cowboys, and the other half were dressed up as caricatures of Indigenous people. And it was like the Indigenous caricature skeletons were tied up to a tree and there was a fire at their feet. And then the cowboy skeletons were around the Indigenous skeletons around the fire, like roasting marshmallows and stuff like that. And it was just so gross. And I was so angry, I was just so frustrated, I was so mad. And I was like, “I hate this. I hate that I'm out on a walk with my kids and this is what we're seeing.” And I remember talking to Violet about how mean that was. And I shared about it on Instagram, and my friend Alex Scott from Ditto Kids magazine, which is an anti-racist magazine, she messaged me, and she was like, “That would never happen here. And if it did happen here, it would be in the papers. People would be writing it up and talking about how horrible it is, and there would be enough social pressure that those people would take that down and apologize.” And I remember thinking, “What?” Like, “There's a place where this stuff is not tolerated? There's a place where you don't just walk by this in fear of your safety?” because I was really

anxious that if I talked to them about it, they know exactly where I live, and maybe they would retaliate. It was just a scary situation, and it just didn't feel safe. So after that, Alex and I hopped on the phone, because we felt like we had a lot to talk about. And she was telling me about how much she loves where she lives and how she feels like her kids are getting such an amazing opportunity to explore who they are and other cultures and learn the things that are so important to her, whether it be anti-racism, or environmentalism, and just so much opportunity for growth. And I remember thinking, "Wow, there are people who actually love where they live." Like I have never really loved Arizona. I've always felt like someone who doesn't belong, felt like an outsider and dealt with really a ton of racism. And I remember you've loved it for a while, Carter.

Carter Bradshaw

13:50

Yeah, Arizona has always felt like home to me. Maybe up until that summer. It just felt every time we went on vacation we'd be like, "Wow, I love it here. This is so fun." But there was never this like, "Oh, we should move here." It was like, "No, this is fun. But Arizona is home."

Jasmine Bradshaw

14:07

Yeah, I mean, he grew up here. And he has generations that have been here for a really long time. And so we just never really considered leaving because it just, I don't know, it didn't even seem like an option. But then, after talking to Alex, I was like, "Maybe we should seriously consider this."

Carter Bradshaw

14:27

And then came the election in November 2020. And I remember Jasmine telling me about elections in the past. And this was before you had a podcast, before you spoke publicly about your politics and your research, but you'd been through some really ugly, terrible experiences just by existing as a Black person in a predominantly white community while Obama was getting elected. So you had already been subjected to racism and threats during election season. I'd never seen anything like that or experienced that myself. But this particular election season, it was just the ugliest that I'd ever seen. And I think a lot of you can probably relate to that. I think I had the false impression that most people who were going to vote for Trump didn't do it because they liked Trump, they just really don't like Democrats. And that made sense to me growing up as a Republican, as someone who was surrounded by almost exclusively Republicans. I just thought, "Yeah, that makes sense." But in a pretty short amount of time, it dawned on me how excited people were about Trump, and how enthusiastic they were to support someone who was so openly hostile. And that was heartbreaking to me. So before November was over, we had talked a couple times about, "Is this really what we want to experience every four years?" And I actually made a document, a little spreadsheet called "Where to Move."

Jasmine Bradshaw

15:59

Yeah, I don't remember where I was, like, we're just trying to remember why was I not there, but there was one night where I was gone, and I came home and Carter was like, "I made this spreadsheet, what do you think?" And we were just looking at it, and we saw that we created

well, he created it, on November 26, of 2020. So I feel like that was when it really got real, like we're actually doing this. And from there, it was kind of off to the races. So we decided to tell my parents, because I grew up in a suburb of Phoenix and like we said, we live in Mesa. So where I grew up is actually an hour away from where we live now. So my parents, after our first daughter, Violet was born, my parents decided to move down here to Mesa to live by us and closer to their grandkids. And so we were really nervous to tell my parents because we were like, "We know you just kind of moved here pretty recently. But we actually think we're going to move and not a little move, we're going to MOVE." So we told my parents we were thinking about moving, and I don't even remember how soon it was afterwards, but they told us that they would come with us. So my parents are actually moving with us, which is so stinking exciting. My parents are moving from Arizona to DC with us. We are all going together.

Carter Bradshaw

17:17

So I made this document and I literally just put all 50 states in a spreadsheet and just made little notes. What would we like about this place? What would we not like about this place?

Jasmine Bradshaw

17:28

And it had three columns: "Maybe," "Possibly," and "Absolutely not." "Absolutely not" was definitely the longest and most of the places he had like, "It's racist," or "It's too cold." But where we would really love to live — of course, we love California. California is gorgeous. It's close. There's everything lovely. There are lots of different types of people and Disneyland is there! But it's so stinking expensive, and it's on fire a lot. It's literally on fire all the time. We're really worried about the environment. I mean, Arizona is running out of water. That's one other reason why we're leaving, is because the environment here is not going to be sustainable for that much longer. It's getting super hot, we're running out of water, and California is kind of not much different. It is always on fire. So as we were considering, my mom actually sent us this really long article about climate change and about what's going to happen and about how people are going to be going to these different cities, but some of the cities won't have the infrastructure to support all the people who will be moving there. So we were like, "Okay, we need to do this before all of that happens." And who knows: I mean, that might be like 10 or 20 years away, but we would rather do it now.

Carter Bradshaw

18:49

We had on our shortlist Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Virginia.

Jasmine Bradshaw

18:54

Yeah, so they're all kind of in the same area. I definitely knew that we wanted to move to the East Coast. We also talked about the Pacific Northwest, which is beautiful, but it's just so rainy. And I just don't know, I've heard so many people talk about mental health, and how the rain and dampness can really take a toll on your mental health. And so I was just a little bit too anxious about moving to like Seattle or Portland or something like that.

Carter Bradshaw

19:22

And obviously there are things to love about every state and every place that you can live. We were just trying to sort out what was best for us, what aligns best with our values and our climate preferences.

Jasmine Bradshaw

19:36

Yeah, exactly. Like if you hear your city on the list, please don't feel bad. We will love to visit you, we just don't want to live there. Um, but the other thing was, of course, the insurrection. So January of 2021. It was really terrible. The election, of course, was terrible. And then the insurrection happened, and it was really scary. If you follow my Instagram again, we talked a lot about how terrified we were and how we were making emergency plans. We were thinking about, "Okay, what do we do if this stuff comes to fruition? What if the people who are talking about Civil War, the people who are talking about lynchings — the people who are *related* to us who are talking about lynchings — what if those people actually act on the things that they're threatening? What do we do? Where do we go?" And we just felt like Arizona is not the place that we want to be if that were to ever happen. I mean, heaven forbid, I'm never saying that this is — I can't predict the future — but I really don't even want to be in a place where we're having to think about that all the time, it was just way too scary for us. And the other thing is, I really have felt for a long time, like, I have lived here my whole life. And I could actually be a really great advocate here in Arizona, because I understand how it works. I understand how the people work. I understand what makes them tick, and what helps them change their opinions and what helps them become more anti-racist. But at the end of the day, I remember thinking, what about my own kids? Like, I don't want my kids to go through the stuff that I went through. And when do I start to prioritize their safety and their comfort and their mental health and their opportunity to be around people who look like them and who don't look like them? People who embrace them, people who are excited about them, people who are excited about the things that we value? When does that become a priority over understanding that yes, you can make change, but change is meant to be made anywhere. Every single place that we go, there are going to be opportunities to make a positive impact. And even though Arizona definitely has ample opportunities for improvement when it comes to their anti-racist efforts, I just I don't need to be a martyr anymore, you know?

Jasmine Bradshaw

21:54

So digging into the specifics about how we chose Maryland off of the shortlist of Maryland and Virginia and New York and New Jersey. We settled on Maryland for a handful of reasons. Number one is because we, after my parents said that they were going to come with us, we were super touched and honored, I guess, that they would come with us. And so we sat down with them and brought our "Where to move" list. And we asked them what they wanted to do. And my parents are both from New York, my dad is from the city and my mom is from upstate. And they were both like, "How awesome would it be for us to be able to return to our roots?" And my dad said that he really liked DC, that he always dreamed of living there but never thought that it would be possible for him. He grew up really poor, and so he just thought it wouldn't be an option. And so we were like, "Why don't we try to do that?" I mean, my parents gave up so much

for our family. We, like I said, we moved from San Francisco when I was five, my mom has had a really prominent career and so has my dad, and so moving from a place that's so diverse, and so pro-women working, I guess I should say, to a place where there are hardly any Black people and most of the women in the area were stay-at-home moms... And please, no, I am not trashing stay-at-home moms. I have been one and I absolutely loved it. But my mom was treated pretty terribly for being a working mom. There were so many horrible things said to her and about her. And you can hear that in the episode that I recorded with her. But basically people would say stuff like, "Don't you want to raise your own kids?" And she's like, "I am raising my kids. And I'm also going to work." So my parents, I just feel like they gave up so much for us to live in Arizona because they wanted a really community feel for our family. They wanted us to go to the community school and be able to walk to school and all these different things that we couldn't do in California. In California, they have like a voucher system where I was going to have to go to a private school. And it was just a lot of stuff that factored into them moving here, but they wanted something that was slower paced, and something that was more family friendly. They felt like the type of family that they wanted to raise. But in doing that they made so many sacrifices. And so we felt like if there was an opportunity for us to include them in the decision making and to make them feel like they get to pick where this next adventure is going to be alongside us, we really wanted to do that. Okay, so all that aside, of course, we included my parents and what they wanted. But also we were thinking about where is the place where it's going to be not only diverse but integrated? So I'm not sure if I've shared this on the podcast before, but there is a difference between a city that's diverse and a city that is integrated. There can be a place that has a lot of different types of people, but they can be living in segregated communities where they don't really talk to see or interact with one another. And that's kind of how Phoenix is. It seems like, I mean, we have lots of different types of people here in Arizona but where we live, I mean, we know that there's is a huge Latino population, but we hardly ever see them because we just don't live around them. It's super segregated here. So when we were looking for a place, we were looking for a place that was not only diverse, but a place that was also integrated. And in Maryland, they have, out of the five top-most diverse cities, two out of the five of them are in Maryland. So that was a good sign. And then we started to look at the integration rates of the different cities. And that's kind of how we decided on the suburb that we chose. I mean, the one that we really want to live in is too expensive, so we chose a little bit outside of that. And we feel really good about the opportunity for integration and the opportunity for anti-racism and inclusion in the little suburb that we bought a house in. The other reason that we chose Maryland is because it has a big Black population. Like I was telling you before, our kids being mixed race, multiracial, we just really wanted them to be around Black people and around Black culture.

Jasmine Bradshaw

26:00

So I don't know how prevalent this is in other places. But here in Arizona, people are, like, super obsessed with school choice. And I have lots of thoughts and feelings about that, because I used to be a teacher, but it seems like so many people that we live by, and so many people that we know, their kids don't go to the neighborhood school. So pretty much you have to get a voucher, but it's pretty easy to not send your kid to the public school that's down the street for the most part. A lot of the people we know send their kid to school that's like a 15-, 20-minute drive away, which means that the bus can't pick them up because they're outside of the boundaries. And so

they spent a lot of time driving their kids to and from school and to and from their friends' houses because everybody kind of lives all over the place because they just go to school wherever. And that is not, I mean, I know I'll be driving in the car a lot as a mom, because that just comes with motherhood, but I really, really wanted our kids to have an opportunity to go to school and live in the same neighborhood as the people that they go to school with. That was something that I loved growing up. Tons of my friends from school lived down the street from me, and that was so cool to be able to just hop on my bike and go to their houses or them come over to mine. It just felt like the school was a community hub. And I really wanted that for our children.

Carter Bradshaw

27:20

So we started to research schools in Maryland, and we discovered it's not the same as it is here in Arizona. Most kids go to the school that they're assigned to in their neighborhood. So we went through all the schools in the areas we were looking in, and we looked at the demographics of the population. And we compare that to the demographics of the school, and we wanted to find a school that reflected the community and that was integrated.

Jasmine Bradshaw

27:45

Yeah, we like really wanted to make sure that there was a big Black population, because that was one of the reasons why we're moving to Maryland. So we wanted a Black population at their school, but we also wanted to make sure that the white students were not necessarily in the majority. Like we looked at so many different schools, and we thought, "We don't want to just move to Maryland and do the same thing that we would be doing here." I mean, almost everyone in Violet's preschool class here is white, and there are definitely places in Maryland where that is an option. And we wanted to be super intentional about choosing the school first. So we picked the school and then we looked for houses that were only within the boundaries of the schools that we felt comfortable with.

Carter Bradshaw

28:31

Then we looked at the proficiency scores of each of the schools. Even though that doesn't tell the whole story of school, we still think that's important. And after we zeroed in on a few schools that we really loved we started to look at houses in those areas. And we thought if we're really going to do this, we'll need a realtor. And Jasmine, how did you find Mack?

Jasmine Bradshaw

28:51

I literally just started googling realtors in Maryland, and I started watching YouTube videos like "What is it like to live in Maryland?" And "What are the top 10 Things to Do in Maryland?" And from those videos, I found a handful of realtors. And one of the criteria for our realtor is that I really wanted someone who was Black, because I felt like we would be able to be really honest with them about what we were looking for, what our priorities were, and they would be able to find us a house and a place where we would feel comfortable, welcome safe, excited to live. So we found our realtor.

Carter Bradshaw

29:28

That's how we found Mac, and we have to give Mac a shout out. He was the best. His name is Mac McCord. If you're looking to buy a house in Maryland, either look him up or give us a call and we'll give you his info.

Jasmine Bradshaw

29:39

Yeah, just send me an email at hello@firstnamebasis. Seriously, if you are moving to Maryland or moving within Maryland, send me an email because Mac was fantastic to work with. And I mean he got us a smoking deal, too. So we loved our realtor Mac.

Carter Bradshaw

29:54

So we were talking to Mac, he was showing us houses, and we thought we probably ought to go out there and be there physically before we make this, this huge move. So we planned a trip. In July 2021, we flew to the DC area stayed in the neighborhood that we were looking at. And we kind of combined vacation with just testing out the area. We did some sightseeing stuff, visited some museums, loved all of that. But we also took a few days to just go to the park and go grocery shopping and see what it would be like to live there.

Jasmine Bradshaw

30:31

Yes, we recognize that being able to visit the place where you're hoping to move — well, first of all, we recognize that moving in general is a super huge privilege, and that being able to go and visit for an entire week before you go there is also a privilege. So we are so grateful for that opportunity that we had. Because when we were there, I mean, we loved it. We touched down and we're like, “Look at all the trees!” Can you remember?

Carter Bradshaw

30:58

I just didn't know there was a shade of green light coming from where we live.

Jasmine Bradshaw

31:02

Oh, it was so funny. We were talking the other day at dinner with Carter's brother and he said”” this. He called Arizona the “DW L,” the Desert Wasteland. We're laughing. We don't actually think that about Arizona. Arizona is actually very beautiful if you go on hikes here and stuff, but just from living here for so long and having, you know, been in a drought for most of our lives, we loved the green and everything was just, I mean... Okay, so here's a funny story. We're driving around, and every Black person that I saw, I would say, “Oh my gosh, look! There's a Black person! And there's a Black person!” Because that's what we do here in Arizona, because there are so few of us. And my dad turned to me, my dad was driving, and he turned to me in the backseat and he goes, “You want to know what? You don't actually have to point out every single Black person that you see here, because there are a lot of us.” I'm, like, laughing, but I've

just literally never been in a space like that. And thinking that this could be a place where I was going to live... I mean, I've been to predominantly Black cities before and it was amazing, but I didn't think I was going to move there. So I wasn't pointing out every single person it was, it was so great. So like Carter said, when we were there, we did a total combo of sightseeing. We went to the museums. If you listen to my episode from last week, you know that we got to go to the Black History Museum. And it was life changing. I loved it so much. And we also hung out with friends. I got to see my friend Alex, actually got to meet her for the first time. Alex and her little kids, we got our families together, we went into the pool. And it was just a dream. It was so awesome.

Carter Bradshaw

32:46

We loved it so much. We almost bought a house while we were there. We met with Mac and he showed us some places and we found one that we loved. And we were like, "Let's just do it." And we were like minutes away from submitting an offer when we said, "This doesn't feel right. We're being impulsive. We should take some time and kind of wrap up our affairs in Arizona."

Jasmine Bradshaw

33:07

Yeah, it was never the plan to actually buy a house when we were there. We did want to see them because we wanted to make sure that we would feel comfortable and excited about the neighborhoods that we had just seen online. So we went and we saw a few houses and we found one that we loved so much. It was gorgeous. And it was just the right size. And it was a great price. And we were like, "We should buy this!" So we put together an entire offer, and then right before we were about to sign on the dotted line, Mac, our realtor, called us. And he said, "There's another buyer and so we need to get our offer in quickly." And I remember looking at Carter and being like, "Oh no, I feel relieved." Do you remember that?

Carter Bradshaw

33:50

Yeah, we were like we should feel nervous or disappointed. Like, oh, no, we might not get this house. But it was like, "Oh, good."

Jasmine Bradshaw

33:57

Yeah, yeah, it was like, "Oh, phew." Like there's another buyer, so we might not get this house. And that's when we realized, "Okay, we need to pump the brakes. We need to go home and wrap everything up. And then we can move." It just felt too fast. And also, we hadn't even told your family yet. Yeah, we didn't want to, I don't know, we didn't want to like scare everybody telling them we're gonna move across the country and then not do it. So we just wanted to go to DC first and make sure we really liked it and make sure it was the place. So once we almost bought a house, we decided we should probably tell Carter's parents and the rest of his siblings. And so that's what we did as soon as we got home.

Carter Bradshaw

34:35

So we decided to take some time and kind of wrap things up in Arizona and we said, “We'll start really looking after Christmas.” So we did We enjoyed our Christmas and our New Year.

Jasmine Bradshaw

34:48

And we had a big Christmas party with all of our friends, and it was kind of like a goodbye party for ourselves that we threw ourselves.

Carter Bradshaw

34:56

And then we started looking in earnest for houses, and it took us a while. The market was a little slow during the winter months, but then in May, just a couple months ago...

Jasmine Bradshaw

35:08

Yeah, well, first, oh my gosh, we have to tell them about that one house. So there was a house that we loved. It was like, “This is like forever home.” Like, we buy this house and we will never ever ever move again. It was beautiful and felt perfect. And yes, it was expensive. And we, like, it opened up to the force. It just felt...Oh, it was so gorgeous and we wanted it so much. So the asking price, how much did we offer over asking?

Carter Bradshaw

35:37

50?

Jasmine Bradshaw

35:38

Yea, I think we offered 50 over asking. And it sold for \$195,000 over asking. Like we weren't even in the running. We were like, “What? This surreal!” Like after that happened, and we got the news that we didn't get that house, we thought, “Are we even going to move?” We really thought we might not be able to move there, because we, I mean, obviously Maryland is expensive. And the thing is, one of the things that makes it possible for us to move to Maryland is that Arizona's market is actually really bananas right now too. And so it's more expensive in Maryland, but it's really close here in Arizona right now.

Carter Bradshaw

36:20

And then, not that long later, we found this townhouse that seemed to check a lot of the boxes that we'd been looking for. And it wasn't in the exact school district that we zeroed in on. But we started to look more and more into it. And instead of getting outbid by almost \$200,000, we actually got a call from the seller, who called our agent and said, “Hey, they're flexible on the price.” So we thought maybe we should take a second look at this place.

Jasmine Bradshaw

36:51

Yeah, because at first Mack sent us the house, and we really liked it. But we were like, “It's not in the right school.” And we had been so strict about the school that we wanted. There was one school that we wanted so badly. And I went back and forth and was like, “I just don't think it's the right school.” But then when they called and said they were flexible about the price, and I was like, “Okay, let me see about this school.” So I went on their website, and I actually set up a meeting with the principal. If you're moving and you're prioritizing which school your kids are gonna go to, I highly recommend this, because I set up a meeting with the principal, we talked on the phone, and he was amazing. And he told me that he has been prioritizing hiring people of color for their faculty and their staff. And he even hired two new Black administrators for the school. And I was so excited to hear that, because I want obviously our kids to have the diversity and integration in the students, but I also want that for their teachers. Like we said, that's so important, right? So I talked to him about that. And he told me that they have an anti-racist book club. And he told me that after he got my email, he looked into First Name Basis, and he loves what we're doing. And he wants to have us at the school. He said this is so important to him, and something like First Name Basis would be such a good fit for their school. And it was so sweet. He was like, “Obviously, I don't recruit because I'm an elementary school principal, but if I could recruit a family to come to our school, I would recruit your family.” And that was...it was amazing.

Carter Bradshaw

38:22

That's kind of what we're looking for as a community, where we felt wanted and not like, like, we're hurting everyone's feelings all the time.

Jasmine Bradshaw

38:31

Yeah, yeah. We just want a place where our kids, and where we feel, like, excited to be there and where people want to hear what we have to say and where people aren't gritting their teeth every time we drive by or every time we go on a walk and see their super racist Halloween decorations. So we weren't planning on a townhouse, but it turns out we're like really excited about living in a townhouse.

Carter Bradshaw

38:53

I'm very excited. You had to watch “You've Got Mail” to get excited about it.

Jasmine Bradshaw

38:57

Yeah. Think of, what is her name? Meg Ryan? Yes. Meg Ryan's house and “You've Got Mail.” It looks like that. It's like this beautiful dark red brick and oh, it's just it has so many windows. There's so much light. It's just it's such a great, the layout is great. The location is great. The house is beautiful. And the yard —

Carter Bradshaw

39:20

Oh, I'm just excited to not have to take care of the yard.

Jasmine Bradshaw

39:23

Yeah, here in Arizona. We have grass in the front and in the back. It's super expensive because of the water but it's also so much work to maintain two big lawns and so we're excited that we have to do zero yard work. Like all the grass that is surrounding us is communal, so we're definitely paying for it and an HOA but I don't really care about that.

Carter Bradshaw

39:43

I'd rather at least have Saturdays to myself.

Jasmine Bradshaw

39:47

So we found the house in May, we closed at the beginning of June, and we're moving in July. We're moving in less than a month. Our official move date is July 19. And we're actually driving there.

Carter Bradshaw

40:01

it's gonna be a long drive, but we decided we'll take it slow, do just a few hours a day, and make a lot of stops and try and enjoy some stops along the way. Just hanging out as a family.

Jasmine Bradshaw

40:14

Yeah, it's gonna be like a big family road trip. We're gonna drive for 10 days, and we're gonna stop at a bunch of places and see a bunch of people that we know and love. And it will be so cool. Some... I mean, there's so many states on the list that I've never even been to, so I'm really, really excited about that. But one of the other questions that a lot of you had for us was about work. And I mean, this is my job. So thank goodness, I can do this from anywhere, all I need is a computer and a microphone. So I don't really have to worry about work so much.

Carter Bradshaw

40:46

I'm an attorney. And I still have some cases that I need to wrap up here in Arizona. And I can do that mostly remotely. Occasionally, I'll have to go to court or to a meeting in person. But for the most part, I can do everything remotely. So I'll finish up my cases here. And then I'm exploring options out there. And I'm excited to see what new opportunities come our way.

Jasmine Bradshaw

41:11

Yeah, something that came out of the pandemic is that most things that Carter would have to go to in person, like hearings or depositions, can be done over Zoom these days. So he's been doing that a lot. And so he'll probably work remotely for the first little bit while we're there, and then he's going to explore something new. Right now he does personal injury law. And as much as it has been such a blessing for our family, it's not necessarily his passion. So he's looking into stuff

that he's more excited about. And one thing that we're super stoked about is that DC has a really big deaf population.

Carter Bradshaw

41:42

Yeah, I learned sign language from my friend, Chad Kennedy, years ago. And I love deaf culture. And I love sign language, I became an interpreter and did that throughout my undergrad years. I haven't used it as much since going to law school; that kind of took up all my time and attention. And then I wanted to try and find opportunities to serve Deaf clients here, but haven't done that a lot. So I'm excited to see if there are opportunities out there to get back into the deaf community and serve them the best that I can.

Jasmine Bradshaw

42:20

Yeah, I mean, how cool would it be if you are someone who is deaf, to be able to have a lawyer who understands exactly how to explain things to you. I mean, the law to me is really confusing, to anyone usually is pretty confusing. And so to have a lawyer who understands both your culture, your language, and what you're going through in terms of like anything legal that you need, we're just hoping that there'll be opportunities out there for that. Carter is also really excited about civil rights law, we've looked into, like, immigration and voting policies, and just so many things. I mean, I have told him before that if I wasn't an anti-racist podcaster, I would want to be a lawyer, there's so much change you can make with a law degree. So we're really excited for the opportunities that we'll have in DC. One of the other questions we got is whether or not this move is permanent? And I mean, we'd like to say, "Yes."

Carter Bradshaw

43:18

Yeah, sure is. We don't know the future. But that's the plan. We want to do this for the long haul.

Jasmine Bradshaw

43:24

Yeah, I mean, it was two years in the making. So hopefully, we like it. But we're hoping to stay for a long time. We want our kids — Violet has one more year of preschool before kindergarten, and we would love for our kids to be able to grow up in the same area, kind of all throughout their grade school and middle high school years. So yeah, we're hoping to stay for a long time, put down roots and really form community with the people there. We're really excited about the opportunity for community and just feeling like we can be more ourselves in that community. Another question that we got is what are we most excited about? What are you most excited about?

Carter Bradshaw

44:03

Just a new chapter; kind of the unknown. I feel like there, like I said, there are so many things that I love about Arizona and we'll miss, but it's exciting to think about just starting fresh and meeting new people and exploring new career opportunities. I just think it's unknown, so it's a little bit scary, but it's also pretty exciting.

Jasmine Bradshaw

44:30

Yeah, I think I'm excited because this feels like something that we've really chosen for ourselves. Like we researched it, I mean, ad nauseam. We've researched it and talked about it, you know, the same, ad nauseam. So I think just being able to be our family in a different place, and really test out how committed we are to the values that we've set forth for ourselves and trying to figure out what it looks like to be us in a new place, it's kind of like reinventing yourself. And as much as we have loved living in Arizona and around so many people that we love, so much of where we lived was kind of chosen for us because so many people that we know are here, which leads me into well, I guess I should say the other things I'm excited about are the food, I'm so excited to try all the different types of food. And just the opportunities for our kids. Like, there's so much super close. You could go to the beach in a couple of hours, you could be in New York in a couple of hours. There's just day trips abound. And Arizona is cool, too. We've been to so many places around here. But we've been to so many places around here. So I'm just excited for a brand new fresh start for our road trips. And for our family. It will be super cool. And I'm excited that my parents are coming with us. I'm so grateful. I honestly, I don't think I could move across the country unless my parents were coming. Like if we told them we're thinking about moving and they're like, "Great, bye," I probably would have thought twice about it, I think. And the last question is, what are we going to miss? What are we gonna miss about Arizona?

Carter Bradshaw

46:10

I'm gonna miss the heat and the dust and the scorpions. I'm just kidding. I think there will be times when I'll miss the heat. I think the East Coast winters, I'm sure, are going to be an adjustment. But no, I think I think I'll miss my family, my friends, especially my mom and dad. That's what I'll miss the most.

Jasmine Bradshaw

46:34

Yeah, of course, I will miss my friends and my family, my family who's staying. And my friends who are staying and Carter's family, I'll just, I'll really miss the people. Of course, the people that we know and love, and almost being able to go to Disneyland so close. I know this is the second time I'm talking about Disneyland, but this past year, we got annual passes, because we knew that we were leaving so that we could go as much as we could before we moved across the country, and it almost feels like it backfired because I love it even more now. We've been like a bunch of times. So I'll miss kind of how easy it is to go to Disneyland. And I'll miss how easy it is to see one of my very best friends lives in Nevada. So that's only five hours from us. And then my other best friend lives like 30 minutes away, so I'll miss being able to get together with them. I don't want to cry on here, but I will miss them so so much. I know I said last question. But this is really the last question. What are we most nervous about with this move? I think the thing that I'm most nervous about is obviously like making friends. It's a lot of work to make friends. I'm super excited because I already have some connections, but making new friends...I just really, really want to meet awesome people. And I hope they think I'm awesome too. But the other thing is our daughter Violet, she's just about to turn five, and I know this is going to be such a huge change for her. And she's so used to living so close with so many people that she knows that it's

just going to take a minute, I think, for her to adjust, but also her and my mother-in-law, I mean, your mom, Carter, they just have this really special magical relationship. And the idea of her being across the country from her granny is, it's really hard to even think about.

Carter Bradshaw

48:31

Yeah, it's the same for me. Our kids are great, and they're resilient. And I think they're gonna be fine. But I do worry that it'll take some time to adjust. And I hope that they're okay. We'll do the best we can to support them in this big change.

Jasmine Bradshaw

48:48

All right, that is everything we've got for you. Thank you for joining us for this giant announcement and this big adventure, please follow along on Instagram at First Named Basis. I'm going to be packing, so send me all of your tips. We're going to be driving forever, so send us all of your audio book recommendations. And we're just so excited. We're so excited to go on this journey together and to take you along with us. We love you. We are so grateful that you're so excited for us and with us. And yeah, let me know if you have any more questions. I don't know if this is one of the longest episodes we've ever made. But thanks for being here.

My friends, thank you for being here. I hope you can feel how much I believe in you and how deeply I know that when we work together we can make real change in our communities. Any of the books or podcasts or articles that I referenced will be linked in the show notes. If you are looking for more detailed notes, be sure to head over to our Patreon community. On our Patreon site I provide all of the outlines that I use to make the episodes and everything is linked there so you don't have to take furious notes while you are listening. And don't forget to join us over on Instagram at [firstname.basis](https://www.instagram.com/firstname.basis). If you're interested in partnering with First Name Basis or doing some kind of collaboration, please email us at hello@firstnamebasis.org All right, have a great week my friends, and I will talk to you again soon.