



## Ian Matthew Shaffer

February 17, 1989 - June 22, 2025

Ian Matthew Shaffer, beloved father, fiancé, son, and friend, passed away on June 22, 2025. He was 36 years old.

Born in Seattle on February 17, 1989, Ian lived boldly and loved deeply. He was a man who defied simple definition—a fierce protector with a tender heart, a quick-witted smartass with the soul of something older and bigger than this world. His presence was magnetic, his energy unforgettable, and knowing him left a mark on everyone he met.

Ian is survived by his three children—Scarlett, Halen, and Leo—each of whom he loved fully and without condition. His face would light up with pride whenever he spoke about them. One of the most difficult choices he ever made was putting distance between himself and his children—not because he wanted to, but because he believed he had to. He was determined to become something more for them... to become the best version of himself.

They were a part of his every day. No matter the miles between them, he carried them in his heart constantly—always quick with a sweet story from their younger years or big dreams for their future. He looked forward to the day he could return home and show them who he had become. That hope—though never realized—remained one of his strongest guiding forces.

He is also survived by his father, Matt—a man Ian fiercely loved and looked up to, even when he forgot to say it out loud. And by his stepmother, Andrea, who he'd readily admit he could be a butthead to—but whom he deeply loved and respected. He also leaves behind extended family who remained important to him throughout his life.

He is also survived by his fiancée, Chrissy. Although their relationship faced challenges, they used them to learn, to heal, and to grow. Between them lived a deep connection, intense passion, and a love greater than most people ever experience in a lifetime. It was the kind of love that sears itself into the bone—soul-deep and impossible to replicate. They fought for each other. And together, they weathered storms, kept showing up for one another, chose forgiveness, and chose each other—again and again—until the end. Or at least... the end for now. Until they are able to be joined again.

Although Ian, like all of us, faced personal battles, he never stopped fighting. In the moments when the world grew loud and life became its hardest, he still made others laugh. He still offered protection. He still loved in a way that left a permanent imprint on the hearts of those closest to him.

He wasn't the type to fake anything. Ian was real—raw, flawed, unfiltered. Sarcastic, hilarious, and unexpectedly gentle beneath the chaos. He had a way of making people feel seen without needing to say much. He could change the air in a room with a glance, and he made every moment count in a way that only Ian could.

He had plans. He had goals. He had growth. He had love—so much love, even when he wasn't sure what to do with it. And though his story ended far too soon, the impact he left behind will be felt forever.

He also leaves behind Nova, his cat and unlikely companion. Due to his

allergies, Ian never imagined himself a “cat person”—but Nova had other plans. From the moment she chose him, the bond was sealed.

In honoring Ian’s life, we remember not just who he was, but who he was becoming. A private celebration of life has already been held, but those who loved him know: his story isn’t over. It continues every time his name is spoken, every time someone laughs too loud, protects too fiercely, or loves too deeply. Ian can still be celebrated—every day—by keeping his memory alive.

He was worth loving. And he was loved—deeply, loudly, and still.

# Tribute Wall



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