



Kathryn & Kate





Hello!

We're Kathryn (in the hat) and Kate. Thank you for taking the time to look through our book and learn about us. Hopefully, the following pages will let you peek into our lives and the dreams we have for our family.

## We're a strange pair...

The chances of us meeting were pretty slim. From two different countries and completely different career paths, we were never going to just run into each other. So we met over the internet in 2007 and each found someone unexpected. Our solid bond and the playfulness we share is at the core of who we are for each other.



Neither of us can resist a good project. Kate was remodeling a 1930s house outside London when Kathryn moved in and we haven't really stopped since then! We're now living in our third renovated house. Besides hands-on construction, we enjoy cooking and gardening together. In the evenings, we relax by cuddling up to watch a show or by playing a board game from our quirky collection, such as Haggis or Mille Bornes.



Anyone visiting our house immediately notices that we really (really!) like books and music. Kate reads a ton of sci-fi, speculative fiction, and detective novels. Kathryn is drawn to historical fiction, memoirs, and poetry. Solo. Kathryn mainly listens to folk and musical theater, but has enjoyed exploring the many, many genres Kate's shared with her!



When we get the chance, we relish exploring new places and old, favorite haunts. Living together in Europe for nine years, we car-camped around different countries, hunting for history and delicious food and drink. Some of our favorite places were Paris (where we had an amazing Lebanese dinner), Bergen (fabulous coffee and we loved the 9th century Viking ship), and Ljubljana (where we drank some phenomenal Traminec wine!).



## About Kathryn



Hiking in Strathcona Provincial Park.

I was born in the Midwest, but my family moved to Washington State when I was four years old, so I consider myself a Pacific Northwesterner. I grew up with my little sister Ashleigh, surrounded by our parents' extended network of educator friend-colleagues. I really value that I was always encouraged to learn more about what I found fascinating. I continue to be a curious person to this day!



Posing for my ballet class photo.

Reading with Dad.



At Disneyland with my sister.



I work as a program manager at a local community college, supporting professional-technical courses. Outside of work, the natural world and working with my hands ground me. When I was a kid, some of my very favorite activities were building forts and climbing tall trees. Now I love making art and going for rambling, nowhere-in-particular walks.

I wouldn't call myself shy, but I definitely prefer chatting with someone one-on-one about something we're

both genuinely interested in to crowded, loud social occasions. I think my friends and co-workers would describe me as thoughtful, honest, and calm (if they could only see the busyness in my head!). I like to think ahead, understand the "why", and see the beauty in the everyday.

For fun, I enjoy reading, watching historical dramas (*Downton Abbey* is definitely a guilty pleasure), and cuddling with Kate. Knitting and logic puzzles are pretty great too!



Climbing trees in Florida with Mom.



Meeting goats with my parents.



Working on our media cabinet.

## Tidbits

Artichokes are one of my all-time favorite foods. And now I know they're really easy to grow!

I volunteered in a Roma community center in Romania for two months as part of my graduate degree.

I adore Brandi Carlile's music and have been listening to her since a friend gave me a bootleg CD in college.

Occasionally I find myself saying "oofa" under my breath (usually when something feels like a bit much), even though I haven't lived in the Midwest for over 36 years.

As a six-year-old, I mounted a schoolyard protest because everyone thought I was five.

Kate says, "Kathryn is an amazing inspiration. She is creative and artistic, insightful and incredibly loving. She takes the time to really understand challenges, and brings her compassion and thoughtful approach to every part of life. She cares so deeply for all those around her, and is supportive beyond words."



With Mom in Windsor, UK.



At a folk life museum in Norway.



Hanging out with our friends' daughter after Bristol Pride.



On the beach in Cornwall.



Planting asparagus in our garden.



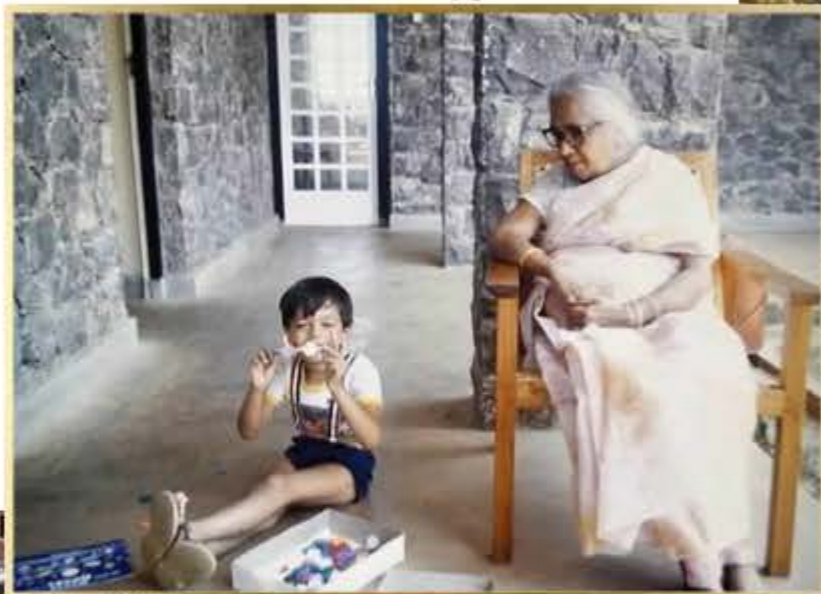
Enjoying a dragon on Vancouver Island.

I was born just north of London, England, in a small town. My parents had moved there from London partly for work, and partly because the town was a better place to raise a family. They'd moved there with my older sister a few years before I was born.

Growing up my family spent many of our holidays in the Lake District, hiking in the mountains there. As a child I was always pretty grumpy about being out on the mountains, but these days I can't resist them!

## About Kate

With my grandmother in Sri Lanka



Daddy in the Lake District



Working at an event at the Portland International Raceway



Little me!



My grandmother visited England once. Here she is with my mother and me.



Fixing my motorbike.

My family always encouraged curiosity and interest in the world, along with a love of reading and music. I still love listening to music (and sometimes choose to relive being woken early by my mother's Abba albums), and still love reading.

I've been very excited about Martha Wells' most recent series, each of which I've devoured as soon as I can lay my hands on them.

While I'm often quiet while I get to know people, my friends will tell you that I'm anything but quiet when you know me, which probably explains why I've recently taken up singing... Maybe it also explains how I ended up being an ER nurse and a YouTube presenter. I have the science and technology beat on a clean transportation channel run by my best friend!

## Tidbits

In Pride, London, with my  
Morris Minor

I bought my first car when I was about 13 years old after the owner found me lying under it.. I still have it!

My parents always said you should repair things rather than replace them. Last year I bought and repaired what's now our record player.

I started making videos with a friend in the early 2000s, and once made a pilot episode for a TV show.

In 2013 I started writing a novel for National Novel Writing Month - this year I finally finished the first draft!

I love old computers, and have a small collection of vintage machines. My most prized one is the processor my dad designed.

Kathryn says, "Kate is absolutely fascinated by the world. She is curious (particularly about technology), hilarious, and deeply loyal. The daughter of a nurse and a computer designer, she is through and through her parents' child, combining heartfelt care for others with a real passion for understanding how things work."



A school trip to an outdoor skills center



With my mother for her 80th Birthday.



In Vancouver for our 15th wedding anniversary



At a concert at the Butchart Gardens in B.C. Canada.



Repairing a 1980s CD Player



## Our Wedding

We celebrated our marriage in 2008 in the Lake District, where Kate's family spent holidays and where we first traveled together as a couple. Friends and family joined us at an old lakeside hotel from all over the world. On the day of the wedding, we were blessed by torrents of rain (some even dripped on Kathryn during the ceremony). We took it as a good sign! Afterwards, we danced the night away at a nearby pub.







## Kathryn's Family

Kathryn's mom and dad divorced when she was sixteen. Both married again, each to a wonderful woman. They all still live nearby and we meet up at least once a month with each of them. One of our favorite ways to hang out is to grab some coffee, go for a long walk, and talk about everything under the sun. Kathryn's sister now lives in Texas with a small menagerie!



## Kate's Family

Kate's family still live in England, and we try and head over roughly every two years to see them, although Kate made a special trip over to celebrate her mum's 80th birthday in 2023. Kate's dad unfortunately passed away in 2005. When we head over we try and visit both Kate's mum and her sister (who hates photos, and no doubt also hates this one!), along with Kate's (now grown) nephews. Wherever we stay, we know we'll get great food because her entire family loves cooking!

# Our Home



Over the next couple of years, we tore down walls, built stud-work, wired, plumbed, and decorated.

We bought our house in 2017. It was an old rental that had seen better days, but it had a big backyard and was in a neighborhood we liked. So, we rolled up our sleeves.



Now we have a comfortable, cozy space that's a pleasure to come home to each day. It's been fun to put our own touch on the place - we particularly like the interesting angles, splashes of sunlight and the open kitchen.





## Garden & Chooks

We were both raised by avid gardeners, so perhaps it's no surprise that before we even finished this house, we started planting things in the backyard! It's the biggest one we've had and we've crammed every inch. Helping us along is our small, but very entertaining, flock of chooks (chickens). They're always ready to do a little weeding and plenty of eating, especially if it's a vegetable we're planning to cook!



## Our Neighborhood

We love our neighborhood - it's not far from our city's historic downtown and port. Almost every day we go for a wandering walk. We have plenty of choices for walking routes, including a large wooded park, streets with views of the bay, and tours of the many little free libraries our neighbors have set up. We enjoy chatting with our nearest neighbors and visiting the bakery just down the street, where they still sell the dinosaur cookies Kathryn adored as a kid!



Kate and a local friend stripping off the roof of our house.



Two of our closest friends and their kids when we all went to Bristol Pride.



A friend of Kathryn's since college sharing a pic of her youngest with us.



Kathryn and one of her oldest friends inspired by the musical CATS.



Kate with her friends from the YouTube channel

## Friends

Our circle of friends is small but mighty! These are folks we've known for years. We show up for each other whether it's building work, celebrating a milestone, or just being there to listen.

## Food



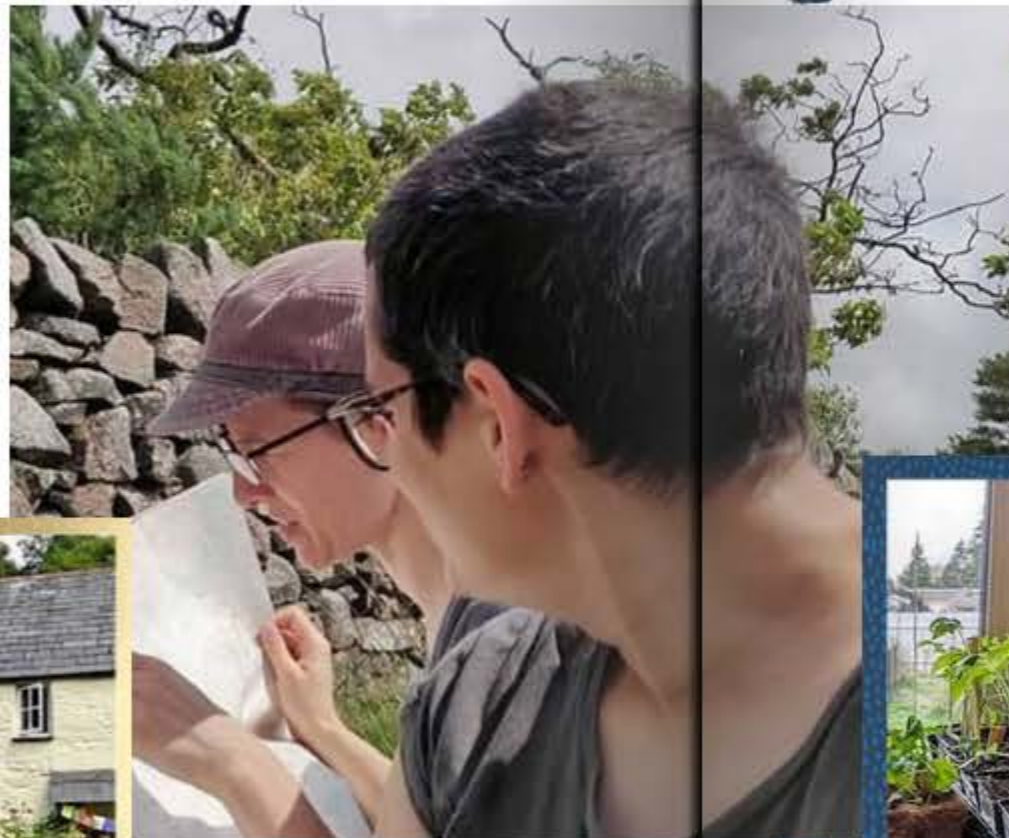
We love to cook, particularly with fruits and vegetables we grow ourselves or buy from our local Farmer's Market. We make dinner from scratch most nights and always put together something special (waffles, pancakes, muffins, etc.) on Sunday mornings.

## Favorite Traditions

We bring a small live tree into the house for Christmas each year and top it with a robin Kathryn made. Kate's family has always put a robin on their holiday tree! Kathryn and her mom celebrate Solstice by exchanging candles every year.



One of our favorite vacation activities is walking especially up hills and mountains. If at all possible, the rule is to figure out how to get back a different way than we walked out. This was Kate's dad's rule and we stick to it!



When the weather is at its greyest in February, we get overexcited about the possibilities of spring and order far too many types of heritage seeds. Kate hates to thin seedlings - we end up with A LOT of little green starts to plant out.



We both love the ocean and the beach. Whether it's sand or rock, the Atlantic or the Pacific, we both have big silly grins on our faces when we have a chance to visit the wind and the waves.



Every couple of years we fly to Cornwall in England to visit Kate's mum. Staying over there wouldn't be complete without fish and chips, plenty of tea, and a visit to the beach (rain or shine!).



It's always teatime! We wrap up each day with a hot (herbal) cuppa. Kate's choice is rosehip and Kathryn's been drinking Sleepytime since she was a kid. On Sunday mornings we share a loose leaf black tea brewed in a teapot we received as a wedding gift.



## Dreams for Our Child & Open Adoption Aspirations

We're dedicated to creating a home and a family in which our child is not only deeply loved, but also knows through and through that they can be their whole, true self. We both believe that it's easier to be yourself if there are plenty of opportunities for curious exploration, fun, and self-expression. With our many interests and joint sense of humor, we know that we can share these opportunities with our child. As our child figures out the world, we also want to provide a safe harbor for them to return to whenever they want.

Everyone is a wonderful mash-up of the people they come from and the people who surround them every day. While we know our child will have challenges (like everyone does), they will also benefit from the strengths they carry from both their birth family and from everyone who helps to raise them. We hope that our relationship with our child's family of origin will be one in which everyone can be honest, open, and caring. We also want to ground our relationship, and the ways that we navigate the ups and downs of communication, in our shared love for our child. We hope that we can all develop trust as well as the ability to communicate needs clearly and with compassion.

We're excited to be there as our child grows into themselves and finds their place in their full family tree - a tree that includes their family of origin, us, and the people they choose.

