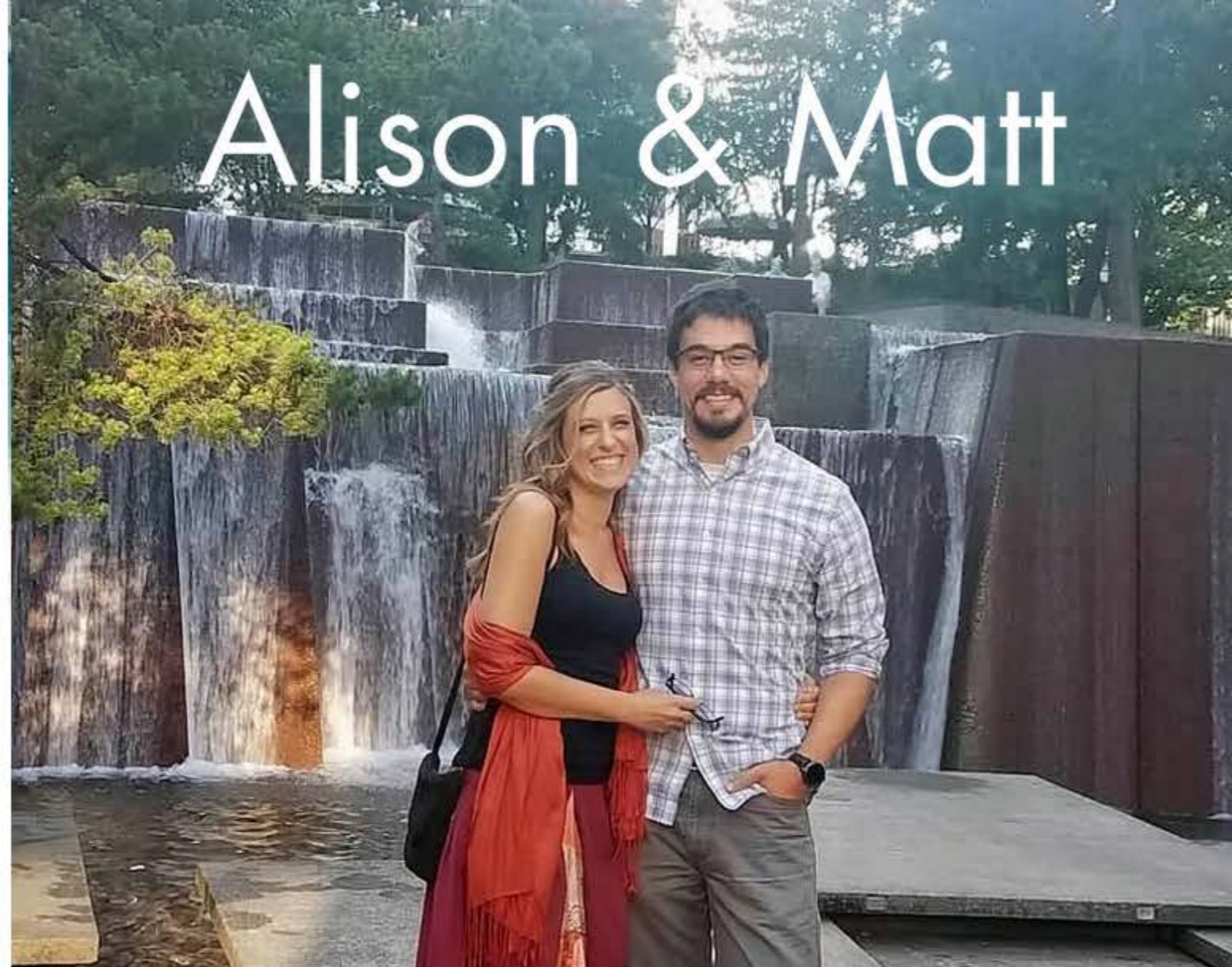




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Alison & Matt

Start a capture



**Welcome to our book -
we're excited to meet you!**

Hi! We're Alison and Matt and were excited about growing our family through adoption. Thank you for taking time to read about us!

We met through a mutual friend in 2011 and have been married since July 2017. If you asked our friends what drew us together, they'd likely tell you it was our silliness. Alison loves puns and dad jokes, and Matt has gotten punnier over the years, so we constantly make each other groan-laugh.

When we're not working, we like being outside, reading or playing with our rescue dog, Eddie. We also enjoy bike rides, playing board games, having backyard cook-outs, hiking/camping, and cuddling on the couch to Netflix or while listening to records.

Alison really likes nesting or light home improvement projects. Though she doesn't consider herself to be artistic, she likes to think about how she can make the house cozier and more unique.

Matt loves to be out in nature hiking, mushroom hunting, or playing games like disc golf with friends. He also loves to read and write, exploring his imagination.



A few of our favorite things:
Board games together and with friends
Cooking together
Cuddling with Eddie on the couch
Hiking
Camping
Eating/drinks with friends
Traveling



It was a magical weekend, surrounded by friends and family, laughter and love.



We got married in Silver Falls State Park in July of 2017.



A few of our favorite things:

- Board games together and with friends
- Cooking together
- Cuddling with Eddie on the couch
- Trying new things



- Hiking
- Camping
- Eating/drinks with friends
- Traveling

Alison

Occupation:
Reproductive
Health Coordinator

Hobbies/interests:
READING,
cuddling,
being in nature,
ladies' night in



Fun Facts:

- My favorite animals are donkeys
- I actually enjoy cleaning
- I want to be a back up singer
- I won the blood & guts award on my dive team when I was 13 for being willing to try any dive, even though I was really bad at all of them!

I grew up in a small town in Ohio with my parents and my sister, Rachel. Every summer we took a vacation to visit my mom's family in Portland. Oregon became my happy place so I jumped at the chance to move here after grad school. It was one of the best decisions I've ever made. In fact, I'd say the three best decisions I've ever made are moving to Portland, rescuing Eddie, and dating/marrying Matt.

My sister is 5 years younger than me, and came into my life when we adopted her as a newborn. She and I were pretty different. I was timid - she was bold. I was happy to sit and read - she needed to move. It made for a lot of fights as we were growing up, but always had each other's backs. The fact that Rachel is adopted doesn't have any bearing on our relationship, she's just my sister. The one I grew up with, competed with, played silly games with, and protected as only a big sister can. She still lives in Ohio but we keep in touch as much as we can. She has two kids, Max who is fifteen and Olivia who is 5. I love them with all my heart.



My parents are also still in Ohio, but we talk on the FaceTime almost every week, sharing stories and laughing. Even though we live far away from each other, I can't imagine my life without them.

I have a close group of girlfriends, and we call ourselves the bridge club - even though we don't play bridge, have never played bridge, and never plan on playing bridge. When we first started getting together, we thought maybe we'd start, but then had too much fun drinking wine and chatting. Nowadays we don't get together as much as we'd like to, but we've set aside one weekend year for bridge club weekend, and it is precious to us.

One of the most important aspects of my life is our dog Eddie. Eddie came into my life as a foster before Matt and I started dating. The first night I had Eddie, he fell asleep in my lap; and that was it. From then on he went with me wherever I could take him, my constant companion. He's fifteen now! And amazing with kids.



Matt

Occupation: Technical Writer
and Aircraft Installation Support
(I write manuals and install
equipment on airplanes and flight
simulators)

Hobbies:

Music
Reading
Writing
Hiking/Foraging
Games (Board and Video)
Travel



Fun Facts:

- I enjoying baking breads
- I was never on a plane before the age of 14
- I have an artistic streak
- I didn't learn how to whistle until I was 26
- I love to watch animated shorts and films



My parents, Barry and Rita, had three children prior to me: my brothers, Andy and Pat (eleven and nine years older than me), and my sister, Amanda (two years older). I looked up immensely to my brothers, who were for the most part my role models, teaching me skills, honing my interests, showing me how to act and think as I grew up. My sister was also a role model, but we were more friends/partners-in-crime due to the closeness of our ages. However, since we shared so much more time together, I am closer to her than my brothers (they were leaving for college around the time I was ten).

My parents provided an amazing environment and support structure for all of us our entire lives. Upon reflection, they have given us balance in most aspects of life, which perhaps stems from their personality differences - my mother is bubbly, quick to conversation and compliment, while my father is more reserved, yet still kind and thoughtful.

My family now lives in many different states - parents and Andy still in CO, Pat in TX, Amanda in CA, and myself in OR - but I keep up with them regularly through the phone, zoom calls, and trips/visits.



Out Home & Neighborhood



As soon as we moved in, we painted the main wall in the house blue - a family tradition that we started at our first apartment together. Alison loves color, so much of the art in the house is rainbow or some variation upon bright colors. Matt also painted a sunset mountain-scape on one wall in our bedroom, which reminds him of Colorado.



We bought our house in Milwaukie, a suburb of Portland, in March 2018. It's a medium-size house with a large backyard - plenty of room to play with Eddie and kiddos.



Favorite Traditions

Although we aren't religious, we both grew up in families steeped in traditional holidays. Matt's family was Catholic and celebrates Christmas, Easter, etc. Alison's family is Jewish and celebrates Hanukkah, Passover, etc. We keep the holiday spirit but make it more about connection and appreciation of family and friends.



We also have a large group of friends that celebrate "Friendsgiving" annually the weekend before Thanksgiving. It's a potluck-style meal that around 25 people contribute to, and always ends up being one of the highlights of our year.



Dreams for our Child

We want our child to develop the curiosity to try anything that they want to, and to learn that failure is not an indication that they should abandon something, but rather just a part of the learning process. We want them to develop confidence, but temper it with kindness and humility. We want them to be able to reach deep and find humor in situations to help them power through adversity and maintain perspective.

We'll introduce them to the activities and experiences that we enjoy, like camping, reading, board games, etc. If/when possible we'll also take them traveling. We believe that education comes both from books and experiences, so we will support any activity they want to try, and encourage exploring anything that interests them.

Our child will be supported to be their full selves, no matter what.



Open Adoption Aspirations

Our hopes for open adoption are that we find and form a family for life. We will love and parent our child no matter what. We also want to form a connection with the birth family that will endure, and the best way we know to do that is through openness and kindness.

