



**Corbin & Matthew**



SFLY051114-347





MATTHEW

Corbin



We're Corbin & Matthew. We are humbled to have the opportunity to share our stories and our lives with you.





We met in 2011. At the time, we were both living in Texas and teaching pre-kindergarten. Corbin admired Matthew's teaching abilities, so he reached out and asked for advice. Shortly thereafter, our classrooms were sharing books and writing each other letters, and our friendship quickly evolved. We bonded over a passion for children's literature and celebrity gossip.

After a trip to Seattle in spring 2013, we started dating. Immediately we knew that we would last because our relationship was founded on a strong friendship and common values of justice, joy, and community.

Matthew proposed to Corbin in January 2015. In 2016, we got married on a night that was filled with friends, families, dancing, and all the very best pop hits.

# OUR STORY





We share a common love for Texas, Disney, and Britney Spears.

We enjoy going to yoga, and reading books. In fact, we are both members of two book clubs.

We love to host our friends and family at our house for themed dinner parties.



Our time together is filled with lots of laughter, which we think we are good at, and dancing, which we know we are not. We enjoy going to the movies and working on puzzles. We also love to share our interests with each other. Corbin brings Matthew to the ballet, and Matthew teaches him about tennis.





My mom is from England, and most of my family lives there. I have over 50 cousins that all live in the same town.



I am a middle child. My mom and two brothers, James and Harvey, live in Atlanta.



## Corbin

I grew up in Atlanta, Georgia. As a child, I spent my time having long conversations with my mom during tea time, which connected me to my British heritage, exploring the depths of my imagination, and reading books. I always loved school, which led me to becoming a pre-kindergarten teacher in the Lone Star State. As a teacher, I discovered the infinite potential of children, and I decided that I wanted to be an educator for the rest of my life. With Matthew, I have grown roots and made a home in the Pacific Northwest.

At the University of Georgia, I studied art history. I can spend hours in art museums; in particular, I appreciate contemporary and modern art.



When I graduated college, I moved to San Antonio to teach pre-kindergarten as a Teach For America corps member.





The Avett Brothers are one of my favorite bands; their music reminds me of friendship. I have seen them in concert seven times.



Snail mail is a personal passion - even going to the post office to pick new stamps is an exciting excursion for me.



I enjoy exercising - in particular spin and yoga classes. If the weather is hot enough, I also love to kayak.



As an assistant principal at a dual language school, I am able to speak Spanish every day.





# MATTHEW

Kansas City was home for me for the first eighteen years of my life, followed by a decade in Houston, Texas that truly shaped the person I am now. Being hopelessly and mercilessly uncoordinated from birth, my childhood hobbies took a decidedly more artistic turn in the form of classical piano and musical theater. From an early age, I learned the art of hosting from my mother, who knew how to take moments as different as our annual holiday gatherings or simple Saturday morning pancakes for my friends and create a cherished ritual. I am still trying to replicate her magic to this day. After graduating college, I joined Teach for America, which led me to the dual loves that drive my life now: my incredible husband Corbin and the sacred craft of teaching.



My brother, Justin lives with his family a short drive from our home. I moved to Seattle in large part to be close to him, although I try not to let that go to his head. One of the benefits of this proximity is the time we get to spend with our nieces.



Cooking is a big way I share love. I was taught on a lot of Italian classics, like gnocchi and risotto, and those are still some of my favorites to return to in times of stress.

Many students I have partnered with and their families remain some of my greatest friends in the city. Among my first students, these 5th graders constantly remind me that I'm not as cool as I think I am.







I have been practicing yoga for about 8 years, and became a certified instructor 3 years ago. I mostly do it for exercise, although I'm not above a party trick or two.



I've always loved organizing a group costume with my friends. When available, I'll usually enter us into a costume contest, all of which we've lost handily.



Although I hung up my comedy and tragedy masks long ago, I still enjoy going to a musical, as they capture my love of storytelling.



I studied Classics in college, culminating in a study abroad in Athens. In this photo, I was in an inexplicable phase in my life where I felt the need to jump in all photos.







Our house is filled with memories of Texas, children's literature, photos of the people we love, and the music of a record player.

We have built a home by welcoming friends and family to dinner and themed parties, completing jigsaw puzzles, quietly reading books, gardening, and having our own dance parties.



*Our Home*





# Our Neighborhood



We feel honored to call Southeast Seattle home as we are able to live and work there. Southeast Seattle is a diverse region of the city that provides the comfort of a small neighborhood and the flare of an urban community. There are an abundance of parks, restaurants, coffee shops, and other places for people to gather.

From our home, it is also a short walk to a friends house, the school Matthew teaches at, or the light rail, which enables us easy access to the entire city.

We are privileged to have established firm roots in this community and call it our home.





Each August we take an annual trip with our friends, Nick and Sara, to enjoy quality time together and to explore new locales. To Sara's chagrin, there are ALWAYS matching t-shirts.



We love to celebrate New Year's Eve. We spend the day reflecting on the year and cataloguing it with lists of our favorite songs, movies, and books.



In November, we host Friendsgiving to enjoy a feast inspired by Bon Appétit and share our gratitude with friends. In December, we travel to celebrate Friends' Christmas.

In the summer, we make Summer Bingo Boards to set goals for the season, try new things, and spend time with our friends.



During the summer, we love to visit Whidbey Island with friends. While we are there we relax, read, play board games, and make delicious meals.



We love Christmas. We decorate our house and invite friends over for Gingerbread Wars, a house-making contest. Some years we celebrate with family and other years it is just us; sometimes we relax at home and other times we seek the sun.







## OUR FRIENDS

We are so fortunate to have so many friends that truly feel like family. Our friends shape us, and support us. We have a close circle of friends in Seattle with whom we celebrate life's big events and enjoy ordinary afternoons. We also have friends that live across the United States, who provide us with much joy, and with whom we are often eager to jump on a plane and visit.

## OUR FAMILY

Corbin's family lives in Atlanta and England and Matthew's family lives in the Midwest and Seattle. With the support of technology, we are able to stay connected over the miles. We also travel to visit them. We especially enjoy traveling to Kansas City on Thanksgiving to celebrate with Matthew's extended family. Matthew's parents visit Seattle several times a year. Corbin's family also enjoys visiting the Pacific Northwest. We are so happy that our families have also been able to build a relationship with each other as it has enabled us to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas together as one family.







## Dreams for Our Child

We hope that our child knows and takes pride in all aspects of their identities, and that our child feels comfort in sharing and creating their personal story of who they are. We hope that our child can harness their internal strength to continuously learn and grow. Our child will be surrounded by a community of individuals that will support, encourage, and celebrate them for their uniqueness, and remind our child that they will always be loved for exactly who they are.

We hope that our child is fulfilled, understands their infinite potential, and recognizes their responsibility to make our world a better and more just place.

## OPEN ADOPTION ASPIRATIONS

We are choosing open adoption because we believe in the importance of our child being connected to their birth family. We want our child to know with confidence that we love them and their birth family loves them. We want our child to know their history and heritage because knowing your past allows you to be more rooted in the present.

We want to expand our community, and we want our child to have a village that loves and supports them. We know that our child will be better and stronger if they have more adults who are cheering and advocating for them.

We look forward to embracing our child's birth family and learning and growing with them to write the next chapter of our lives.





