



SFLY051114-347



Alison & Matt



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



Our Relationship

Alison's take:

We started dating in December of 2011, though we'd met a few times prior. I wasn't prepared for Matt's openness and kindness, and found myself telling him things that I'd never told others. The first test of our young relationship came with a cold, wet, hungry, 2-hour wait for brunch (typical Portland). When we didn't kill each other I settled into what would become the easiest/best relationship I'd ever had.



Matt's take:

Alison and I met through a mutual friend and hit it off pretty quickly the few times we saw each other. It was clear that we shared a similar sense of humor and appreciation for simple things. We dated for about 5 years, 4 of which we lived together, before getting engaged by headlamp-light on a backpacking trip in the mountains, shown in this bottom-right photo. That is a fun memory (and a place we hope to get back to someday).





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



Hiking
Camping
Eating/drinks with friends
Traveling

Alison

Occupation:
Reproductive Health Provider
Liaison

Hobbies/interests:
READING,
cuddling,
being in nature,
sitting,
sleeping,
ladies night in,
bike riding in the summer



Fun Facts:

- My favorite animals are donkeys
- I actually enjoy cleaning
- I won the Blood and Guts award on my dive team for being willing to try any dive, even though I failed miserably at all of them
- I used to want to be a back-up singer (and secretly still do)

I grew up in a small town in Ohio with my parents and 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/are 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 as soon as I moved out of the house after high school we realized we love each other. 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 possible. She has two kids, Max who is eleven and Olivia (Livy) who is 17 months. I love them with all my heart.



My parents are also still in Ohio, but we talk on the phone almost every week, sharing stories and laughing. Even though we live far away from each other, I can't imagine my life without them. It's because of them that I have such a strong sense of right and wrong.

Politics was always an important topic in my house, and I have never been able to keep my mouth shut when it comes to issues like racism, health care, gun safety, etc. Growing up in small-town Ohio, this led to a lot of debates in a school where many of my classmates' parents were much more conservative. But, it's why Portland feels so much like home. And why I work in public health - everyone deserves to get the health care they need. Period. One of the most important parts of my life is our dog Eddie. Eddie came into my life as a foster before Matt and I started dating. My roommate at the time was fostering dogs through a pit rescue. The first night Eddie was with us he fell asleep in my lap, and that was it. From then on he was my constant buddy.

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 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 and trips/visits.



Our 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 a lot 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 the open adoption process are that we find family for life, both in our child and in their birth family. We want to form connections that will endure, and the best way we know to do that is through caring and kindness.

We hope for an authentic friendship with the birth family. That they share the same values, and that together we provide a safe, fun, and supportive environment for our child.

