



Hi! We're Patrick and Molly



Hello! We're Molly and Patrick!
Thanks for checking out our
book. We've never met
someone this way before, but
we'll do our best to give you a
sense of who we are!



A Little About Us...



We met in Graduate School at Seattle U. This is us at graduation. At the time, we had been friends for two years, but had no idea at this time that we were one another's forever person!

It was kind of strange at first to realize that our soul mates had been right under our noses the whole time, but we eventually got used to it!



^ Young love ^



We got married at Belevdere Castle in Central Park in May, 2013



We've definitely had our share of adventures since then.





We're lucky to be best friends. We pretty much enjoy doing just about anything together. After 13 years together, we still love to talk, nerd out on our mutual interests, and discover new things with one another.



Our favorite things to do together include traveling, hiking, checking out art and music, romping around with our dog, performing experiments in cooking, and spending time with our loved ones.



Matching handmade Star Trek PJs

Marrying your best friend means not only having a partner to experience life's joys and beauty with, but also having a person you can count on when things get really tough. We feel like we're each other's yin/yang. When one of us is overwhelmed, the other person stays calm and grounded. Even when challenges have hit us both hard in the gut, our love and care for one another has allowed us to continue to hang in, hang on and come out the other side together.



Participation medals for a 5K on Kauai



Potential photo for our make believe EMO band.



Patrick

I grew up in Oklahoma City, OK with my parents (Barry and Helen) and brother Bruce and sister Kelly.



My childhood was full of reading books and comics, daydreaming about being a superhero, and playing with friends in the fields and creeks around my house. Molly calls this part of my life my Huck Finn phase. By the end of the summer, the bottoms of my feet were brown from being barefoot and outdoors for months.

My parents were both from New Orleans, and my favorite childhood memories were visiting family there. We ate beignets daily, toured the French Quarter, and ate copious amounts of Creole/Cajun food.



I love to travel. One of my first important trips was visiting the White Mountain Apache tribal lands in Arizona to see a college friend and her family. It was my first experience being in a different cultural environment than how I was raised, and it was also my first real time hiking and climbing.

As an adult, I moved around the US for my career and education, living in Oregon, Seattle, New Jersey, and Las Vegas. Living apart from loved ones and learning new things could be a challenge at times, but I made friends and grew my life in the process.

I currently work as a Clinical Psychologist, and I help people with various life challenges. My hobbies and interests are comic books (STILL), seeing and trying to make art, music, movies, running, and good coffee.



Fun Facts about Patrick

*My favorite comic books growing up were the X-Men, Spider-Man, and Batman.

*I have an uncanny memory for actor names and their filmography.

*My favorite artist is Marcel Duchamp.

*I love the food, culture, and atmosphere of New Orleans.

*I once finished third in my age group at a triathlon. I was so excited! I later found out there were only three people in my age group, but I was still excited!



*I learned how to swim before I learned how to walk.

*When I was 8, I slept with Charlie and the Chocolate Factory under my pillow because I loved it so much.

*I spent a month in Russia when I was 16, and haven't stopped traveling since.

*I didn't need to be told to dance like no one's watching.

*My favorite singer to try to impersonate is Eddie Vedder.



Fun Facts about Molly





^Me at age 5^
Me at age 2 >>

I was born in Grand Rapids, MI, into a large Irish/German Catholic family. I grew up extremely close to my mom's side of the family. I have 2 brothers, and about 14 cousins (who also feel like siblings to me).



Yoga time with my sis-in-law and cousins!

I presently work in rehabilitation, and I've always loved working with people. I've also been a preschool teacher, a dance teacher, and have worked in various roles in the mental health field.



"Rock climbing" with my buddy, Pearl



My favorite place to be is outside. I moved to the Pacific NW after college for the hiking, camping, and sheer beauty of this place. I feel at home here in a way I've never experienced anywhere else.



My bro, Patrick and me at Lake Ann, Mt. Baker



Me and my bros, Robbie and Tom. Rockin' some fresh do's for the Olan Mills Family pic!



Me and my bros, modern day, with our beloved spouses and my nephew, Milo



Hanging with my bros and cousins in NOLA

Diggle is a dork. He is a super fun-loving goofball. He's closing in on seven years old, and we've had him since he was four months old. One could probably describe him as stoked!! He loves humans, and greets the people at dog park before he greets the dogs.



Meet
Diggle!!



He is also pretty darn great with children. His hobbies are chewing on sticks, walking in tall grass, and snuggling at the end of the day.



Our Home and Neighborhood

Our city is full of good museums, schools, and cultural events and activities. We live in a quiet neighborhood with trees and parks and friendly neighbors.



Our backyard is our little sanctuary and Diggle's playground. In the spring and summer, the yard comes alive with color, and we have fruit trees (apples, apricot, plum, cherries) and berries (blueberries, raspberries)!



Our Families



Sib pyramid atop Desolation after a burly climb.



Bug hunting with my nephew Milo



Our newest nephew, Gus!



My dad, mom, and bro, Tom



<< Our nephews Milo and Jack



My sis-in-laws, Shannon and Brie >>



Ready for 80's night with my sis-in-law, Shannon



<< Patrick and his mom >> Patrick's mom, sister Kelly, and nieces Jordan and Taylor



<< Nieces Alyx and Alyssa



<< Patrick's brother Bruce and sister-in-law Lisa



Patrick's parents Helen and Barry

Chosen Family



We have strong bonds within a large chosen family where we live. We've shared many important phases of life with all of these folks, and count on each other to be there for all the ups and downs.



Molly's BF Tim, his sister Sara, and wife, Kathy



Kath and Molly



Our pals Gloria and Wayne.



Our "niece" Oza, dressing up with Uncle P.



Theo, Posey, Sarah (our wedding officiant!), P, M, and Oza in front.



We have special holiday traditions on Thanksgiving and Christmas. We usually celebrate "Friendsgiving" with friends and a huge spread of delicious comfort foods. We hunt around the city for any and all Christmas lights in December. In the summertime, we get together in Michigan for a tradition Molly's grandfather started - the Herman Ave. block party!



AAA
Molly is legit related to all of these people!



Diggle open his own presents on Christmas morning.

More Traditions!



In January every year, we spend time on the Oregon coast. Since the pandemic, we've both worked from home and have spent the entire month of January living our beach life.



In September of each year, we head back to the coast for our last camping trip of the season. It's a good time to say goodbye to summer and ready ourselves for the more internal comforts of winter.



Family Values

- * We tell people that we love them.
- * We appreciate people for who they are.
- * We believe that every person's experience is valid, and everyone deserves respect.
- * We believe it's important to share what we have with others.
- * We value learning and being open to new experiences.
- * We value the diversity of other culture and peoples.
- * We believe that our actions are just as important as our words.
- * We value our responsibility in caring for the world around us.



Hopes and Dreams for our Child



We hope to provide our child with a good education, not only in academics, but in all areas of their life.

We hope our child will feel the freedom to be silly, to make mistakes and be able to learn from them, and to try things that might be scary.

We hope our child develops a sense of humor about the world, themselves, and us!

We hope that our child experiences repair in their relationships when challenges arise.

We hope they will grow up with compassion for all beings, as well as for themselves.

We hope that any child we help to raise will grow to their fullest potential - whatever that looks like. We would wish for them to have confidence in who they are, and to feel unconditionally supported by the people who love them.

We hope that they have the courage to define themselves; we hope they will feel seen and cared for in every aspect of who they are.

We hope that they will have an untamed and awe-filled appreciation of the beauty in the world around us.

We hope that they will be able to critically and thoughtfully process the challenges that come to them, and approach those challenges with healthy coping skills, as well as strong supports.



Our aspirations for open adoption

- * That our child will know their adoptive and birth families well, and have a good sense of belonging to all of these important people.
- * That our child's birth family feels that they have been included throughout our child's life.
 - * That we are a part of a large, extended network of our child's entire family.
 - * That our child feels comfortable asking questions about their adoption.
- * That we have faced the challenges of parenting with honesty, an open heart, and a nonjudgmental stance.
- * That our child feels well-grounded, experiences no shame about who they are, and never wonders whether or not they are loved or worthy.
- * That our child grows up having strong and connected relationships with any siblings.



- * We hope that by the time our child is an adult, we have collected many fun and enjoyable memories with our child and their birth family.
- * We hope that when our child is a young adult, they feel empowered, compassionate for others, brave, and curious, with a strong sense of self.
 - * We hope to be parents that our child will always feel safe with no matter what is happening for them, and in the end, to be parents they actually like!
- * We would love it if our child's birth family feels a part of our family. We hope that they feel valued by us, and always feel at home in our home.



Believe in a love that is being stored up for you like an inheritance,
and have faith that in this love there is a strength and a blessing so
large that you can travel as far as you wish without having to step
outside it.

~Rainer Maria Rilke