

# (O)UR PAL MATTHEW



A BIRTHDAY ZINE

# A Song for Matthew

(intro)



Cutting up the letters, fashioning a mask,  
It's a miracle sometimes to love someone who loves  
you back

(chorus)

Small birds need small nests, Sprouts need sun and soil,  
Every worker needs some respite from their toil

There's always one more fight, another wrong to right,  
Parked beside the shady trees, for one more night

You told us your name, and we all cheered you on,  
Someday soon we'll sit and sip our beers out on the lawn

Many cities, many coasts, an endless restless journey,  
Time sequences converging on the day we'll all be free

— And dumplings fried in oil —

(outro)

[tinyurl.com/a-song-for-matty](http://tinyurl.com/a-song-for-matty)

- Scott

## Soluble Maybe

$\text{NO}_3$  (negatively)

That one is nitrate, you see  
Your plants, they love these things!  
Great solubility

Silver just moderately  
But speaking generally  
Acetates ( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2$  negatively)

(anion)

Chlorides and bromides  
And also iodides  
But please no silver  
And no mercury!  
Lead chloride slightly  
When water's chilly  
And when it's warmer  
It's moderately

The salts of sodium  
Also potassium  
Plus all ammonium  
Minus uncommons  
Thus solubility  
Is over really  
So memorize this  
And fuck chemistry

- Samson

My memories are a safer place to walk because you  
are in them,  
and the present is brighter because you are in it,  
and the future holds less fear because you will  
be there.

Happy birthday, friend -3

- Holly







Happy  
Birthday!!





I hope there are  
lots of plants and  
music and places that  
feel comfortable in  
your day. Here are  
some drawings of plants!



♡ - KC



TO  
♥ Matty  **HAPPY !!  
BIRTHDAY**

 it's been so many years since   
we first met as goofy young  
adults and now we're tired old  
adults. I always think about you and  
how you're doing ♥ I love our #team  
tastes in men, I love that our dad  
first real hangout was nail  
painting with eileen.

I hope this finds you well +  
SAFE + happy. I think we've  
grow a lot together! I love to  
see it.

#Tired old gays squad  
#team niche interests  
I LOVE YOU!

AUTUMN







Matty,

A thing I'll always remember: riding with you on the subway over the bridge to Brooklyn, you didn't think twice before stopping to help someone I absolutely would have followed my New Yorker instinct to avoid. It wasn't just your kindness that has stuck with me, but your determination to help, your refusal to make assumptions or to look away. Welcome to your thirties, man. I'm so proud of you. One day I'm gonna see you again at a Mountain Goats show and hug you so hard.

-3 Melanie



Probably the other best  
picture ever taken

I wrote this with Rembrandt

**W**ho else  
**C**an create friendship around him, and  
**K**eeep so much love in his heart that it  
**R**adiates to the whole world? It's a wonder &  
**S**ometimes I  
**P**onder it, because his magic is a singular one,  
**G**entle but fierce all at once. This love  
**T**akes him to screens & streets, & I am reminded  
**E**very day, by his example, to be better.  
**A** heart this big moves us all.  
**R**eal change takes time but I know that  
**W**ith him in it, the world is a better place.  
**I**t Will Be Better.  
**G**ood things happen, because of  
MATTHEW. ♡



I hope your birthday is  
even half as great as  
you. ♡, Yeti  
PS PIGS ARE THE ONLY THING I CAN DRAW



I met Matthew in person for the first time on April 15, 2016. I knew his twitter presence way before that. It's hard to believe I've known him for 6 or 7 years! We, of course, bonded over love of the Goats. In fact we met at a concert in, I believe, Hershey, PA, for a tMG show. This would not be the only tMG show I saw Matthew at. So after we screamed lyrics and danced and hugged each other for a few hours straight, JD stayed around at the end of the show. I get nervous to meet famous or semi-famous people I admire. I say the most ridiculous things (One time I told Al Gore "I'M THE PICTURE LADY"). So anyways Matthew managed to persuade me to get my poster signed and meet JD, with a little help from Scott. I was a little tongue tied but I survived the experience and I am so glad I did! Thank you for the encouragement, Matthew! I love you to pieces!

- Heidi



hey, bud!

(wickahhh spiget?  
am i sayin that right?)

(wickerrrrspigot,  
i think)

man, where do i even start?  
i think meeting you is one of the  
best things to ever happen to me.  
i'm so lucky and happy to get to  
call you my best friend.



i'm not  
READY  
to be  
a dad

it's been three, maybe four  
years since that first twitter dm,  
and what a three-maybe-four  
years it's been! we had that goats  
show in jersey city. we had that  
oh pep! show in newyorkcity. i cherish  
both those trips a whole lot.

and then of course there is our  
ongoing fanatical pro bowling joys,  
our own language made from talking about  
this beautiful niche sport. seriously, man—  
who else on the planet knows what the hell  
"plove bmy awife" means? fuckin' nobody, is who.



i would need ten zines to talk about how much  
you mean to me, so i'll just say this: if i can  
make you feel as cared for and important  
as you make me and everyone in this book  
feel, i'll be doing something right.  
happy birthday my guy. love you forever. ♥  
—arturo

and now, a 4koma:



you, in your  
ideal orb state



pluck.



hop



STRIKE! ⇒



LUXURY GAY SPACE COMMUNITY

Dearest  
Matty,



you are an extraordinary human being. I am lucky to know you and to call you a dear friend. you were there for me when I was sick, when I was sad, when I truly needed your moral vision, kindness, and brilliant humor. Your comics + writing are so good, and I'm honored to see anything you work on. I hope to see more, and I miss you quite terribly. I really hope you'll be able to stop by on one of your road trips or even plan a visit. Our times at goats shows + at SPX are some of the most special memories I have - bc being with you is so much fun + you are just a joy to be around. This pic is one of my favorites, bc that was a perfect day. How much we laughed + played like kids, how light you were!

I want you to know that I always will carry you. You are brave and resourceful, and you've survived this last year + like a champion - but you deserve safety, peace, sweetness, solidarity, ALL the spgt cassettes, and endless adventures. I hope the next year is so much better, and I am always here for u and anything you need. I would love to chat + catch up soon - maybe <sup>the phone</sup> <sub>like a few</sub> more often times? We have radicalized together + grown as people + in our politics, + that is amazing. Thank you for being u, and here's to so many adventures to come.

Love, **TEKI**



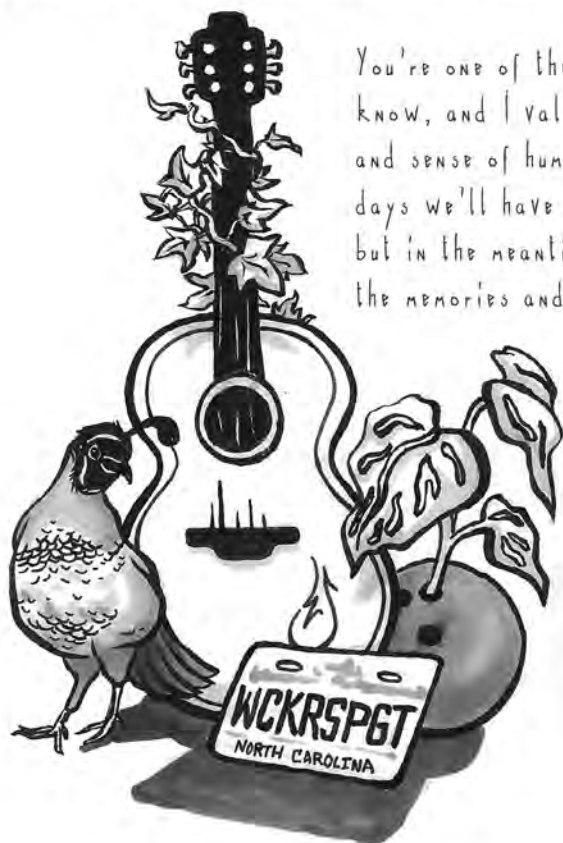


# HAPPY BIRTHDAY MATTY!

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'VE KNOWN  
EACH OTHER FOR HALF OUR LIVES.  
IT'S BEEN SUCH A JOY TO HAVE YOU  
AS A FRIEND AS WE BOTH GROW.  
SOME OF MY SONDEST MEMORIES



ARE OF HANGING OUT IN HOTEL  
ROOMS AT CONS AND RUSHING TO TRY TO STOP THAT TRAGIC SPX FLOOD  
(TEAM AWESOME MAINTENANCE DUDE 20XX, WHAT A HERO).



YOU'RE ONE OF THE KINDEST PEOPLE I  
KNOW, AND I VALUE YOUR ADVICE  
AND SENSE OF HUMOR. ONE OF THESE  
DAYS WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER ADVENTURE  
BUT IN THE MEANTIME I'LL TREASURE ALL  
THE MEMORIES AND THE TWITTER JOKES.

HERE'S TO 30  
AND TO CARVING  
OUT YOUR OWN  
IDEAL LITTLE NICHE  
IN THIS WORLD.

Love you buddy.

EM

This is a super strange and stressful time. I wish your birthday was under better circumstances but I'm glad you're here. I always enjoy hearing about what loot you found from an old CD to a Pokemon gaming guide from the 1990s. If it's standing this close to the sage at TMG concert and waving your hands at high speeds or something plant related you find the joy in life. Happy Birthday and I'm glad to know you and hope we can get the gang back together soon for something when the world is less.. in shambles.

- @rxbun



# For, Matty



THE GENTLE TRAVELING BARD



of *Fueller*



AND OTHER SUNDRY PLATFORMS

on this, the anniversary

OF HIS BIRTH



From early in my Twitter days, where you were one of the first people I formed a real connection with, to my first Goats concert (an incredible experience when I had been in one of the lowest points of my life), you have been a warm little point of light in my life. Once hanging out is legal again, let's hang out! We can go bowling.

Love,  
Louisa



Lilium  
Michauxii  
"Carolina  
Lily"  
(NC)



Mountain  
Laurel (PA)



Peach  
blossom  
(DE)





I don't remember when I first met Matty, to be totally honest. But I don't feel bad about it because when I see Matty at a Mountain Goats show (or a Hot at Nights show or solo show or a what-the-fuck-ever show because he's so damn sweet and supportive) I feel like I've known him for a million years. My kids have worn temporary wizard tattoos that Matty has given us. My wife knows exactly who he is and always smiles when I mention him. I cherish all the incredible notes and Christmas cards and bus-side chats. He's a walking, talking, smiling safe space and I wish more people in the world were like Matty. I hope it's an incredible birthday in a very un-incredible year. My Mountain Goats family and my Douglas family are always here for you. xoxo

- Matt Douglas



also available online in  
glorious technicolor

<https://tinyurl.com/a-zine-for-matty>