

(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,
Some day 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

- Scott

Soluble Maybe

NO_3 (negatively)
That one is nitrate, you see
Your plants, they love these things!
Great solubility

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

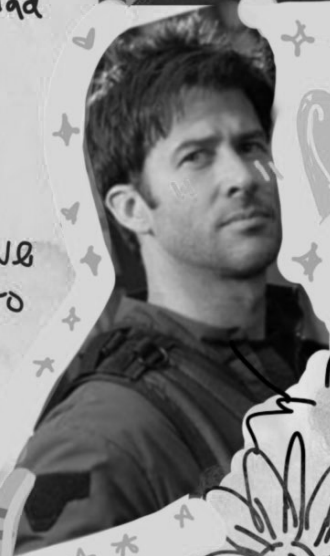
 it's been so many years since 
we first met as goofy young
adults and now we're tired old
adults. I always think about you and
how you're doing ♥ I love our #team
tastes in men, I love that our dad
first real hangout was nail
painting with eileen.

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
#teamnicheinterests

I LOVE YOU!

AUTUMN

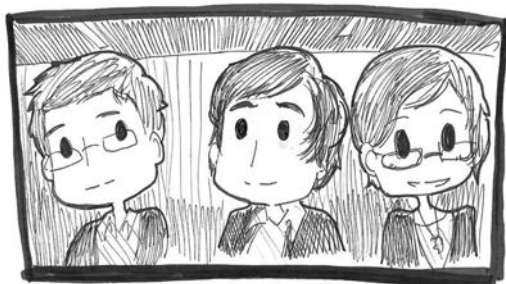




Matty,

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

Who else
Can create friendship around him, and
Keeep so much love in his heart that it
Radiates to the whole world? It's a wonder &
Sometimes I
Ponder it, because his magic is a singular one,
Gentle but fierce all at once. This love
Takes him to screens & streets, & I am reminded
Every day, by his example, to be better.
A heart this big moves us all.
Real change takes time but I know that
With him in it, the world is a better place.
It Will Be Better.
Good 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

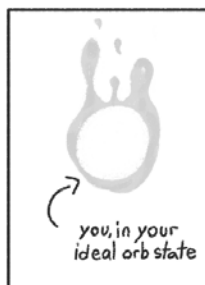
it's been three, maybe four
years since that first twitter dm,
and what a three-maybe-four
years it's been! we had that goats
show in jersey city. we had that
oh pep! show in new york city. i cherish
both those trips a whole lot.

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:



LUXURY GAY SPACE COMM

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 spg caretters, 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 ^{the phone} like a few more 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**

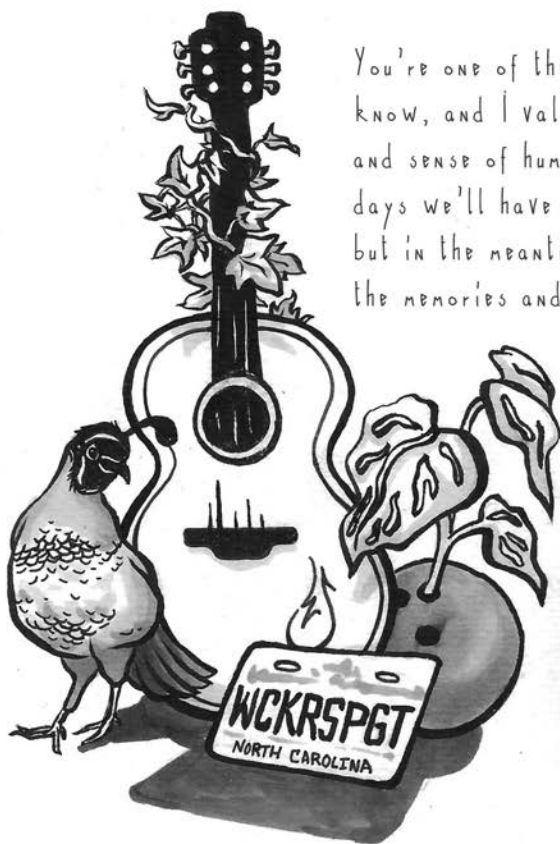


HAPPY BIRTHDAY MATTY!

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 fondest 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



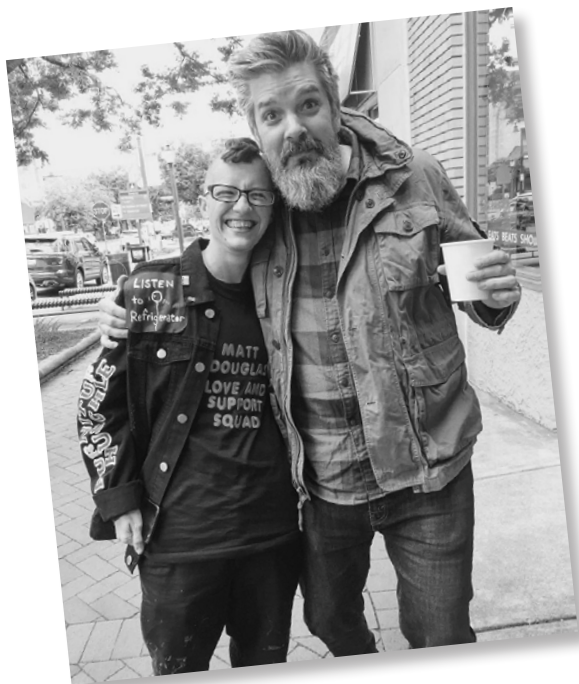
Lilium
Michauxii
"Carolina
Lily"
(NC)



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>