

The Best of Times

SPECIAL LOVE OF A LIFETIME EDITION, AUGUST 8, 2015

Doug and Julia Finally Wed Today

Once upon a time...

Doug and Julia met in January of their junior year at Indiana University, at the birthday party of a mutual friend whom neither have spoken to since.

The night before the party, Julia scoured the Facebook event page to see if there would be any new single guys in attendance—which seemed unlikely, given that all the parties she went to consisted of the same ten people (who had all been in relationships with each other since, like, the first *second* of freshman year, not that she was bitter or anything). So she was quite pleased to discover the profile of a mysterious blonde guy named Doug, which featured a very cute picture of him opening a jar of pickles.

When she arrived to her friend's apartment the following evening, she instantly recognized Doug but was caught off guard by his long sideburns and the fact that he was wearing a scarf indoors. (Doug adamantly denies that he ever wore a scarf indoors, so it's very possible Julia's memory invented this detail. The only person who took photographs that night has since defriended both of them on Facebook, so this will be an ongoing debate until the end of time.)

After watching Julia reenact an extremely detailed rendition of the time she was harassed by a transvestite on a train, Doug introduced himself. When he found out she was also majoring in English, he was eager to ask who her favorite authors were. This was Julia's number one most dreaded question to be asked by men with long sideburns who wear scarves indoors. So she mumbled something barely coherent about reading *Catch-22* in



high school, to which Doug replied that he'd recently been going through a Thomas Pynchon phase. She promptly decided he was pretentious and extricated herself from the conversation as swiftly as she'd once extricated herself from a transvestite's unwelcome grasp.

An hour later, everyone relocated to a bar and Julia and Doug found themselves stuck together at the end of the party's long table. Neither were pleased with this arrangement, but Doug managed to salvage the situation by telling Julia the tragicomedy about the time his saxophone reed broke the day of high school band try-outs, resulting in him getting placed in last chair of the "Discovery Band."

This endeared Doug to Julia slightly and they spent the rest of the night talking as the party moved from bar to bar and Julia got drunk for the first time off the Bloomington-famous "Dirty Bird," which both looked and tasted like Windex.

Over the next couple months they would meet up occasionally at the Student Union, hang out in groups of mutual friends, and sporadically AIM-chat about

Tyra Banks. In March, Doug called Julia to ask her out to dinner, which struck her as a very thoughtful and old-fashioned gesture for a college boy, since most college boys' idea of courting was to mass-text women the word "sup."

After their dinner, Julia awkwardly tried to hand Doug money for her portion of the bill because she wasn't entirely sure if he'd intended this as a date or just a slightly more upscale version of hanging out at the Student Union, and she would have been beyond mortified if she turned out to be the only one who hoped it was a date. Over the next few months they had several more long, ambiguous dinners that ended in the same awkward bill-paying dance until one night in June when they went out to a comedy club with friends and ended up getting in a heated text message fight for reasons that nobody remembers but that probably had to do with their repressed, months-long romantic attraction.

Doug called Julia at three o'clock that morning to resolve the text fight.



The new couple at Doug's college house, which he shared with four friends and nine species of cave crickets. (2008)

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

They quickly apologized to each other, realizing it had all been a misunderstanding.

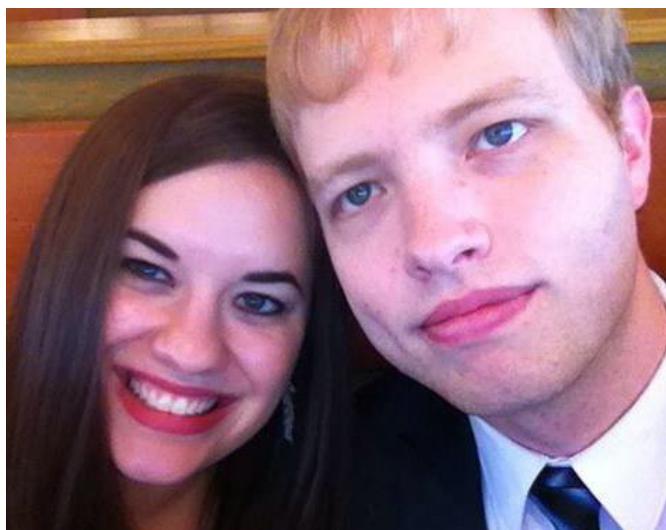
“You haven’t even scratched the surface of things I misunderstand,” Julia remarked.

“I look forward to scratching that surface again and again,” Doug said.

Before they got off the phone, they finally admitted they liked each other and decided to start a relationship.

So they dated for two months and then broke up at the end of summer when they decided their relationship probably wasn’t going anywhere. Approximately five minutes later Doug suggested they get back together, but Julia said they should stay split up for at least the month of September while they reevaluated. They only made it eleven days, officially reuniting in a dramatic doorstep hug on September 11th.

Julia and Doug had a beautiful senior year together and were sad to part when Julia moved to Illinois for graduate school



to study therapy while Doug stayed in Indiana to finish courses and to work at a fast food restaurant, where his main job was to stir spaghetti in a giant caldron with a boat paddle.

They did long-distance for two years and managed to see each other every other weekend, with the exception of the time Doug randomly went to Florida for the entire summer and the time Julia broke her foot by tripping out of her own clog and couldn’t drive for like, forever.

After Julia completed grad school, they decided to move together to Iowa where Doug would pursue his PhD in English among a cohort of classmates who had also heard of Thomas Pynchon.

The prospect of moving together to a strange land both excited and terrified them. How would they make money? How would they make friends? Did Iowa even have running water or would they have to bathe in a bucket? One day they both became so paralyzed with fear that Doug pulled a blanket over their heads and started giving a pep talk.

“Everything is going to be okay,” he said, “Because we are always going to have each other. No matter how weird or scary or lonely the world gets, it won’t be anything we can’t handle as long as we’re together. We are always going to make each other happy.”

And he was right. We do.

Woman Changes First Name at Age 18, Awkwardness Ensues Years Later at Wedding



After being called Julie her whole life, local woman reportedly started introducing herself as Julia the day she moved away from home at age eighteen. “Julia is technically the name on her birth certificate,” her mother confirmed, “But we always intended for people to call her Julie. We just wanted her to have a fancy, back-up name in case she ever became President.”

“We gave up on that dream the day she cut her own lip open with scissors,” her father quickly added.

“It’s always a little uncomfortable when someone from my current life meets someone from my past and they realize they know me by different names,” Boriss said. “But I always figured I could basically get away with it as long as there was never, like, a big celebration or something where everyone I know ends up in the same room,” she added with nervous laughter.

Boriss kindly requests that friends and family refer to her by whichever name they know her by, since hearing people from her past try to call her Julia makes her feel like a phony and/or like she’s being called out on the huge lie she has been living for the past decade.

“Now I’m only moments away from changing my last name too,” Boriss commented with a mischievous grin as she stepped into a large white gown on the evening of August 8th, “Which means my entire identity transformation will soon be complete.”

Key Wedding Players



Ted Lau
Officiant
Father of Maid of Honor (Bevin)



John Wagner
Reader
Grad School Friend of Bride



Ben Morrow
Greeter
Brother-in-Law of Bride



Peter Bidwell
Greeter
College Friend of Bride & Groom



Gabriel Bubalo
Ringbearer
Groom’s Nephew



Lidia Bubalo
Flower Girl
Groom’s Niece

WEDDING PARTY

Bevin Kloepper (Maid of Honor)

Julie and Bevin met through their siblings as freshmen in high school and bonded while sucking on Sour Skittles in a room composed entirely of rubber stamps. They always planned to marry brothers.



Noemi Garcia (Maid of Honor)

Noemi grew up next door to Julie and is an honorary member of the Boriss household.

Julie remembers when Noemi wore overalls and a hoodie every day for two years, and Noemi remembers when Julie had a bowl haircut and chicken legs.



Jennifer Morrow

Jenny is Julie's sister. Julie believed Jenny had tormented her for years until she finally watched old home videos and realized that she herself instigated every single incident while Jenny was never anything but a great sister.

Sorry, Jenny!



Erin Beaver

Erin is Doug's sister. The first time Julia saw something Erin wrote on Doug's Facebook wall (hilarious fake lyrics to "Every Breath You Take"), she didn't know they were siblings and felt extremely threatened. She and Doug can throw down a mean game of Guess Who.



Christina Nord

Julia met Christina their first week of college while waiting for a bus to Walmart that arrived two hours late. By senior year they were sharing a bunk bed, where Christina talked Julia down from many a romantic crisis. They once risked their lives by driving to Arby's in a blizzard.



Anahitta Khosraviani

Anahitta borrowed Julie's calculator in 7th grade and they have remained BFFs ever since, even though Anahitta moved away when they were only sixteen. She is still the only person who can make Julie laugh until she asphyxiates. Don't ask them about the letter they wrote to Kellogg's.



Adam Fay (Best Man)

Doug and Adam first met in 9th grade at a friend's house. When the group ganged up on Doug and decided to chase him around the yard, Adam discretely emerged from the garage holding a giant yard-ornament candy cane and guided Doug to a good hiding spot. He has remained a true bosom buddy.



Kevin Nickoson

Doug and Kevin met in 10th grade, when Kevin was nearly being usurped by his anthropomorphic beard. They once made a documentary called *Hard Decisions* that mostly consisted of Doug falling off exercise equipment.



Nate Fleckenstein

Nate's locker was next to Doug's throughout high school. The first time Doug spoke to him it was to point out, apropos of Nate's copy of a George Harrison biography, that he was *really* into The Beatles and knew the meanings behind *all* their songs. Despite this, Nate continues to associate with Doug.



Michael Potraffke

Michael was a founding member and drummer of Doug's high school band, The Janitors. Since Martin Scorsese's *The Departed* was released, Doug and Michael communicate primarily through quotes from the film.



Stephen Morris

Doug spent much of the last year of high school in Stephen's basement, watching movies and eating trays of chicken nachos. They have since entered the same "wavelength," resulting in many spontaneous phrases shouted in unison.



Kevin Mills

Doug and Kevin became friends in 12th grade and had a dramatic falling-out every week for reasons nobody remembers. They produced an original film that features an opening monologue so shocking and ahead of its time that the project was banned at Sundance.



Family of Four Surprisingly Happy Despite Lack of Shared Interests



A local family of four reports feeling “decidedly content” with their living situation despite not really relating to each other’s hobbies or inner thought worlds at all.

“Coming home to my family is the happiest part of my day,” Julia confirmed at press time, briefly looking up from her laptop where she was reading reality TV spoilers for episodes she planned to watch later that same evening.

“I feel the same way,” agreed Witten, who is endearingly referred to as “Wittle Bean” by her adoring parents. “Although it can be a challenge. Sometimes I want to cuddle with Ketos, but when he’s not stealing hotdogs from the fridge he’s busy binging on beef shreds, climbing on top of the bookcase, and barfing over the side.” Sources report that Witten has recently taken up the hobby of running around the house with a wrapped tampon in her mouth and building a nest for it in Julia’s shoe closet.

Doug was not available for comment at the time, as he was too distracted feeling intensely distressed about the state of the world, composing long political Facebook rants, and nervously deleting them without posting.

“I’ve created the perfect summer shoe line-up!” Julia squealed from behind her computer screen, where she’d taken a break from spoilers just long enough to fill her DSW shopping cart with fancy flip flops, casual flip flops, professional black wedges, sexy black wedges, and elaborate Egyptian sandals fit for the feet of a queen.

Moments later, Doug joined Julia on the couch and sadly wrapped his arm around her. “Scientists predict that, in the span of three human lifetimes, 75% of life on earth will be annihilated,” he said, softly weeping onto her shoulder. “And that’s a conservative estimate.”

Always wanting to be near their beloved family, Ketos stood nearby loudly scratching the side of a cardboard box for no discernible reason while Witten chewed on and ultimately swallowed a small sticker.

Schedule of Tonight's Events*

- 5:30 • Cocktail Hour
- 6:30 • Dinner and Trivia Game
- 8:45 • Foster Family Musical Performance (Part 1)
- 10:00 • Foster Family Musical Performance (Part 2)
- 11:00 • Pretzel Bar

(Dancing & Socializing Throughout)

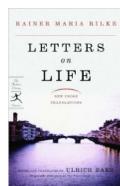
• Get your picture drawn by our caricature artist from 8:00 - 11:00

• All alcohol is free until two hours after dinner, so drink up!

*Schedule subject to change slightly without notice. Like all things in life.

Book Quote Challenge

Match each quote to one of Doug or Julia's favorite books.



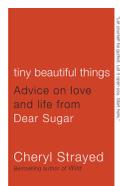
1. *Letters on Life*
Rainer Maria Rilke

A. Someone once wrote that a novel should deliver a series of small astonishments. I get the same thing spending an hour with you.



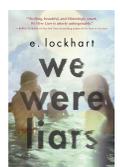
2. *The Fault in Our Stars*
John Green

B. There is a solitude in seeing you,
Followed by your company when you are gone.
You are like heaven’s veins of lightning.
I cannot see until afterward
How beautiful you are.



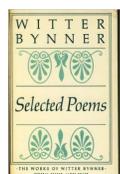
3. *Tiny Beautiful Things: Advice on Love and Life From Dear Sugar*
Cheryl Strayed

C. I'm in love with you, and I'm not in the business of denying myself the simple pleasure of saying true things. I'm in love with you, and I know that love is just a shout into the void, and that oblivion is inevitable, and that we're all doomed and that there will come a day when all our labor has been returned to dust, and I know the sun will swallow the only earth we'll ever have, and I am in love with you.



4. *We Were Liars*
E. Lockhart

D. Is it not wonderful to assure oneself that love can lead to such strength, and that at bottom it concerns something that exceeds us entirely, and that nonetheless the heart is bold enough to embark on this going-beyond-us, this tempest for which an entire genesis would be required?



5. *Selected Poems*
Witter Bynner

E. You cannot convince people to love you. This is an absolute rule. No one will ever give you love because you want him or her to give it. Real love moves freely in both directions. Don't waste your time on anything else.

Answers: 1-D, 2-C, 3-E, 4-A, 5-B

A Note of Thanks

We are so grateful to everybody who has helped make this such a joyous celebration! Thanks especially to our parents Steve & Carol Boriss and Chuck & Dianne Foster for everything they did to make this day possible, our fabulous wedding party who flew and drove in from far and wide to stand by our sides, Krystle Mullin for her assistance with basically every aspect of this wedding, and everyone who came to celebrate with us today. We know that Iowa is out of the way for almost all of you (and maybe even barely identifiable on a map to some of you), and we are genuinely touched that you have gone out of your way to share in our joy. We feel incredibly lucky to have your support as we embark on this new adventure, and we look forward to many more years of your friendship and love.

Love, *Julie/a & Doug*