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APPENDIX

1. Synopsis of the Novel *Fatherhood*

The story started when Matthew Logelin or Matt met his future wife in 1996, when they both were eighteen years old. As they reached the end of high school, they became high school lovers that dared to sacrifice their relationship to be apart by distance later for college. Before that happened, they ever had a trial of long distance in high school for Spring break. Matt went to Mexico and a month after his return, Liz went to Spain for a three weeks program of senior high schoolers to get out of their comfort zone. In college, Matt stayed in Minnesota while Liz was in California.

After graduation in college, they both entered their adult life. At first, Liz had an excellent job with a high salary while Matt continued his study for a master's degree. They were separated again as Liz worked in Los Angeles and Matt stayed in Chicago. Two years later, Matt decided to end the distance in their relationship by staying in the same city. He chose to be in Los Angeles with Liz also finding a job there. Liz already had an excellent career as a management consultant with a high pay of salary. She even traveled states for business to talk with executives from some of the largest domestic financial institutions. Matt was still looking for a job until a friend of Liz offered Matt to work in an internet company.

When a friend of Matt wanted to get married in India, he invited him to attend the wedding. Matt convinced Liz to have a trip together because he wanted to live in a good place and India was such a great idea of him. He immediately found a rooming house that came a day before the trip and he planned to say it in the right



time. In Durbar Square, the perfect imperfect moment is held, he gives her the ring as she crying and scream that shocked everybody around. They held the marriage in August 13, 2005.

Some months after their honeymoon in Greece, Liz is confessing that she is sick of travelling, she wants to quit her job to have more time with Matt at home. She even wants to sacrificed her high salary to having a quality time together, but Matt has a six months project in India. Liz was thrilled that Matt took a big responsibility on work, the project should be pay him more. They already plan to have a house in Los Angeles and soon, a baby. Those is the reason why they have to gain more money to fulfill their dream.

The work has done in 6 months, but it leads to another project that must be handle from India, so Matt and Liz decided to spent Christmas in India, for the first time in their life they spent Christmas away from family. Later after new year, when they headed back to Los Angeles, Liz told Matt that she wants to have a house this year, and it implies she also ready to have a baby. In may they already purchased their dream house, and four months later, they found out that they will become parents.

Liz had a hard time during pregnancy. They even called her condition as morning, noon, and night sickness. She always felt nausea that leads her into vomit that caused the loss of appetite and nutrition for the fetus. She gets a prescription of a medicine that could help her, it works but she always takes it for the entire

y. It does not seem right then the doctor suggested them to meet ultrasound med Dr. DeVore. The first meeting with Dr. DeVore is terrible, the Doctor



instructed Liz for took three weeks bed rest, after that they have to come again to see the progress. The doctor described that the amniotic fluid of Liz is very low and it affect the baby too, she is underweighted.

After three weeks, things are not getting better so the doctor instructed Liz to stay at hospital until she is giving birth. The time spent in hospital is actually their quality time for replacing the moment they lost because of the long-distance relationship during high school until college. They ever wondering how would it be if the baby is born and grow up, what they want to do with her, what will they do for having a good time. Seven weeks before the estimated date of birth, the baby's condition is getting worse, doctor instructed to let her out now is better than she stayed in the womb, it's safer for her to be outside because as she grows bigger in the womb, several problems of health will threaten her.

Matt and Liz spent many of days in hospital, they always get visitor and call until the point that they are so tired of it. Matt deciding to write in his blog for keeping the family updated with their condition in the hospital. It was a win-win solution for everyone. Right in March 24, 2008, Matt announced that his wife is giving birth to a healthy and beautiful baby girl named Madeline Elizabeth Logelin.

Madeline has to be stay in NICU for confirming her health condition remembering how early she was born. Matt felt worried when he saw her covered by oxygen mask, tubes, and wires but he also convincing himself that she has been taken care by the amazing group of doctor and nurses in the hospital. He even had



to hold her, changing her diapers, and do more visits to accompanying
nts one by one to seeing her inside the NICU. By time, the oxygen mask

in her has been removed that shows she is fine. The Doctor said that Liz need to wait about twenty-four hours to see her baby. At first, she is being so impatient but she realizes that the instruction cannot be negotiable. To cheer her up, Matt shows the picture of Madeline that he took every time he came for visit. She is so excited to hold Madeline.

Before they stay at the hospital, their home is being burglarized. They lost many of things such as all of Liz jewelries, cameras, laptop, and many more. Matt feel so heartbroken to see Liz became sad for her jewelries, it actually not because of the jewelries itself, but the moments and memories they collected in each place they visited. Matt has promised her that he will replace them all, it does not matter even if they need to spend another 12 years to collect it all again. Matt actually planned a surprise for Liz, after she is giving birth, he wanted to give her a jewelry to help her collect the new memories again. He is made up story of him being starving and want to go out for lunch, but Liz resisted, she wants him to stay on her side just in case it was her time to hold Madeline. At the end Matt realized that the most special thing he can do at the moment is not giving her any jewelry but stay on her side, that is all she needs. Then, Matt thought the present could be wait until tomorrow.

Liz is fall asleep during her recovery time after surgery. Pat, Liz's nurse is come for visit her couple times but Matt ask her to let her sleep for a while. Few hours later, Liz is fully awake and ready to meet with her new-born baby. Pat is



with a wheelchair for gets Liz to NICU faster and safer. They are ready to when Liz have to get up from bed to wheelchair, she felt light-headed and a

second after she is totally fainted. She hits the ground but Matt tried to keep her head but he started to be panic, Pat said it was normal realizing Liz has been bed rest for quite long time, it was her first step out. Pat immediately call for the doctors and nurses while Matt waiting patiently outside. He keeps telling himself that this is normal. There are bunch of people who get in and out from Liz's room. Matt has tons of questions in his mind about what happened to Liz until he does not recognize there is a woman standing next to him introducing herself. The lady told him to sit down and it annoy him. Matt is asking her about what happen but she seems as clueless as him. At the end, Matt follows her to sit down just because he wants to be alone, not long after that, the lady walked away. The doctors who is wearing a white coat get out of Liz's room and walked in Matt's direction, Matt asking her who is the lady who instruct him to sit down and she answered it is a grief counselor. Matt is processing the new information he got from the doctor, he started panicking about Liz condition but he got the bad news. *"It doesn't look good"*. The doctor explained that they do everything she would but Liz seems had pulmonary embolism, a blood clot. Matt is so lost, he needs support from his family and relatives, he suddenly calls Liz's mom, Anya, Liz's best friend, and his mom. Doctors and nurses who were gathered in Liz's room finally get out with arms into each other's shoulder, at the moment, Matt realized Liz is already gone.

Liz's parents come in a rush, same as Matt's mom. Matt come to hug Candee, Liz's mother while behind her stood Tom, Liz's father that showed of the fate of his daughter. Dr. Nelson come out from Liz's room, saying everybody there, started with Matt, Tom, Candee, and Matt's mom. She



is saying sorry but Matt is fully aware that it was not her fault. Human's body is a super complicated machine, sometimes bad things happen, this time it happened to Liz. Anya rushing into the hospital as fast as she could. She is coming with no idea, after Matt talk to her, she broke down. Matt tried to comforting her, so everybody there does to one another. They all gathered in hallway, tried to comfort each other while waiting for permission to get into Liz's room.

After a while, someone inside the room asks Matt to enter the room. There Liz was, but there she was not. Her skin pale and her hair coarse and dry, she never been like this before, this is so strange for Matt seeing her dead body. He is about to go out to tried to take himself together. Suddenly, the grief counselor back to him and ask him to pack up Liz's inventory in hospital. Matt is following her to get things up. The moment they arrived in the room, Matt instantly looking for Liz's ring. Liz always loves the ring, every time she gets compliment about her rings, she would always say that she has an amazing husband who bought her the ring. The ring is the symbol of their promises to be together forever, so the death does not count to break the promise, Matt at first think that the ring has to be burry with Liz, but he knows it was not what Liz wants. The ring belongs to Madeline now, Matt strongly believe Liz would agree.

Matt is overwhelming with Liz's thing. He asked his mom to help him get that done. He is going out to see Maddy, that is all he needs. In his way to NICU, most of people gave him pity stare, when he successfully arrives to NICU, a nurse

him and said, "*I'm so sorry about your wife*". The sentence sound strange, not realize he will hear more of it. It hurts him. She brings Maddy to him



and Matt feed her. Matt looking at her in her arms, wondering how their life would be without Liz. Matt grew up with five brothers, he never had a chance to learn how to handle girl, especially a baby girl. He is scared about her future such as when is the time for her to start dating, how to explain the menstrual cycle, or how to bought her first bra. He comes to a conclusion that he needed help for some things, but he pretty sure will be a best father for his only daughter.

Next day without Liz is hard for Matt, he got lots of calls from family and relatives. Each of the conversation is meant to comfort him, in other situations, many people come to the hospital maternity waiting room that become a grieving room. Most people come but they stay silent, waiting for someone say a right thing, even though there is no right thing to say for that type of situation. Matt is busy with his own mind, how could he surviving life, Liz was his life, what will he do without her? In next second, Matt is thinking about taking his life away. Not long after he finally think about Maddy. He is so ashamed of himself for being such a selfish person, he is not the one who losing Liz, Maddy also losing her mom. Start from that day, Matt determine to make Maddy as his reason for living.

The funeral of Liz. Matt never imagine he will attend this kind of event, at least not at the age thirty. He receives so many phone calls but one of it from a woman that work for organ and tissue donation that Liz has been registered as a donor. It will never be easy for Matt to handle big decision like organ donor or how Liz wants to be taking care after she died, he always put everything for Liz to choose

f him and long before that, his parent always made a big decision for him.



This is such a different story, different part of the story, and in this story, he had to decide which one Liz wants, is it cricket or urns?

Matt never come back home after Liz is instructed to bed rest in hospital. He would never miss a night of Liz spent alone in the hospital. When Matt finally come back home, he come back with an army of friends and family who will support him. At first, Matt arrange playlist for Liz funeral, he got some help from A.J. then he chose several pictures of Liz to be showed in funeral home. The rest of family and friends took care of things that Matt can't handle, Liz's parents worked for financial plan, Sonja created a memorial fund, Matt's mom and stepmom helped clean up the house, Matt's dad, stepdad, brothers, and one of Liz's uncles teamed up to tackle some long-neglected home improvement projects.

In the next Saturday, the funeral of Liz held in the funeral home. There are so many people come such as friends, family, co-workers, nurses from the hospital, and strangers. Matt felt nervous to think he had to be alone in front of many people, without Liz, but he realized he has to giving speech in front of those people, and he did it excellently. After the moment of grieving in funeral home, all of the people are invited to Matt's house for celebrating. Matt became stronger after realized that are so many people who loved Liz. He comes to everyone one by one, share hugs and support. The backyard is the main reason of Liz wanted the house, because she loved to held a party in it. It is so sad to realize that Liz can't be there to see people who love her. In the middle of the event, Matt feels exhausted and needs to see

as soon as possible. He came to A.J., ask for his help to drive him go to the
They both sneak out while everyone still enjoying the party in the



backyard. Matt come to Maddy to tell her the story of his day, about her mom funeral. Before he left, he sticks the picture of Liz inside of Maddy incubator, then giving her two kisses by hand in her forehead, one kisses from dad, and one from her mother.

It's two weeks already and Maddy finally get permission to come back home. Matt is anxious of Maddy's safety at home, especially being taken care of him but Doctor insisted that hospital is the most dangerous place for a baby and she has to go home soon for the sake of her safety. Matt finally give in, he thought it does not matter a day after or a year later, he will never get what he hoped for, a baby with Liz as a partner for raising the baby. He finally alone with Maddy after go out from hospital. He drove with his baby in car and suddenly he felt compelled to drive past where Liz's funeral had been held, but as soon as he saw the parking lot he started crying and shaking uncontrollably. It was hard for him to drive under the feeling of irrepressible grief. He managed to arrive at home, even it causes a little scratch on Liz's car because he hits it when tried to park the car.

The home feels different, it was less lonely with Madeline. The big Family are showing care and worries upon them, so one day, Tom, Liz's dad, come out with fantastic ideas to hire a *doula* for them. It means a helper for a postpartum mother the deal with their new baby born. After two days with them, Matt realizing that they don't really help a lot, they just simply handle things he used to do and giving him more sleep, but less sleep is not really a big deal for Matt so then he

conclusion that he does not need a *doula* for help him taking care his only Madeline has a very strict schedule for the first few months, she has



sleeping time and feeding time. Matt mostly handle everything about her alone, he changes the diapers, make sure she was okay after vomit, prepared her formula and feed her. He did not take the advice to sleep if the baby is sleep, he always do household chores or keep up with his thing by his computer.

On a random day when Matt is hanging out with a friend, a mother randomly asked his friend about Maddy, assuming that it was her, while the friend of Matt answered it like it was her who experienced it. Matt feels anxious and go find the woman for giving her a real explanation, the woman named Windy, after Matt finished the story, Windy wiped her tears, she can imagine how hard it would be for him since she also has a daughter, then she took a pen and paper, started writing Matt's information and promised to get in touch again in hence to help him raising his daughter. She knows an online parenting group that helps parents to deal with baby, matt is very enthusiast to join but unfortunately, the community declined him with the reason for the women comfort and privacy because they also will talk about breastfeeding and any other postpartum symptoms. Windy also finds it unfair so she decided to make their own group.

The group went successfully, it grows bigger as time flies and succeed to gain many people to join, no matter what gender you are. Then Matt started to writing blog again in tend to make it as a diary of Maddy. One day, he found his hometown newspaper that contains many good contents of parenting, once he reaches out the website thru email, he got a response. The newspaper wanted to

story on their website, the reaction is insane, he got so many new readers g. He finally makes a new connection through the internet to people who



enjoy the story of Maddy every day. There will always many good responses back from the society. The community so warm and supportive, they even offer to help in a material way. People even ask his address to send gifts for him and Maddy, at first, he scared to handed them the address but his parent in law convincing him that is okay for let people help if they wanted to, so Matt started get so many packages right in front of his door. There are so many advices for Matt from everyone but he realizes he already has the instinct of parents that could handle the crisis of his baby.

When they went for a medical check up in pediatrician, Dr. Hartstein, she asks plenty of questions about Maddy's development, when the appointment is done, she said "Matt, you're doing a great job". Considering how chaos their life was without Liz. Day to day categorizes success with Maddy and the praise from the pediatrician lift up the mood. Matt keeps continuing blogging to keep Maddy's diary archived, some of reader find it because they are pregnant at first, and now they already give birth but so clueless to be a parent, then they turned into Matt as they know Matt already passed the struggle behind. Matt breaks the assumption of its only mother who can be experts at nurturing, either women or men, they both just as clueless as a new parent normally did. Other than that, the blog also helps people to deal with death of spouse. He became everybody friends, widow people started share their stories by e-mail or phone, this community grows warm and intimate to supporting one another. Liz's death indirectly turns Matt as an uncertified expert of grieving. It was energy draining sometimes but also a power



inded that he is not alone that feel the sadness, with the community he
tinue to move through and living his life after Liz's death.

The next successful event that Matt could categorize is when three of his best friends in Minnesota offered to stay with him in Los Angeles a little while after Maddy could be brought home. At first, he thought that they come for keep him entertain like throwing silly jokes, having fun with one another since Matt needs to be accompanied during his grieving after his loss of Liz. All of the assumption is wrong, A.J., one of his best friends who come first voluntarily to feeding her, burping her, and changing her diaper. Matt taught three of his best friends, A.J., Steve, and John how to hold, feed, and burp a premature baby based on Matt's experience.

Maddy had her first trip in June 2009, She's out for Josh's wedding in Minnesota. She gets her first experience with a present from the airline. It was a first flight certificate and a book which they could record all her travels later. Matt gets so many advices about bring extra clothes for her to changes during the trip, also to bring extra diapers. He is totally wide awake for 4 hours flight while Maddy is doing such a perfectly behavior during her first flight because she sleeps almost the entire way to Minneapolis.

The wedding goes well even though Matt experienced various feelings upon it, most of it is wishing Liz to be with him in the wedding. There is a major change Matt feels after being a father, he has to put more attention to the family. Before Maddy was born, Matt and Liz never spent much time with the family in Minnesota, they often go straight to a friend house for dinner right after they arrived. The

is different now, Matt is focusing on how the whole family could spent
together in one place, then he decided to inviting all of the family of his to



Liz's childhood house to share the moment together with Maddy. Not only Maddy that have some fun, Matt also went for a short fishing trips with his brothers for recapture a camaraderie that they believe had disappear since long time ago. The trip is very refreshing for Matt, he is very grateful with the trip, one of the reasons is because he'd been able to start making new memories with Maddy in the old place of his.

Matt finally reach September 17, Liz's birthday. He spends the day with Anya since last year, the one who accompany Liz for her birthday in Los Angeles is only Anya. Matt went for a business trip in India and he felt so sorry to missed Liz birthday, he feels it even more when Liz is passed away. After Liz's birthday, Matt had an idea that he shared thru his blog, it was 5K walk/run in honor of Liz, they are raising money during this event. As soon as Matt hear the amount of money they raised, he thinks about other people in needs. He started to think about Bob who lost his wife during childbirth, Jackie who lost her husband on the exact same day as Liz, Kim who losing her house a few months after her husband died, he wants to help them, he realizes that he is so much luckier to had a good life. They build a nonprofit foundation under the name of Liz Logelin.

Work cannot be postponing anymore, Matt must to back at work, first thing first he does is looking for a daycare to keep Maddy under control. Things at work has change a lot since the last time he left. It's been seven months and people still being awkward to talk with him, he thought he already got a new label from "a man

in India" became "a man who lost his wife".



Liz still be the part of every move Matt does. He even still pay the bill of her phone number so he could feel the presence of Liz. The storage of her things stays the same, the clothes, the jewelry, and the perfume are stay the same right before she left. He suddenly realizes that he had to move on, life is going on and he needs to live his present. He started with selling Liz's car, the big thing he hard to get rid of. He also thinks to manage the things of Liz that no longer been used, he beliefs that even though the things already gone, the memories last forever in him, and he found his peace of letting go.



2. The Biography of Matthew Logelin

Matthew Logelin or Matt was born around 1978. He lives and grow in Minnesota, Minneapolis. He was married with his high-school lover Liz, Elizabeth Goodman. He spent so many times being in long-distance relationship with Liz since high-school, they continued the relationship in long distance for pursuing their bachelor degree and his master degree. Matt went to St. John's University in Minnesota for bachelor degree and went to Loyola University in Chicago for master degree.

Matt and Liz were married in August 13, 2005. Two years after their wedding, Liz found herself pregnant for their first baby. Matt then become a father 7 weeks earlier because his baby born premature. Sadly, his wife passed away 27 hours after giving birth. His journey of being a single parent for a baby has begun, then he wrote down his story as an archive of his life.

Matthew Logelin is an American author who actively wrote in blog. He also a public speaker and a charity founder. In 2011, he published *Two Kisses for Maddy: A Memoir of Loss and Love*, which became a New York Times bestseller that be reprinted in 2021 under the title *Fatherhood*. The newest version of the book is by the name of a Netflix movie that adapted the story of his life, starring by Kevin Hart in 2021. His blog, Matt, Liz and Madeline: Life and Death, all in a 27-Hour Period, received over 40,000 hits per day at its peak in 2008. Matthew's write a lot about his experience of the sudden death of his spouse, all in 27 hours after they

became a parent. In 2009, Matt established The Liz Logelin Foundation,



a non-profit organization that provides financial grants to families with children who have lost a parent for around fifteen years.

Matthew Logelin has worked with people who have lost a partner, he ever be a presenter at Camp Widow. He also spoke in National Conference on Widowhood in 2009. In another occasion, he also attends Voice of America's Healing the Grieving Heart radio show.

