

Pen Sketch

Greetings. [REDACTED] I am proud to be a donor. I'd like to give you a bit of information about my background so that you get an idea of who I am and what I'm like as a person.

I grew up [REDACTED] and have one older brother [REDACTED]. My family had originally moved there for work and so we spent a lot of time travelling backwards and forwards to Norfolk and Cambridgeshire to see relatives during the school holidays. Growing up I was always fairly active, I did well at school and enjoyed being in the air cadets. I originally wanted to be a pilot in the RAF but my eyesight was not good enough alas. My main hobbies were football, badminton, playing computer games and drawing – something that I really enjoyed growing up and still like doing nowadays when I can find the time.

I'm 6 foot tall, have light brown hair and green eyes. The things that I most like about myself are that I am tenacious and curious. Trends that run in my family are a love of good music and good food, as well as a desire to enjoy the great outdoors. My brother and sister-in-law had great problems with fertility and this is one of the things that drove me to become a sperm donor. I believe that I am a strong minded and creative individual. I've always been keen to pursue work and activities where I can get involved, help other people and make a difference. In later years I have learnt to be more relaxed but can still get rather worked up and frustrated when things don't go my way. Impatience can sometimes be useful but is frequently a curse.

I've always liked science but did not want to do something too dry with little connection to the real world. I went to Medical School [REDACTED] and qualifying in Medicine has been my proudest achievement. It is the job best suited to intellectual stimulation, understanding humanity and caring for others. Being a Doctor has allowed me to work with others, be less driven by my ego and to give something back to society. This may sound trite but is something truly important and am glad about what I have been able to do to support people on a large scale. I recognise the importance of lifelong learning and staying fresh and informed. I have just submitted my dissertation for my Master's degree in Medical Law and Ethics [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and am already thinking about what I should be studying next.

In my spare time, I am interested in art and drawing, reading (but never get the time to do as much as I would like – I'm currently in a Haruki Murakami phase right now), writing (I have written a medical book for patients which I was very proud of), video gaming, learning the piano, running, movies (especially exciting films like Back to the Future), eclectic music (from Talking Heads to West African), cooking, eating out and most importantly spending time with friends and family. This last activity is perhaps the thing that matters the most out of everything in life. I have 2 amazing children [REDACTED]. Having close links with good friends and seeing family are the things that remain after everything else and no matter how important you might think that work and material benefits are, this sits above everything else. It has taken me a long time to realise this but making mistakes and learning from them is all part of the process. I doubt that my younger self would be receptive to the wisdom that I could now impart but everyone has their own journey.

Goodwill Statement

Hi,

I hope you're well. I've been thinking about what to write in this message for a long time now and it's difficult to consolidate one's thoughts to adequately capture all the things that I want to say and to convey all the meaning and feelings that I think are important.

If you are reading this message, then then you may be curious about me. I have supplied the genetic material to enable your conception. Your parents would have selected this based on my profile, hoping that it would be a good fit and allowing you to have a bright future. It's hard to tease apart what makes you you, there will be a combination of both biological and environmental factors. It will be interesting to see if you think that anything that you find out about me chimes with your characteristics, personality and interests.

If you've read my pen sketch mini biography, then you'll know a little about me already. I've worked in the medical profession for many years (I was an Endocrinologist) and frequently dealt with people struggling with infertility. I already have 2 children of my own (██████████) who are amazing people. My brother (██████████) and his wife (██████████) however, had problems with getting pregnant for many years and I realised the stress that this caused and the strong desire that people have to have children of their own – something that I had taken for granted. That hope to be a parent and bring up children is deep and innate and the disappointment that people face when they cannot, shouldn't be underestimated.

What your parents went through and the journey they will have gone on to have you, says a lot about how precious you are. It's good that your parents have disclosed to you that you are donor conceived, many don't and after having done some reading on the subject it's clear that individuals who aren't informed that they are donor conceived feel that they are missing out on an important part of their personal identity.

What are my thoughts and hopes for you as you become an adult? I have no right or place to say what I want. I was always just keen to help out. Having children is a joy and being able to bring new life into the world is a privilege. I hope that you are comfortable in yourself and are self-aware enough to be able to recognise the things that you need to work on. Nobody is the

finished product, and we all continue to learn and grow and find our own path. Stick up for yourself and those close to you. Don't be afraid to take risks or you'll pile up regrets later in life. Mistakes are fine, but repeating those mistakes is not a good look. I have made errors of judgement, said and done stupid things, let people down and not paid enough attention when I should have done. All I can suggest is that you use the salutary lessons that life throws at you to grow and never be a slave to others.

I want to wish you all the best for the future. The best advice I can offer is to be yourself, or at least project a confident version of yourself, be patient, kind and honest with others, and don't be afraid to be vulnerable. Friends and family rather than superficial achievements make life the most meaningful and although it's good to be successful in your endeavours, there is nothing more important than loving and being loved.