

Donor Pen Sketch and Goodwill Message

Donor Pen Sketch

Donor 1869

Hello! Welcome to my pen sketch.

Maybe it's easiest to start with some family background/history etc.

On my father's side I come from a [REDACTED] family, who themselves probably migrated [REDACTED]. This family branch includes a few figures of note; [REDACTED] a few MPs [REDACTED]. Alas the family manor burned down [REDACTED] and any riches have long been lost. More recently, my grandfather was a soldier who won [REDACTED] military crosses for bravery [REDACTED]. My father was a writer [REDACTED], and a teacher, [REDACTED]. I'm sure he would accept that was an exaggeration but he was a committed writer and a hugely dedicated school teacher, teaching many thousands of students at the school where he was head of English [REDACTED]. He died when I was 13 which was obviously a big loss for all the family. He had been a heavy smoker all his life and he had lung cancer.

On my mother's side there is a long run of clerics, some rather worthy, others more sparkly, [REDACTED]. There's also a strand of medics, [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED] painter. My mother, who is still alive, was a social worker and is an avid connoisseur of the arts and culture, mainly classical music and literature. We have a very good relationship and enjoy many shared interests together.

In terms of providing a brief biographical run-down of my life... I grew up in [REDACTED] and went to primary and secondary school there. I have two older sisters who were generally kind and loving, apart from covering me in make-up and taking me to [REDACTED] concerts when I was too young to protest. I enjoyed school and had to carefully tread the line between being 'cool' and a nerd. (I like to think I was firmly in the first camp but at times I probably fell into the second). The nerdiness was a bit diluted by doing extracurricular activities like theatre and sports and music. I acted in school productions, was in the cricket team and played trumpet in the school orchestra.

After school I took a gap year. I trained as a chef and spent a winter working in the [REDACTED] Alpes, then spent six months teaching English in a primary school [REDACTED]. Then it was four years studying History [REDACTED]. I studied hard, got a First, and just found time to perform in some musical theatre productions. I spent the summer vacations working on development projects [REDACTED] and it was partly those experiences which sparked an interest in the Middle East. So after graduating I went [REDACTED] a year studying Arabic and Persian. I then got a scholarship to do an MA in Middle Eastern studies [REDACTED]. That was two years of intensive study which almost melted my brain beyond repair, but I did manage to perform in some theatre productions too.

Then I moved [REDACTED], where I pretended to my Mum I was in a proper job but in reality was scrabbling around trying to make ends meet while I did the whole penniless writer thing, hammering out a poor and unpublishable first novel.

Anyway, to cut a long story short, after this moved back [REDACTED] and worked in a range of areas [REDACTED] and then more recently as a History teacher. I did that for a few years and then set up an environmental education charity, not because I didn't love teaching, but because it was an issue I was concerned and passionate about, and it felt like children needed more opportunities to engage with the subject. So now I run that charity as a full-time job.

My main pleasures in life are reading and writing. I also love going to acting classes and studying all aspects of theatre (writing, acting, directing).

I'm confident and comfortable socially but I wouldn't say I'm the life and soul of the party, if that means telling anecdotes and being a great raconteur. I'm probably more of an introvert in the sense that I'm more inclined to enjoy one-on-one

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interactions. Generally I like doing the listening in a conversation more than the talking.

I have two older sisters. [REDACTED]. They both have children of their own.

I would say I am content with the absolute simplest pleasures in life; give me a good book and I'm blissfully happy. I care most about things which are simple but easy to overlook; time spent well, good books, learning, both for oneself and to pass on to others, strong friendships and family relationships.

I can scrub up but most of the time dress hurriedly and badly, get easily frustrated with new technology, and have slight troglodyte tendencies; I still listen to cassettes and couldn't download the sperm bank app because my phone was completely out of date. I'm also walking disaster at DIY. Give me an electric drill and it will end with a large insurance claim and/or a trip to A&E.

To end on a positive note, I have a full head of hair [REDACTED], I'm pretty skilled in the kitchen especially if it involves a wok, and I feel just as energetic and youthful today as I did when I was 12!

I don't have children of my own. I have thought about it in the past but it feels like I've never met the right person. But it would be wonderful to feel that I can help other people create a family of their own.

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Donor Goodwill Message to Offspring

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Becoming a sperm donor was a difficult decision to take. But I sincerely hope that you feel it was the right one. It felt like an important way to make a positive contribution to the world, and to help people who were actively seeking support in creating a family and all the happiness that goes with that.

That said, where to begin? I hope your life has been fulfilling so far. I wonder what challenges and rewards it has thrown up for you. I hope you have had a warm and loving upbringing, with many happy memories you can carry with you through life.

My own childhood was generally happy, although of course it presented difficulties and it wasn't all plain-sailing. I lost my father when I was 13 years old and that had a big impact on my life. But my family was very close-knit and loving and in a way it brought us all together and made us stronger.

If you are curious to know about this side of your family, and the roots going back...well there are a few things I can share with you.

My mother (who is still alive as I write this) is a gregarious, entertaining woman with a wonderful sense of humour and an amazing passion for and knowledge of literature. In old age she set herself the challenge of learning all of Shakespeare's sonnets by heart (I don't think she quite managed it but she certainly tried). In her family line there are some notable figures in the fields of medicine and art and also in the clergy.

As for myself...I suppose I would describe myself as energetic, a bit eccentric, passionate about theatre and literature and history, and I love anything to do with education and teaching children, which is my profession. I also have two wonderful sisters who each have children of their own. They work in the arts; one makes radio programmes and the other is an artist.

But, this is a message about you, so to finish by turning to you as you arrive at your 18th birthday; I hope you have had a supportive and fulfilling life so far. And I hope when you look at the future you feel a sense of passion and energy and excitement at all the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of you. It's difficult to avoid falling into cliches, but the saying 'dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die tomorrow' is probably the mantra I would share with any young person, and is the one I carry closest to my heart as I move through life. Things will inevitably go wrong along the way but if you throw yourself into life's challenges then at least you will have no regrets.

So, that said, I wish you the very best. If you ever feel the inclination to get in contact you will be met with a very warm and loving response, but of course there is no expectation and that decision is entirely up to you.