

Pen Portrait

Not really sure how to start this, but I guess hello is always a good one. It isn't as easy as people think having to describe yourself and your family, so I will just try to be as honest as possible with you, as I hope your parents have been with you about this whole process. [REDACTED] I am married [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have two children [REDACTED] I am pretty sure when you are reading this there will no more to add as two is definitely enough.

I come from a loving family, have a brother and a sister, both younger and our parents are the best that we could have hoped for. My dad [REDACTED] works for himself, although now semi-retired, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] My mum is retired but was to working in a school prior to that. She also used to work in the law courts, and has always had a passion for law and the legal process. This leads me to my current situation, I am working full time for a freight forwarder, but at the same time studying law in view to starting a career as a criminal barrister. Whether this comes to fruition remains to be seen, but hopefully if we ever meet I will be able to give you legal advice.

My dad, [REDACTED] had a very hard childhood, with my paternal granddad never really being around and my nan working all the time. My dad will tell you him and my uncle (the older brother) bought themselves up until they were 13 and 11, when my nan met my step granddad who will always be referred to as my 'real' granddad. He left school at 15 and basically any success he has had has been self-made. He hates it when people say, 'life isn't fair' and 'I haven't had the same chances as...' because he didn't and he still 'made it'.

My mum, [REDACTED], grew up in [REDACTED] usual route of school and university, and spent most of her life in secretarial roles. My grandma and granddad were the sweetest people you would ever wish to meet. My grandma only died last year after a long battle with dementia and we all still really miss her. This side of the family is where all of my cousins come from. My dad's brother had no kids. My mum's older sister has 4 and they now have two children each. Her younger brother has two but neither have children yet. It is my cousin [REDACTED], that I am closest too. They all live in South Africa, although some of cousins have recently moved to Australia and New Zealand. So there is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from my aunt and then [REDACTED] from my uncle. What I always found funny was that our ages are all in order as they 'should be'. By that I mean my aunt is the oldest and all of her children are older than me but I am older than [REDACTED] and my uncle was the youngest.

Anyway I am confusing myself typing this so will end it here, with a brief idea of who I am. I am extremely family orientated, possibly because for me that is always what I wanted. To be a husband and dad. It was only recently I decided the career path I wanted to follow. This may be the wrong one as my wife says I

am very sensitive and that is not a good trait for a barrister. I am a very loyal person and I believe that this would show through to any job I have had. I will always give 100% to any employer even if I disagree with a decision they make and one thing I have always done is work very hard at any task I undertake. I believe that as long as you can say this no matter the outcome a person should be proud of themselves and this will be something I want to convey to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. As long as they do their best at anything [REDACTED] and I will be proud whatever. No matter their profession when they are older as long as they are the best they can be this is all that is important.

I hope this has given you an overview of me and my family. As I said in my application this may not be an easy road for you and maybe you weren't told the truth about where you came from for a long time, but know this. Genetics are important but not the be all and end all. The fact your parents have taken the life decision to dedicate it to you, that is what is most important. So you may look nothing like them, so your traits may be completely different. The fact is they are giving you the most fundamental thing any human or creature on this earth needs and that is love.