

Donor Pen Sketch and Goodwill Message

Donor Pen Sketch

Donor 1883

My mother is of Jewish origin and my dad was Russian. I was close to my grandmother and my grandfather. My family was musical and I also started playing the piano at a young age and this is still a big part of me today.

I was a pretty cheerful kid and liked to go a little crazy but when I ended up at the specialist music school, things became more intense and serious. I was always very sensitive.

Later, when we moved I became very interested in science and astronomy. I bought many books and taught myself as much as was possible about chemistry, physics, history and the universe which I found all very fascinating. Then I was given a camera and became interested in photography. I wanted to capture every happy moment. I was often afraid of death or illnesses as a child (or to lose somebody) and tried to find ways to cope, either by wanting to be surrounded with family or friends of family, and being alone as little as possible. I was and still am close to my sister. She is younger than me and I always felt very protective of her.

Around I got a scholarship to go and study music. It was very hard at first as it was the first time I was completely detached from my family and entirely on my own, in another new country once again. But I quickly bounced from this. The new harsh reality actually taught me many valuable lessons and I grew stronger from this experience. I met my now wife at almost as soon as I arrived there - although I had to fight for her also - and we are still together years later.

I became more independent. After the Masters degree, I proposed to my wife while on tour and we married in the following summer.

I was touring a lot when we had our first daughter (although I managed to get back in time for her birth and I was also there for the other two). I realised I had to curb back my travels when the other kids were born.

Family and being together was always the most important thing for me (even before my own family) but my job made it very difficult. I was also getting more and more exasperated about how quickly time flew, how quickly the kids grew. I felt that there was not much I could do about it and having all these happy moments and memories were going by too quickly.

One day, my wife became pregnant again but because she felt so overwhelmed already with the other 3 kids, she felt there was no way she would be able to have another one. We decided to abort and that moment really affected me much more than I thought it would. It almost broke me actually.

Later, when the pandemic came and my work grounded to a halt (with the lockdowns), I had another kind of existential crisis. I saw an advert from the LSB and thought I should try and do something, donate for others, who don't have this opportunity that perhaps we had. It made complete sense at the time.

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Donor Goodwill Message to Offspring

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Why did you want to give someone else the opportunity to become a parent?

Being a parent is a wonderful gift and it makes me upset to think that some people may be deprived of it, through no fault of their own. But it is also really important to understand how much your parents wanted to have you, as they went through all this trouble to make this happen.

What are your thoughts & hopes for this person?

My hopes are simply that you sometimes manage to take the time to stop and think what an amazing wonder it is, to exist, and to have people around you who love you very much. Life sometimes can feel incredibly difficult, even unbearable at times. But such moments will pass, even if it doesn't always feel like this at the time. Do not give up hope and do not give up a vision of yourself, in your life. And don't underestimate how much more incredible things can turn out to be.

Materialistic things and financial stability is important but only up to a point. Love, care and family will always be priceless and not everyone can be blessed with this. I hope you achieve all your dreams but even if you don't, that is absolutely ok too.