

# Donor 1957

## About Me

I am not really sure where to begin so I will start by saying I had a great childhood growing up near the seaside. My family did not have much money and my parents worked as hard as they could; my Mum in particular worked night shifts as a nurse at a local hospital (seven nights on, seven nights off – can you imagine?). My Dad loves to work and is now a cabbie post-retirement; he also loves knowing about other people and their lives, so this job suits him perfectly! My sister is [REDACTED] younger than me and one of my best friends; we have the same views on life and our sense of humour is absolutely identical. I always travel home for Christmas, despite living away [REDACTED] the festive season is always spent with lots and lots of laughter.

I really enjoyed school, which is probably a factor in why my career is based in education. After moving down to London for university, I became a teacher and have been working in education ever since, now focusing on safeguarding and child protection. I have also picked up British Sign Language and hope to move into professional interpreting in a few years' time.

In terms of my looks, I am 2cm shy of being six foot tall (which has always bothered me), with blue/grey eyes and brown hair. I have three cowlicks; although they are supposed to be lucky, it means that hairstyles are somewhat limited– I have settled on a quiff, which seems to rise and fall depending on my mood. People who use sign language often develop a sign name over time; [REDACTED]

# Donor 1957

## About Me *continued*

At this time of writing, I have a short but wide family tree; my grandparents are long gone but I have many aunts, uncles and cousins both here and abroad. I also have my chosen family here in London; my little tuxedo cat [REDACTED] and a small but closely-knit circle of best friends, whom I love dearly. All of my family and close friends are in service professions; we greatly value empathy and compassion, generosity and the idea of making a positive impact in the lives of others. I feel that this belief guided my decision to donate.

My absolute passion in life is to travel; I have a list in my phone of around 100 countries I would like to visit at some point and I am currently about half-way through. Nothing excites and challenges me more than being completely immersed in a new environment; from being lost during a rainstorm somewhere in Sri Lanka, to midnight karaoke with strangers in Japan, these experiences have certainly shaped who I am. Just before the pandemic, I lived in New Zealand for a few years but decided to come back to London to make the most of the time I have with my family while they are still relatively healthy and mobile. Perhaps, after all, there is no place quite like home.

All in all, I know I have been dealt a good deck of cards in my life so far. I hope, wherever you are, that you too have been fortunate enough to find a passion that inspires and makes you feel truly alive.

# Donor 1957

## Goodwill Message

As you read this letter, I know that you are stepping into adulthood- a significant milestone in your life. I want to start by saying how honoured I feel to be a tiny part of this journey for you, even if it has been from a distance. Eighteen years ago, I made the decision to become a donor because I wanted to help families experience parenthood. It was a choice made with a lot of thought and care- knowing that you exist and reading this letter is an incredible testament to that decision. You may have many questions about who I am and why I chose to donate. My hope is that this pen portrait and message will offer you some insight.

Although I may not know you personally, I want you to know that I think of you often and I hope that you are living a life filled with happiness and boundless opportunities. You are undoubtedly surrounded by people who care deeply for you and have supported you throughout your life; I trust that they have given you the love and guidance that every child deserves. If you ever feel the need to learn more about me, my background, or my motivations, please know that I am open to having that conversation. Whether you wish to connect now, later, or not at all, the choice is entirely yours, and I completely respect that decision.

If I could give you any advice, it would be to quote an old friend of mine; never forget that you are steering your own ship. Cherish the days when the water is calm, make the most of the wind at your back and remember that even the worst storm will eventually pass. I wish you all the best as you set sail on this new chapter of your life. May it be filled with love, joy and fulfilment.

# Donor 1957

## Q&A

### **What are your career goals?**

Policy maker for the Department for Education, specifically around safeguarding and/or personal development of children/young people.

### **What are your interests?**

Vegetarian food, reading non-fiction books (especially on space, popular science and anthropology), people-watching on London's Southbank

### **What are your skills?**

British Sign Language (currently Signature level 3), keeping house plants alive, solving people's computer problems!

### **Do you consider yourself an active person?**

I walk absolutely everywhere (I love long hikes) but other than that, I detest all sports - no one in my family seems to like it either! I do like yoga and have been to a few classes over the years.

### **What is your favourite music, artist and/or band?**

My taste in music is very broad but my favourite music is quite terrible - I love late 90s / early 2000s house music (think the original Clubland compilation). Favourite artists are probably Alanis Morissette, The Carpenters and Kylie Minogue (I told you my tastes were broad).

### **What are your favourite foods?**

Although I am vegetarian, I am not fussy with food whatsoever - I will eat anything. Particularly anything spicy. Pad Thai is my go-to treat on a weekend.

# Donor 1957

## Q&A

### **Do you have any pets?**

I have a [REDACTED] year old cat called [REDACTED] who I took in from Battersea when I bought my house [REDACTED]. I have never had a cat before and to this day she continues to surprise me and make me laugh. She is an anxious little thing so, in turn, I make sure my home is very quiet and calm, just for her. I did not understand how much this would actually benefit me. My Mum says that we were made for each other!

### **What is your favourite holiday destination? And why?**

My favourite place in the whole world is Cape Reinga at the very top of New Zealand's north island. If we ever get to meet, I will explain why!

### **What is your favourite city/country? And why?**

My favourite country has to be Japan. It is an incredible place for so many reasons, especially the people and cultural quirks. I have been a few times now and always feel so sad to leave. If I had my time again I would try to live there for a few years.

### **Do you speak any languages besides English?**

I am almost fluent in British Sign Language and can hold a basic conversation in German.

### **What are three words that would best describe you?**

I would hope that people remember me as being empathetic, attentive and kind.

# Donor 1957

## Q&A

### **Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?**

I currently live in London and hope to move up to Manchester at some point soon, to be closer to my family. I hope to continue my current line of work and perhaps have a little more disposable income to do more of my absolute passion, which is to travel around the world. Starting a family would be a wonderful turn of events but I am lucky have some fantastic friends - at the moment they are all the family I need.

# Donor 1957

## Handwritten Note

I know many people struggle to conceive; This is an amazing opportunity to be able to help and contribute to someone's journey towards parenthood.