

Dheghōm

Matter 10

Summary

I Don't Know my Father

Account by:	Love Ellis, 26. Poet.
Source:	Self-published book of poetry.
Location:	England.
Event:	Sep 1992.
Report:	1 Jul 2019.
Catalogued:	14 Sep 2020.

Report

I am the product of a one-night stand,
Child of a stranger from a foreign land.
Who was this libertine, so tall and tanned?
I don't know my father.

"Love, lamb, you're like him", mother says. "It's
true",
"You know yourself, and so you know him too."
Yeah, right – you really think I have a clue?
I don't know my father.

When I was thirteen he showed up one day,

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Listening with care to what I had to say.
Why would he mind so much then go away?
I don't **know** my father.

Jo's dad is boisterous and he likes to shout,
Sarah's lusts after me – he creeps me out.
Patrick's dad worries, is his son devout?
I don't know **my** father.

One day, a branch fell from a rotting pine,
Two friends and I stood underneath, in line.
One friend was killed, the other smashed his
spine.
Why was I flattened yet escaped just fine?

One day, my boyfriend drove us past a
shrine,
Ice, brakes and hills contrived to intertwine.
One slip-up flipped us down a sharp incline.
He died, I lived. Could that be by design?

One day, my aircraft seat would not recline,
Offered an upgrade, I could not decline.
One hour later, I'd a deal to sign.
How did that talent agent spill his wine?

One day, I found some tickets tied with
twine,
All were for Euromillions, marked "Love –
thine".
One, thirteen, forty, forty-eight, four-nine.

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Five hundred grand for having balls align?

Good luck accompanies this life of mine,
Always watched over by a force divine.
Who is this spirit who seems so benign?
I don't know my **father**.

You, guardian angel, have a lot to learn,
My life is *my* life: none of your concern.
How will I tell you this if you return?
I don't know, my father.

Notes

Ellis, L. (2019) "I Don't Know my Father", in *This Thing Called Love*. London: Love Ellis, pp. 18-19.

The winning numbers for the Euromillions lottery drawn 17 Oct 2014 were: 1, 13, 40, 48, 49, with star balls 8 and 10. No tickets matched all five numbers and both star balls, but four matched all five numbers and one star ball. Each winner received €764,204.94 (£551,772.88). One winner was from the UK and opted to remain anonymous.

Love Ellis has repeatedly denied requests for interviews.

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Love Ellis's mother, the artist Alison Ellis, will say nothing about her daughter's father other than that he was "tall, dark and handsome". Her sister, Catherine Garvey, who may also have met the man, only repeats this description.

This Thing Called Love was removed from sale 5 Sep 2020, three months after Love Ellis's 27th birthday.