

FATHER OF ONE OF THE BRIDES

TRINITY CENTRE, BRISTOL

26TH JULY 2025

EMERITUS PROF. RICHARD A. BARTLE

BSC PHD FRSA FBCS SFHEA

JENNY

- YES, THIS IS A **POWERPOINT** PRESENTATION
 - I'M A **PROFESSOR**, WHAT DID YOU **EXPECT**?
- I ONLY HAVE SOMETHING LIKE **10** MINUTES, SO I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BE **QUICK**
- SO, LET'S GO ~~BACK IN TIME~~ TO JENNY'S **BEGINNINGS**
- PLANNING AHEAD FOR **JUST** THIS MOMENT, I TOOK A **PHOTOGRAPH** OF JENNY ON **EVERY** BIRTHDAY FROM AGE **0** TO **20**
 - EXCEPT AGE **5**, AND I **LOST** THE AGE 20 ONE

JENNY IS 20



JENNY IS 19



JENNY IS 18



JENNY IS 17



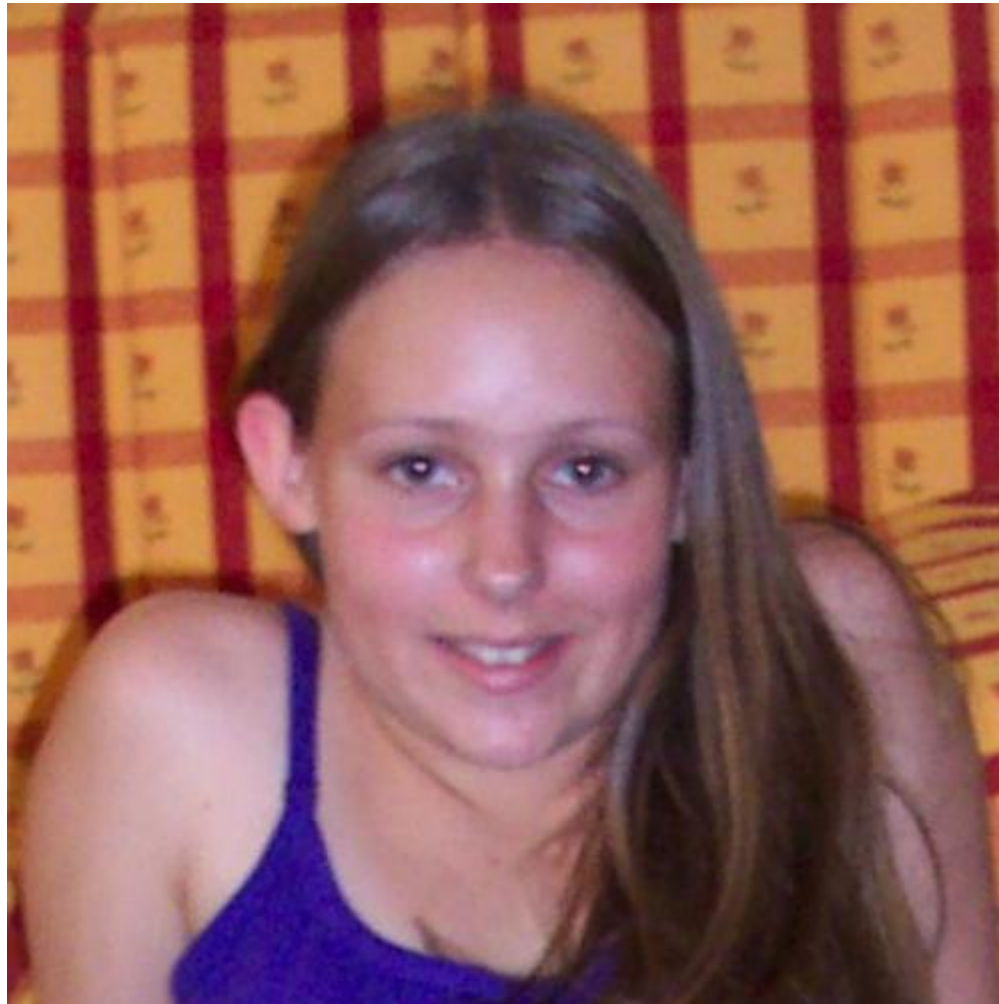
JENNY IS 16



JENNY IS 15



JENNY IS 14



JENNY IS 13



JENNY IS 12



JENNY IS II



JENNY IS 10



JENNY IS 9



JENNY IS 8



JENNY IS 7



JENNY IS 6



JENNY IS 5



JENNY IS 4



JENNY IS 3



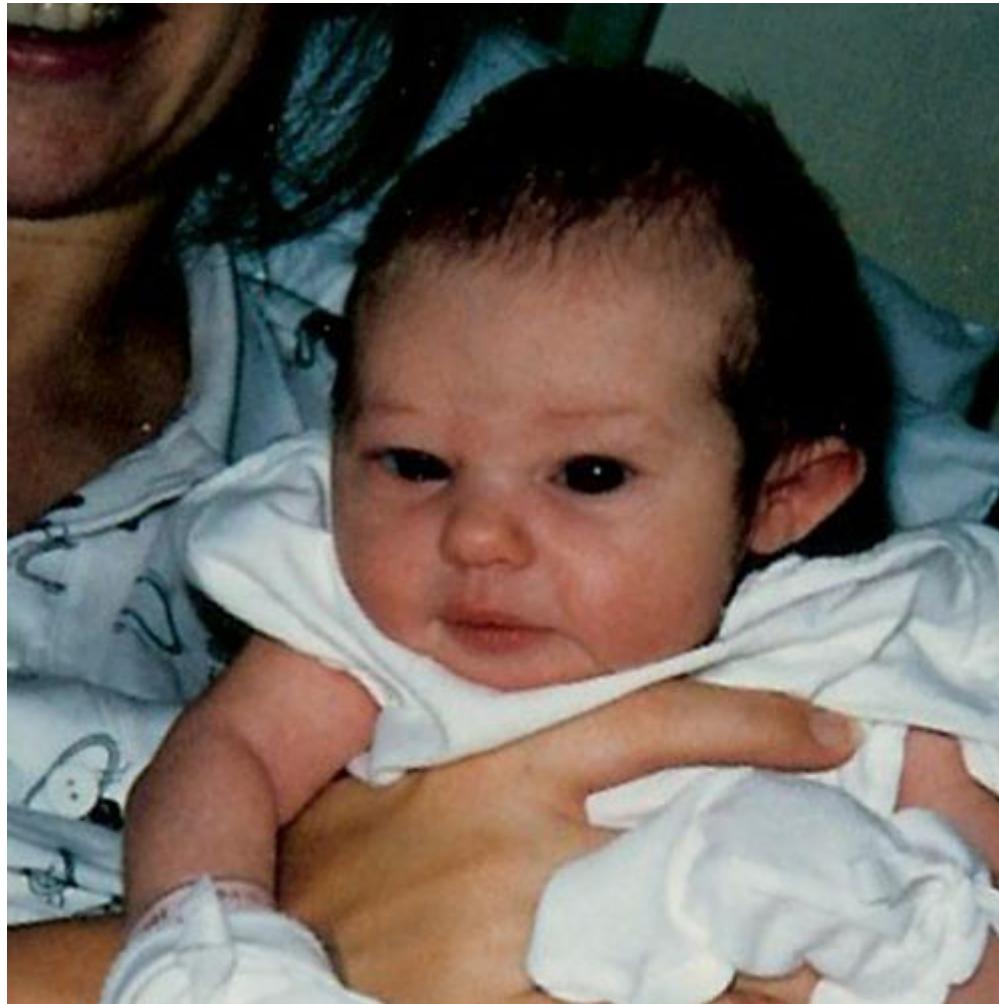
JENNY IS 2



JENNY IS 1



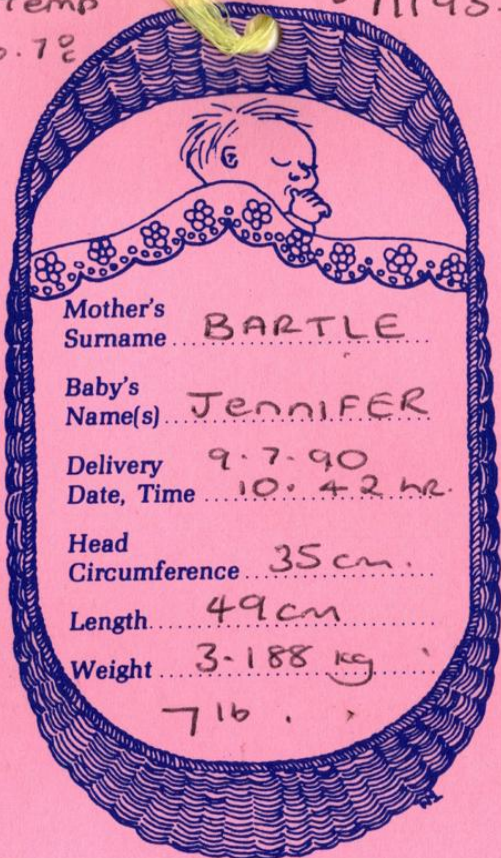
JENNY IS 0



BEGINNINGS

- JENNY WAS BORN ON THE 9TH **JULY**, 1990 AT **18** MINUTES TO **11** IN THE **MORNING**

Temp 36.7° 0711932



Mother's Surname BARTLE

Baby's Name(s) JENNIFER

Delivery Date, Time 9.7.90 10.42 hr.

Head Circumference 35 cm.

Length 49 cm

Weight 3.188 kg

716 .

The National Childbirth Trust

For the telephone number of your local NCT contact, see the poster in this ward or ask your midwife.

- **TWENTY-THREE CARDS WELCOMED HER TO THE WORLD**



TEN MORE THAN
HER SISTER GOT
BECAUSE ELDERLY
RELATIVES **DIED**
IN BETWEEN

PROSPECTS

- HERE'S HER **HOROSCOPE** FROM THE *DAILY MIRROR*

– AS *THE MIRROR* WAS THEN KNOWN

- - IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: During the months ahead try to look at things the way others do – it will help you understand people better and earn you their respect at the same time.
 - TODAY IS THEIR BIRTHDAY: Michael Williams, 54; David Hockney, 53; Barbara Cartland, 89; Steve Coppel, 35; Edward Heath, 74.



CANCER (June 21 – July 20): If a loved one seems too rushed to say even “good-morning,” don’t take it to heart. That same person is likely to make up for any thoughtlessness this evening. Not a day for jumping to conclusions about anything or anyone. First impressions may be off-target.

★ **STARLINE: 0898 345 923**

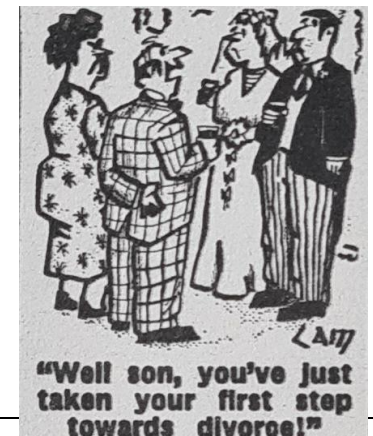
IN OTHER WORDS,
**LEARN TO
MASK**

PRESCIENT

- SOME OF THE **CARTOONS** WERE WEDDING-RELATED



- NOT **ENTIRELY** USEFULLY...



I KNOW ALL THIS...

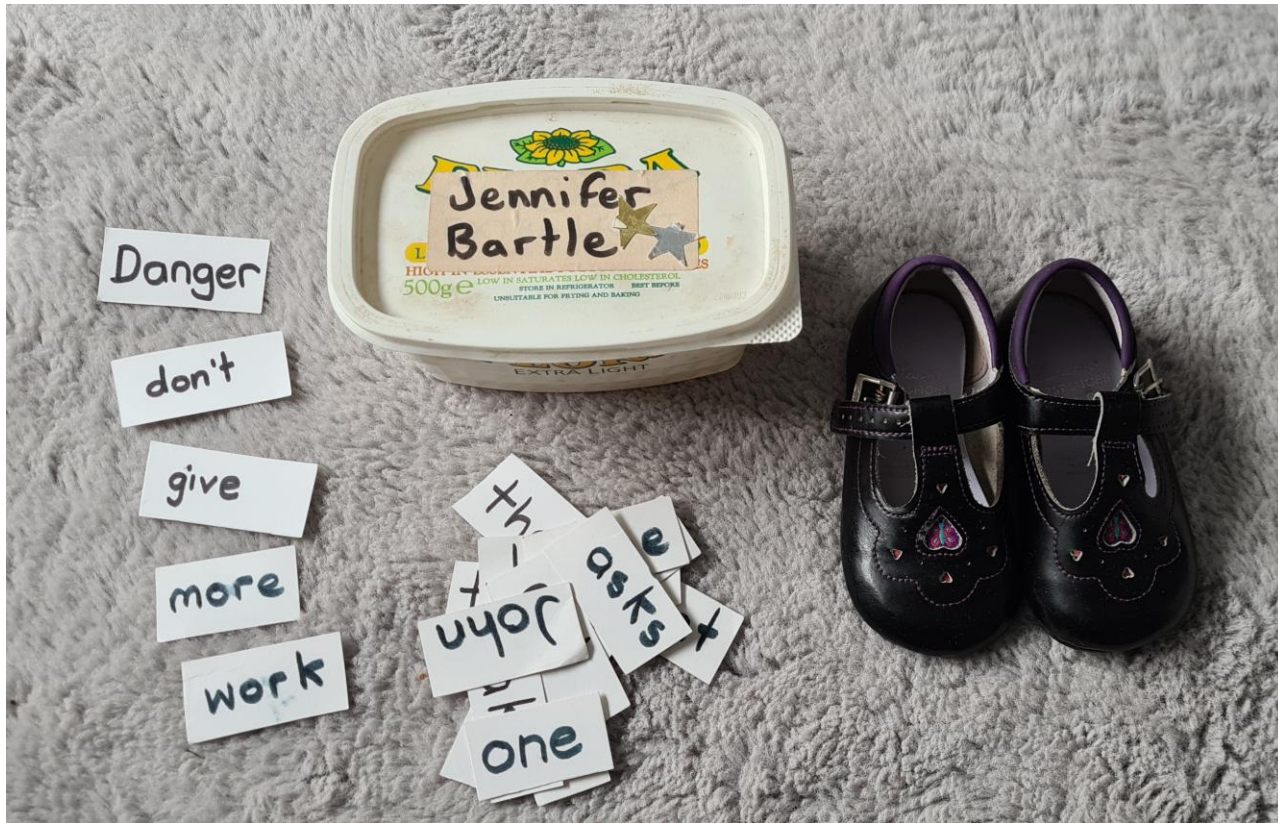
- I **KNOW** ALL THIS BECAUSE ON 9TH JULY, 1990, I WENT OUT AND BOUGHT A COPY OF **EVERY** **NEWSPAPER** I COULD FIND



- “OOH, THAT’S A GOOD IDEA!”

COLLECTION

- WE COLLECTED ALL **SORTS** OF THINGS FROM JENNY'S FIRST FEW YEARS



NURSERY SCHOOL

- NURSERY SCHOOL WAS A **GREAT** SOURCE!



THAT BOOK THE
CHARACTER IS
READING IS CALLED

HYMNS

IF ONLY THEY'D
KNOWN...

BAGS AND BOXES

- WE PUT ALL THE THINGS WE COLLECTED INTO **BAGS** AND PUT THE BAGS IN A **BOX**



FIVE

- THEN, WHEN JENNY WAS **5**, WE **SEALED UP** THE BOX AND HID IT IN THE **ATTIC**



ALSO IN THE BOX

- I PUT ONE **LAST** THING IN THE BOX BEFORE I **SEALED** IT UP
- IT WAS A **LETTER**, WRITTEN TO **FUTURE** JENNY FOR WHEN SHE GOT TO OPEN THE BOX AGED **18**
- IN IT, I COULD **SAY** THINGS TO HER AGED 5 THAT I KNEW I **WOULDN'T** BE ABLE TO SAY TO HER AGED 18
 - BUT THAT I KNEW I'D **WANT** TO SAY TO HER
- HERE'S AN EDITED **TRANSCRIPT...**

6th July, 1995

Dear Jennifer,

I'm writing this on the Thursday before your 5th birthday. When I've finished, I shall place it in this box, seal the whole thing up, and you'll be the next person to read it.

In this box are the first five years of your life – lots of things that may or may not interest you, but which we put away just in case they did...

LETTER 2/5

I shall miss your birthday because I'm going to be away on a junket to Singapore. I don't think you'll be too upset about it (so long as you have your presents!), but I wish I could have been around to see you get another year older.

In this box are the first five years of your life – newspapers from your 0th birthday, bits from the hospital, work you did at nursery – lots of things that may or may not interest you, but which we put away just in case they would.

LETTER 3/5

When you open this box, you'll be older, wiser and more experienced with life than you are now. With that knowledge, though, inevitably, will come distance, independence, and social barriers between you and your parents (especially your father, *i.e.* me!). I'm writing this note now, therefore, so I can say to you all the things I won't be able to say to you in the future.

LETTER 4/5

Jennifer, you are the brightest, sparkiest, most intelligent girl I have ever encountered, and I love you deeply. You have that most precious of gifts, a fully-empowered, 100% unique, class A1 imagination. With that, you can do anything. Use it.

I don't know what you'll think of me in times to come, but I can assure you that your mother and I will and do love you always. You bring joy to our lives out of all proportion to the work we put into yours, and we consider ourselves very lucky and most privileged to be your parents.

LETTER 5/5

You don't have to believe all that I've put here; it's enough for me that you've read it. You don't even have to tell me you've looked in the box. This is a gift from the past to the future, and I cannot therefore predict what circumstances will prevail.

I can, however, tell you what's true in my present.

I love you.

Richard
(your DADDY !)

A PARENT'S JOB

- I DON'T THINK JENNY EVER **BELIEVED** SHE'D GET MARRIED
 - "DOESN'T A JOINT MORTGAGE SHOW **COMMITMENT** ENOUGH?!"
- I ALWAYS KNEW SHE **WOULD**, THOUGH
- THIS IS BECAUSE SHE'S NOT ONLY **LOVED**, BUT SHE'S **LOVING**
 - EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T CARE TO **ADMIT** IT IN PUBLIC
- STILL, WHAT ARE PARENTS **FOR** IF NOT TO **EMBARRASS** THEIR CHILDREN?

COUPLED

- JENNY ONLY HAD TO FIND THE RIGHT **PERSON**
- FORTUNATELY, JJ **IS** THAT PERSON
- I SAY "FORTUNATELY" BECAUSE WE REALLY **LIKE** JJ!
 - **GOOD** CHOICE, JENNY!
 - (PARENTS CAN EMBARRASS THEIR CHILDREN'S SPOUSES, TOO)
- I'LL END WITH SOME **INSTRUCTIONS**:
 - LOOK **AFTER** EACH OTHER, AND LET **YOURSELVES** BE LOOKED-AFTER IN **RETURN**
 - LIVE THE **REST** OF YOUR LIVES TOGETHER, AND **BE** YOURSELVES
 - BE **HAPPY**, BE **LOVED**, BE **YOU!**
- I **OVERRAN**, DIDN'T I?