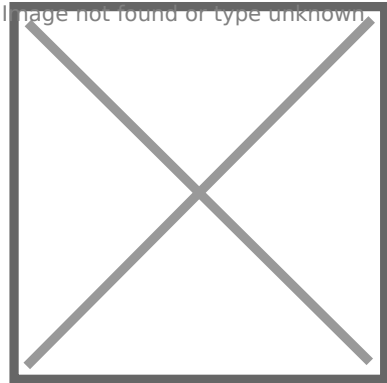


Anne Farrar



You describe your mother as [the forceful one](#) in the family. [Half Italian](#), she does seem to be a high-energy, strong woman - driving army-trucks during the war is not for dainty types.

She was [driving my father](#) for some debriefing. .. So they met like that. And being two amazing romantics, actually, they were married actually, I think a few weeks later. .. And my eldest brother was born well before I think nine months of gestation happened. So obviously, you know, sex wasn't invented at the latter part of the 20th century and they went on to have six children.

I wouldn't have brought the subject of your mother and father having sex up, but, seeing how you've mentioned it: doing the maths - if they married within a few weeks of meeting and your eldest brother was born *well before nine months of gestation*, guess they must've had sex in the vehicle! (or within days) So yeah, a magnetic attraction.

Whereas your father seems somewhat distant, your mother was a [writer and artist](#) - who painted the above picture when she was [pregnant with you](#). You describe her as [slightly bohemian](#) - an *adventurer* - a person of [blended and sometimes divided personalities](#). Which is an apt description for you, also. She was a pretty good painter. I'd love to read some of her writings as well - she had an exciting enough life for a book - did she have anything published?

For a bohemian, she also had a good relationship with the US military whilst living in Singapore.

[\[00:32:18\]](#) *In 1964 .. (s)he used to hitch rides with the American military on a plane .. to go shopping in Saigon.*

Cool.

So Saigon has been sort of part of my background since the early 60s and had such a profound influence on me.

Which, in turn, has had a profound influence on me - and the world ...

It was Anne's decision to ditch NZ after 6-months in the late-60's. It's no easy thing to relocate a family of six across the oceans - but she hated New Zealand - too [chauvinistic](#) - too boring.

[\[00:10:05\]](#) : *(M)y mother, who sort of ruled the family, really said, look, we're not having this.*

So we all got on a boat. And so when I first came to Britain, I came by boat.

We left Britain soon afterwards to go and live in Libya.

Although you [remember having big arguments](#) with your mother, the sense is you two connected. She was a remarkable woman - it's worth ticking off her accomplishments again: army truck-driver, painter, writer, bohemian, military plane hitch-hiker, itinerant adventurer, mother of 6, forceful family ruler ...

[\[00:17:09\]](#): *I think science is like an artist faced with a blank canvas at the start. You've no idea where it's going to go, but you can dream and you can dream about what's on it.*

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