

Second Chances



You then re-sat your A-levels, passed, but still not great, coz you got

rejected from all the unis - which is a nice touch - for someone who would go onto *rule them all*.

Interestingly, 40 years later, you still have nightmares about those exams:

[Desert Islands \[00:14:25\]](#)

I used to wake up with nightmares thinking 'I've got to do my bloody A-levels again' - for years! Uhmm, so it's only in the last year or two I've gotten over that, actually. It's amazing the scars.

Yeah, amazing. So how *did* you get in?

You got proactive - you went up to stay with your big sister, a nurse in London, together you formed this plan to *knock on doors* of all the unis - actually mainly your sister - you were slightly skeptical but gave it a go.

[Desert Island Discs \[00:15:09\]](#) *I went round all of them and they all said, no, of course, because **the world doesn't work like that**. Except one. And a character called **Robin Forrest** who is still alive and still well and **still in contact** with, **opened the door** and said, oh, you must be here for the interviews.*

So the world does, or doesn't work like that? Or it does *and* it doesn't?

And I said, making it up, 'Yeah, actually, I am.' And obviously **people have been written to** and I got a place at medical school and I'm eternally grateful.

I'm less eternally grateful, Jeremy, but that's only me - Robin Forrest - your door-opener - i'm guessing it's this one?

[Robin Forrest](#): Visiting Expert at the **Beijing Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics**, visiting Scientist at Xerox PARC, **Honorary Professor of Shandong University**, Consultant for General Motors, Boeing, Lockheed, Xerox, Digital, Apple, Philips, Adobe, Rolls-Royce, worked for the defense in various patent cases concerning computer painting systems.

Also wondering was your father, Eric, one of those who helped with *the people having been written to* part?

Doesn't matter, i don't doubt you've got talent. Charm has always been your strong suit - i see how you could have done it. The cocky, quick-witted 19 year-old - with the exotic upbringing - rocking up at universities trying to talk his way in...

Anyway, the important part is you got your foot in the door of academia - now here we are.

[dulan drift](#), Sunday, September 05, 2021

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