

To Aengus

I'd like to say a few words for my son's 21st
I won't go on too long since I know you all want to satisfy your thirsts
Initially I have to apologise to Aengus since I have been a deal breaker
I realise we are in Windy Ireland and not in sunny Jamaica.
Now I'd like to take you all back, to the 14th of September 1985
An important date in the diary since Aengus was due to arrive.
And as your father was announcing your birth, at a record 8 stone 4,
Burglars were breaking in through our Burwood Road front door.

You confused the hallway with the bathroom, at the tender age of two
Your father rushed to use his hands as a potty, but it just kept seeping through
As you got a little older small sticks would catch your eye
If you couldn't carry all those orphan sticks home, it would often make you cry
And your kind-heartedness is still apparent, you are still just as loving and giving
You're happy to let others take your shoes, while working hard to make a living.
By 5 you were an award winning Irish dancer, at that stage you decided to stop
You'd obviously fulfilled your ambitions and decided to retire at the top.

Always a practical child, you built a den in the back yard
Fancying yourself as a soldier or maybe a military guard.
In fact your passion for guns at an early age almost drove me barmy,
I tried to encourage an acting career, since I was scared you'd end up in the army!
You tried to set up the exiled freedom fighters, the uniform was designed
You were always keen to implement whatever was on your mind
Later a phase of drumming, a passion for the African arts
More desirable than other talents like, when you were taught to light your farts!

You were always patient with your older sisters, who treated you as a toy
Dressing you up in little girls clothes, ignoring that you were a boy.
An impact was obviously made since you now like to keep your own clothes in check
Correct arm & leg length are vital, but most important is the width of the neck.
And on the theme of looking good other than what you wear,
Another important factor, is the importance of styling your hair!

School for you was a bit of an issue, your feelings of hatred were often expressed
The English Public School system, put your patience to the test.
You always liked school sport, a game for every season
Although I suspect the exotic trips away were the more appealing reason.
But it all got you where you are now, studying History, politics and sociology
So for sending you to St Georges we certainly make no apology.

Now you have some interesting habits & hobbies that require some attention
Sleep walking scantily clad and noisy tooth brushing deserve a mention
But your biggest passions of all, of which there are 2
Is everything to do with Ireland and football – especially Celtic & Man U
Your love for your family is always apparent and even through your adolescent moods
You were always keen to be back, for some of my home cooked food
And family holidays were important, we often visited your fort
In order to get there the Dun Aengus ferry was often caught.

You've always been a private person, you don't often share what you are thinking
But that's often a different story when you have spent the evening drinking
I must start to bring this to a close since pudding is on the way
Muireann mentioned that chocolate profiteroles would really make your day
I hope you had a great birthday last week and celebrations this weekend
I'm glad that you could celebrate it with all your family and friends
So all that's left to say is don't waste time on tears
There's still plenty of time this evening to drink 40 pints of
beer!

Happy 21st Birthday Love from the whole family



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