
Karen Eliot – The Résumé of Everyday Life

Ne travaillez jamais - Anonymous graffiti, Paris 1968

World Tour 81-09: Billericay, Shudy Camps, Upper Hulme, Aberystwyth, Hereford, Edinburgh, Cardiff, London.

Items

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La Dolce Vitae

- 1968 Karen's father, traveling round Wales in the back of a van, is too disheveled to gain entry to a pub in order to obtain beer. Karen's mother is indulging in some under-age drinking at said pub and agrees to chance the bar for the scruffy stranger - success and holiday romance soon follows. After a short affair the pair of young lovers elope and head off for a San Francisco honeymoon.
- 1980 Karen is conceived on a midsummer night's fling during a powercut in a summer storm in a hotel in Rhyl, North Wales.
- 1981 Karen is born into the anti-glamour and Thatcherite alienation of Basildon, Essex.
- 1982 Karen speaks for the first time, 'hammer' is the resultant utterance.
- 1983 Karen has a cyst removed from his head and in the process discovers a sister.
- 1984 Karen remembers sitting in a pushchair staring through rain flecked plastic at Billericay Fire Station.
- 1985 Karen enjoys drawing monsters.
- 1986 Karen moves to Cambridgeshire for ice cream and roses, here he befriends another child named Karen due to a similarity of name/coat.
- 1987 Karen sleeps through a hurricane and enjoys a week of living in darkness around a fire on baked beans and teacakes.
- 1988 Karen hears rumours questioning the authenticity of Father Christmas.
- 1989 Karen enjoys multiple caravan holidays around the UK.
- 1990 Karen goes to East Germany, buys a knife and reads Lord of the Rings
- 1991 Karen stays up all night, buys chocolate for girls and enjoys Anglo Saxons
- 1992 Karen climbs trees and leads a group of local children in the belief that he is Robin Hood.
- 1993 Karen goes swimming, plays Turrigan II on the Amiga and makes dens.
- 1994 Karen tapes music off the radio and collects elves.
- 1995 Karen buys his first CD – a Nirvana bootleg in Germany, elsewhere he plays on haystacks, in woodlands and rides bicycles.
- 1996 Karen makes videos, watches horror films, paints, plays Warhammer, searches for shugmonkeys, gets drunk for the first time and lusts over numerous girls.
- 1997 Karen falls in love twice, moves house, goes to Norfolk, kisses girls, gets served in pubs, smokes his first cigarette, gets a proper girlfriend and an electric guitar.
- 1998 Karen experiments with philosophy, radical politics and drugs, goes to Norfolk, goes skinny dipping, listens to music, learns guitar, has sex for the first time, climbs many hills.
- 1999 Karen gets into Romanticism, gets drunk, travels around UK, attends festivals, breaks up with his girlfriend, tells the girl he really loves, suffers from depression.
- 2000 Karen celebrates the millennium in the sea at Brighton with champagne and cigars, paints, writes, thinks, recovers from depression and continues to obsess over girls, travels around Europe by train, which involves reading, pizza, wine, hostels, museums, ruins, churches, cigarettes, skinny dipping, boats, motorbikes and mosquitoes. Karen moves to Wales.
- 2001 Karen drinks heavily and excessively, smokes, listens to heavy metal, attends football matches, becomes disillusioned with love when his girlfriend cheats.
- 2002 Karen drinks, attends raves in forests, watches MTV, smokes heavily, throws a television out of the window at a particularly intense party, partakes in risky activities such as mountain boarding, the occult, climbing and womanising.
- 2003 Karen grows increasingly poor, destructive, embittered and paranoid, attends football matches, throws a second television out of the window, moves into a damp bedsit and signs on. He becomes interested in Arthurian legend, sleeps with a pretty friend who can cook, moves in with her in order

- to have a Halloween party, rediscovers lego.
- 2004 Karen becomes interested in the medieval and temporarily adopts a medieval diet, moves to the sea shore, gets a hair cut, enjoys casual and exciting sex and then falls in love.
- 2005 Karen watches football in the pub, makes things out of cardboard, plays lab football and journeys around Wales visiting sites connected with Arthurian legend, buys a diamond, buys a car and drives to Bath on numerous occasions.
- 2006 Karen goes to the pub, bodyboards, eats pasties and has barbeques on the beach, tours Cornwall, gets into Welsh politics, learns Welsh, crashes his car and is forced to attend a course for driver improvement
- 2007 Karen cheats on his girlfriend and is wracked by guilt hampering a relationship with a nice new girlfriend, he makes art, drinks excessively and goes out every night until 4am. He takes to sleeping at work and listening to 5live, he has ill advised affair and gets another hair cut.
- 2008 Karen moves to Hereford, quits his job and grows a beard. He attends restaurants, makes music, canoes and swims in rivers, dresses up, briefly becomes a market trader, journeys in the Lake District, visits charity shops, drinks tea and watches news24.
- 2009 Karen has a school reunion and liaises with his first love causing no end of troubles. He suffers from depression, evades employment, drives a lot, writes poetry, discovers what love really is about, goes to Edinburgh which consists of facebook, plays, wandering, conversation, lack of sleep and parties - here he finds himself, moves to London, writes and reads and gets buses.

Possible Non Deaths

electrocuted 240v (boiler leaking into lightswitch), electrocuted 240v (toaster stabbed), heart stopped and fell unconscious (due to excessively passionate kiss to vasovagal nerve), shot at, narrowly avoided being hit by arrows (after firing them into the darkened sky at night for amusement), jumped off 17ft cliff (attempting to retrieve cigarettes whilst drunk), fell from bell tower (during foolish phase of scaling high buildings for amusement), jumped out of second floor window (attempting to run away from home), car crash x3, motorbike crash (into greek bus), hit by car (whilst crossing street), trapped by the tide (x2), rescued by firemen (from malfunctioning cliff railway), almost drowned (whilst swimming having misjudging tides), risk drowning/hypothermia (on numerous occasions swimming in the sea at night whilst drunk – on one occasion being rescued and the rescuer is hospitalised with hypothermia whilst Karen chats up his girlfriend), narrowly avoided lightning (x2 - lost card in cash machine as it was struck by lightning in front of face, next door hit by lightning), narrowly avoided trampling (knocked unconscious in mosh pit), beaten (during rioting), set house on fire, (narrowly avoided electrocution extinguishing said fire with pan of water), (out of body experience whilst) choking on own vomit, (dived for cover) missing having head removed by inches (as a marquee took off in wind), suffer mild hypothermia after swimming in the sea at midnight in January fully clothed then giving away coat to a girl, passed out risking poisoning (after attempting to beat own drinking record of 17 pints and 24 vodkas), reckless risk of exposure (attempted numerous expeditions in remote and mountainous terrain ill equipped and in dangerous conditions), reckless risk of drowning (canoeing in flood swollen river), avoided head injury (coming off mountain board and landed on head).

Regrets

Not telling people how I felt, telling people how I felt, kissing people I shouldn't have kissed, not kissing people I should have kissed, the times I didn't use protection, not working harder, not going to a better university, not making friends or getting involved with things, not listening to anyone, misunderstanding everything, negativity, depression, not earning money, making bad art, not presenting the good art I made properly, laziness, fear, selfishness, attitude problems, procrastination, being hard on my parents, not being independent.

Education & Employment

Attended a variety of educational institutions where he made many long and fulfilling friendships. Likewise some of the time spent in employment provided an enjoyable arena for friendship, 'office romance' and play