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## Donor # 4319

### Interview Notes

Donor 4319 has a refreshing combination of maturity and fun-loving spontaneity that I find both unusual and appealing. He is clearly a thoughtful guy, and has put a lot of care and energy into his decision to be a donor as well as his decision to participate in the Identity-Release® Program. We spoke at length about the fact that this is truly a big life decision and that it has long term ramifications. The donor seems to have thought this through and appears to be fully comfortable with his choice. He exudes enthusiasm and excitement that his participation means that there will be new families in the world.

At the start of our conversation I found him a little self-conscious. He was cautious of sounding overly-praising of himself; as he warmed up, however, he became easy to talk to and very engaging. He entertained me with the lines he has tattooed on the insides of each pointer finger, showing me how they can transform into a fake mustache, fake emotive eyebrows (surprised, angry or concerned), and fake sideburns. Because he originally comes across as clean-cut and slightly straight-laced, I was pleasantly surprised by his more whimsical and unique side.

Donor 4319 has a slight frame with good muscle definition. You can see his years of yoga practice in the alignment of his posture. His piercing blue eyes were the first thing I noticed about him, they are truly striking when he makes eye contact, seeming to look right through you. His face has strong bone structure, with high cheek bones and a strong jaw line. He has a shaved head so I did not see the curl to his hair, although he describes his dark brown hair as curly. He is an attractive guy – someone one would perhaps overlook at first and who becomes more striking the longer you know him.

The donor's family is very important to him. He did a meticulous job of researching his family's health history, considering that he has 12 aunts and uncles and 35 first cousins. His paternal grandmother is the matriarch of this giant family and the donor speaks of her with warmth. She worked as a dairy farmer, surviving three husbands, having nine children and living into her mid-90s. The donor's parents divorced and separated for a year, but have since gotten back together. He described them as the happiest they have ever been, and said that they genuinely appreciate and enjoy each other's company these days. Donor 4319 has learned many different skills in his life, and seems to bounce from one task to the next with ease and aplomb. He manages to bring commitment and consistent excellence to each task he does. After closing the night club he owned for years, he has been using his carpentry skill, teaching himself to restore old boats. This runs in his family. His mother, after years in middle management, watching men sail past her through the glass ceiling, went back to graduate school while continuing to work full time. She then opened a successful real estate business, which she has since retired from.

Although donor 4319 seems shy at first, he is comfortable in his own skin. He has shades of quirkiness and a unique silliness that I appreciated, especially in light of his coexisting maturity. He seems to be a loyal friend, and entertaining conversation partner and a talented Jack of all Trades. Whether he is playing his accordion, patching up an old yacht or writing travel articles, he brings commitment and his unique perspective to all that he does.

Interviewer: Alex Holding

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