

LORN MACDONALD

My Dad used to say that my parents wanted three children. That Callum was such a perfect child. Peaceful, kind, intelligent even from a very young age. That this parenting thing really wasn't as difficult as people made it out to be. Then they had me... and they thought. Nope. That's it. Well, we're stuck with him now but that's it. No more.

My relationship with my Dad was not always an easy one. Callum has briefly touched upon the crying at football. But in my teens we would shout and scream most days. I vividly remember after a really bad argument on holiday he took me aside and told me he knew adults who didn't speak to their parents. That along the line it was one fight too many. He said he never wanted that to happen to us. He was almost in tears and it hit me how serious he was being. I knew Dad always loved me but I don't think he always liked me. I know that because I didn't always like him. And I should know. Because we were practically the same. Loud, Stubborn, opinionated, passionate.

It probably didn't help that he was appointed the coach for my high school football team. I say appointed. He arrived at our first match and we were losing 3-0 so he started shouting at us. People were watching. I hadn't made any friends yet and now my Dad was bollocking them. The older cousin of one of the 'hard' boys shouted at my Dad to shut up as he was the 'coach'. My Dad told him to do his job then. Eventually the older cousin squared up, stormed off and told my Dad, in so many words not fit for a church, that he should be the coach. So that's exactly what he did. And then we won 4-3. It was one of the most mortifying and coolest things I'd ever seen my Dad do. After the match I had to own up to the team and tell them he was my Dad. They asked me what he did for a living? I said he was a Church of Scotland Minister. They thought I was taking the piss.

When I used to go for auditions as a teenager, casting directors would ask me if my parents were actors? I'd say no and they were surprised but I remember thinking they'd not seen my dad preach. He was a performer. And I do think seeing him up here every week as a kid inspired me. He irritated me more than anyone but I never wanted to make anyone more proud. Revelations as I got older made me really see how lucky I was. A friend's Dad asked all my mates what we wanted to be when we were older. When I said I wanted to be an actor he laughed at me. Said that was for girls and I should get a real job. Not only was my Dad supportive of my career choice he went above and beyond to help me achieve it. Driving me miles for auditions, getting in touch with casting directors for their advice and even reading the other lines in self-tapes with me. Which would always take ages because of his criminal overacting.

I'll never forget seeing my Dad in tears after he saw me in my first show at Drama school. He continued to see me in every show I've done since and I am so grateful he got to see me on

the big screen where we would often go just the two of us. After a particularly difficult day at school my Dad would immediately take me to the cinema. My church. My place of worship. On long car journeys we would discuss how similar Mum and Callum were. I'd say partly the reason I went full force in to acting was because I knew I could never compare to Callum academically. He was just so intelligent. My Dad coolly turned to me at a red light and said..." Your Mum and Callum are smart. But we're clever." I knew exactly what he meant.

Speaking to him over the phone after winning my Scottish Bafta last year and hearing how proud he was meant so much to me then and means even more to me now. I'm so happy that over the last few years we got on so well and as adults still spoke to each other. I will continue to speak to him.

I've made a film I'm going to show now with music by DeVotchKa. Who were the last band me, Callum and Dad saw together. Thank you so much for sharing this day with us.