

The story of Christine.

Christine is born in 1967 and lives in Colorado, USA

I would be glad to share my story.

I was diagnosed at birth in Denver Colorado, USA. Dr. Robinson's group was testing every baby born at 3 Denver hospitals for any of the sex chromosome anomalies. I ended up being one of 11 girls with XXX. My mother and father were told "there might be nothing of this or there might be something - either way you have a girl who has XXX and we'd like to study her". My mother had been a midwife in England, as such she had a medical background and agreed. Since there were only 11 of us and the study clearly states that one of us went to college it's easy to find myself within the study. They continued the study until I was 30 and shortly after that Dr. Robinson died. I know that they had wanted to continue the study but that funding was difficult.



As far back as I can remember I knew I had XXX. But, I was always told it was just a part of me. And, that each year we would visit Dr. Robinson's office so that they could study me. I remember going through questionnaires each year, having IQ and other psychological tests, a sleep test (that is a strange memory for me) where they put little sticky things on my head and then I woke up and they were gone, and I would get my annual school physical there too. I didn't know any other girls like me. I was the only one. I remember telling people the reason I was so smart in math was because I had an extra X. Of which I still get blank stares. "What does an extra X mean?"

I do remember from a very young age asking about the other girls - they told me I was the only one that ever asked. So, I guess I am NOT the norm in this group. In many ways actually. I am short, my brother and sister are taller than me, but my family is not very tall in general. I did fairly well in school, except when I just didn't want to. I did especially poorly when I was bored. I loved math - still do - and did very well in it. My mother pushed me to the extent that I knew I would not be living at home for free after high school - so I had better figure out what I wanted to do. So, I applied to 2 colleges and picked the one farthest from home - I wanted my independence. I left home when I was 17 because I had started school early - Mum says I was driving her crazy because my brother & sister had already taught me to read.

To my knowledge I don't have any learning disabilities. I learn most things quickly, I have a great memory, I read a lot about all kinds of different topics. I do tend to be a little obsessive about some things. I don't think I ever had any speech issues other than I am told that I speak too quickly. And, when I get really nervous - when speaking in public - I sometimes stumble on my words until I get into the groove. I also don't believe I have any physical/mental issues. I do have trouble keeping weight off my body but I attribute that to the fact that I love food. I do workout regularly, but, I sit at a computer most of the day when working. When I have an outdoor job where I am constantly active I don't have weight issues. I have a strange allergy to coconut and then the typical hay fever in the spring - again nothing I could attribute to my XXX status. I always knew I was XXX but Mum told me that all it meant was that I was a super woman and could do anything I wanted to do with my life.

To be honest I don't believe the IQ test is an accurate way to test intelligence. I have met many incredibly smart children that have never been to the city and couldn't tell you what a traffic light means or some of the other things that are common knowledge to urban dwellers. So, these kids might not score high based just on that fact. But, they could tell you exactly

how to raise a prime steer for the fair or how to fix a barbed wire fence or how to build an irrigation ditch so the water will always flow down hill on a seemingly flat piece of land. That stuff isn't on an IQ test.

I had a great childhood! I was raised in Boulder, Colorado by my mother (my father left when I was 7). She gave us great experiences, taught us how to work to make a living, how to make the best of things when things weren't great, how to love our family, she especially taught me that there is a difference between the English language and the American language (because many words are spelled differently). Mum lives in the same house that she and Dad bought when I was 4. My dad died in 1992 from cancer, but had lived only about 30 miles away so we did see him often. My sister is a world traveler (she's lived in Guatemala, Mexico, Spain, Czech Republic), she's in Colorado at the moment and has a documentary company www.documentaryinstitute.org she has a Master's degree in film studies. She is multi-lingual and speaks Spanish fluently. She's incredibly intelligent! My brother lives in San Diego with his wife and also has his own company www.NexcoreCapital.com and is also incredibly successful! None of us has children.

My husband and I live in a very small town in Western Colorado called Norwood. We are 37 miles from the world famous ski resort Telluride and 100 miles from Moab, Utah famous for its rock formations. We run the family electrical contracting business that his parents started in 1947 and love working together. I have a degree in Business with a Minor in Math. I work as a financial coach and help people learn to manage their money, financial manager for small companies (including our family business) and, I volunteer at the local school helping kids with math and money. My hobby is photography (see photos on my web-site www.rockinbb.com). So, we keep very busy. As luck would have it we never really tried hard to have kids and now that I'm 39 I kind of wonder if we should have. My husband is 53 which keeps me from running off to try IVF or something similar. We love to travel and have plenty of family if it never happens.

Other than that what I have read on some of the XXX web-sites has taken me through some emotions from absolutely appalling me to total intrigue. I didn't realize at first that XXX had issues. I always thought I was just fine. About a year ago I was speaking to a friend of mine who's daughter has other chromosome issues and I told her I was XXX - she asked "what does that mean". At the time I said "nothing" I don't think it affects me at all. So, I started searching and found some of these web-sites and Dr. Robinson's study. Until that point I had no idea I was the only one in that group that went to college. When I say I was appalled it's because I saw that some mom's are still told they should abort their babies based on this issue. WHAT? WAIT? I'm 39 - I didn't die young, I didn't have learning/physical issues, WHY would you abort a baby based on such a stupid thing? Then, I read on... I had no idea that others have as many problems as they do. So, I was naive. But, also, what if you get the next genius instead? Of course I have mixed feelings - everyone wants a normal healthy child - can't blame them there. But, there are no absolutes in life.

I don't follow most of the postings. I'm not good at keeping up with Blogs or regular day to day issues of something like this. I don't even do it within my own business. It goes back to that boredom thing for me. I don't mind having my name and contact information out there though. IF in some way my life and my experiences would help someone else I'm glad to be there. I'm not really in touch with any others on a regular basis other than that. Occasionally I will go onto the Yahoo chat group to see what's up and if there is anyone out there with an issue I can help them with.

Well, I guess that's it in a nutshell. Let me know if you have other questions.

Warm regards,

Christine