

The Birth of a Derry man

Jim O'Brien

It was on the 26th of October 1999 when I decided I wanted to be born. I remember so well it was a very cold and blustery day and the cold would have cut through you like a shred of glass. Jeepers I was nearly blinded by the light when I came out and that awful journey nearly killed me before I said hello to my mum. Honestly I was battered about like fish in a fish shop. Swoosh, bang, swoosh, bang, swoosh, bang. Oh dear I thought my brain was going to get knocked out of me.

Within a few minutes there was this huge, hairy, doctor. He was holding me and telling my mum that everything would be fine and not to worry. Did he really believe that?

I couldn't feel my legs and this doctor thinks that everything will be alright. Is he for real or what? I closed my eyes and by the time I woke up there were tubes sticking out of me, like an antenna that had forty tubes coming out of him and were supposed to be called legs... The light was blinding and bright as a glowing star. Machines were bleeping noisily around my cot. Jeepers am I on the M2 or what? Why do I feel so closed in?

Look at those faces that keep looking solemnly through the glass on my cot. , oh I know who they are, my mum, and my dad. Tears are streaming slowly but surely and steadily down my mums face almost like a river flowing rapidly. My dad is trying his best to stop his emotions coming out; he looks as tired as a runner who has just finished a gruelling marathon...

Suddenly fear, sheer panic and utter stress is written across my mums face. Will someone please tell me what is going on!!!

What are all these people doing to me? Everyone is saying the same thing. The man with the funny collar is putting water on my head. Oh dear are they trying to drown me or what? I let out a tiny cough and the machines went silent. Relief storms the room. Dad hugs mum tightly and mum hugs dad and the flood gates open.

I can't wait till they hold me like that even despite of my disability I want the biggest, tightest, strongest hug in the whole world. I'm going to make it in life. Thank you mum and dad for bringing me into this amazing world...