

At 15 he was expelled from Eton for "various offences ... illicit drinking, panty raids of other boys' rooms — that sort of thing". His crimes included organising a group of boys to pilfer books from Ma Brown's antiquarian bookshop and sell them back to her.

He was obliged to finish his schooling at Stanbridge Earls in Hampshire, which he described as "a school for sensitive, difficult boys". It was followed by his first job, as an estate agent for Knight Frank & Rutley. This was interrupted by National Service with the army, but he lasted only three months before being "booted out" as medically unfit (see child ... )