

Back stories

Jeannie Ferrami was born in 1967. Her father, Pete, is a full-time burglar, away in jail more than he was home. Her mother, Rose, was the rock of the family, working as a hairdresser, feeding and clothing her two daughters, keeping their small house clean. They lived in Washington DC. Jeannie and her sister, Patty, were always sent to school in clean frocks but everyone knew their Daddy was in jail. Whenever something went missing, suspicion would fall on them, and Jeannie has never got over the stigma. Any suggestion that she might have done something underhand or illegal now makes her feel guilty, and she is obsessively honest with money.

Her sister was not bright but Jeannie was, and she did well at school. She also showed athletic ability and became a tennis champ. Her mother encouraged her, up to a point. However, her mother expected her to do as she had done, get married and make a home and have babies. She told Jeannie not to marry a thief, but she certainly did not want her daughter to be a career girl. When Jeannie wanted to go to college they had a fight. Jeannie won a scholarship to Princeton and went, against her mother's will, in 1985. Patty did what her mother wanted and married a carpenter called Zip. She now lives in a DC suburb and has three small children: Mike, Bobby and Sara..

During her childhood she saw her father intermittently. He was fun, and he often came home loaded with money after a successful job, but he always broke his little girls' hearts by going away again. Jeannie loved her handsome Daddy but she came to admire her mother's dogged independence. Mom's parents were fairly affluent, but she was too proud to accept help from them, even when broke. Now Jeannie is bad at accepting help, suspicious always that the offer of assistance is an accusation of weakness. Mom was however a passionate Democrat, quick to see how ordinary people were exploited, and Jeannie is too. She worked for Dukakis in 88 and Clinton in 92.

She had a brief period of rebellion in 1981 at the age of 14, when she became a punk. She had her nostril pierced and dyed her hair green. At that time she lost her virginity, to a boy she met at a club in DC. It was a disappointing experience and she did not have sexual intercourse again until she went to Princeton in 1985..

At Princeton she majored in Psychology, graduating in 1989. She continued to excel both academically and in tennis, and she won numerous championships. However, science won her heart and she did an MA (1991) then a doctorate (1995), then postdoctoral work. Her specialty is aggression and criminality. Perhaps in her heart she is still obsessed by the worry that people will think she is a thief like her Daddy. ✖

At Princeton she dated several men and discovered how much she liked sex. She is quite physical, and falls for tall, good-looking men with easy charm; men like her father who often turn out to be unreliable. She finally moved in with Will Temple in 1994. He was the great love of her life, and she thought she had finally found a good one, but after 18 months he ditched her for another woman. She was heartbroken and has not dated since.

Is criminality inherited? Jeannie's research asks a more subtle question. She

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believes that certain inherited characteristics are predisposing toward criminality: impulsiveness, fearlessness, aggression and hyperactivity. But these do not always lead to antisocial adult behaviour and she is equally interested in the environmental factors that make the final difference. Her theory is that a certain type of parenting acts against the predisposing factors. Key elements are strong values and positive motivation. She also feels that the individual has some degree of choice—although this is a moral, spiritual point of view rather than a scientific one.

While she was doing her postdoc she cowrote an article on the heritability of aggression with her then professor. In fact she wrote the whole thing but it was published with both their names, as is usual. After it appeared she was approached by Berisford and asked if she would like to continue her studies at Jones Falls. She liked the idea because it meant she could be near her mother. The pay was not good—Berisford is a famously mean employer—but his twins study is prestigious. But most importantly, he offered her the chance to prove (or disprove) her theory.

Jeannie sees this job as her big chance. She will write a paper, maybe a book about criminality. In some ways Berisford is a role model: TV personality, author of popular books, prestigious professor, consultant to a corporation. She hates his politics, though. And she dislikes his patrician manner, which strikes her as condescending. She thinks, wrongly, that he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

Her big problem is that the twins who come forward for study are not generally criminals. She has come up with a solution to this problem in the form of a computer search program that finds pairs in medical databases. As she did this before she came to JFU, but after Berisford interviewed her, he does not know about it (and anyway he is an aloof person who does not schmooze with underlings).

Jeannie wants to help the human race understand its ills. She also wants to become respected, famous, and if not rich, at least comfortable. And she wants to find a tall, goodlooking man with easy charm who will love her faithfully for the rest of her life.

Berisford Jones was born on 1 June 1937. His father was a brilliant young engineer, his mother the daughter of a wealthy banker who lost everything in the Slump. Berisford's father was killed in the Pacific in 1945. His mother did not remarry, and he was brought up in genteel poverty in Philadelphia. Money was always found for his education, and he went to private schools and was trained to be a young gentleman. Always small in stature, he never excelled in sports, but he came top of his class in all sciences.

In 1955 he went to MIT to study biochemistry but switched to psychology. He graduated in 1959, then went on to do an MA (1961) and a Ph.D. (1966). Always a conservative young man, he was untouched by jazz, beat poetry, or drugs, and in the civil rights struggle he sided with tradition. However, he never failed to dress in a snappy, elegant style and his pursuit of women was relentless and successful. He had great charm and a brahmin air. His best friend was a brilliant black-haired young embryologist, Paul Barck.

In 1966, surprisingly, he joined the army. He went to work for the Medical

Research Command, studying the biology of fatigue in soldiers at Fort Detrick in Frederick, Md. He watched with horror as America in the late sixties descended into a hell of protest, drugs, and anarchy. He believed the root cause was the pollution of racial bloodlines: the great strain of white Anglo-Saxons who made America great was being swamped by blacks, Jews, Hispanics and Orientals. *Vivvie Ellington*.

Also in 1966 Berisford married a fellow student, Pippa Molden. Although she had a degree she quit her education, followed him to Fredericksburg and got a job as a civilian secretary with the army. Part of Berisford's motivation in getting married was a sense that white people had a duty to continue their bloodlines. They intended to have children immediately, but it did not happen. However, Berisford continued faithful to Pippa for some years.

In 1969 the CIA produced a report entitled *New Developments in Soviet Science* which said the Russians had a breeding program to produce perfect soldiers, scientists, athletes and chess players. President Nixon believed this report and ordered the US army to set up a similar program. Berisford's boss, Jim Proust, was put in charge of it. By this time Berisford was a leading expert on the heritability of soldierly characteristics such as stamina and courage. Paul Barck meanwhile had made a series of breakthroughs in understanding human fertilization. On Berisford's recommendation, he was invited to join Proust's team. He agreed, mainly because he shared Berisford's extreme racial views.

They took semen and ova from carefully selected men and women and successfully mated them in the test tube. Then the brilliant Barck developed a technique for encouraging the embryos to split—a phenomenon that happens naturally when identical twins are formed. They had developed the techniques of *in vitro* fertilization and cloning some years ahead of other scientists—but in secret.

In 1972 the Watergate scandal began, and although Nixon was re-elected in November of that year, Proust's team went undercover. They set up a private corporation called Genetico and opened a fertility clinic in Philadelphia. Army wives were sent there for treatment for subfertility.

In 1973 they began their great experiment. Numerous wives were implanted, without their knowledge, with embryos fertilized and cloned in the laboratory. Most of the women became pregnant, had their babies and imagined the fertility treatment had worked. The births began in August 1973 and continued for about six months.

Among the mothers was Berisford's wife Pippa. He told her the same as the others, that she was having hormone treatment. She gave birth to a son and they called him Harvey.

In 1974 Nixon resigned and a new era began. Conservatism was temporarily discredited, the law-and-order politicians had been shown to be crooks, and anything undercover was frowned upon. Genetico severed its links with the army but continued as a private company. The fertility clinic was successful and the techniques Paul Barck had developed became profitable.

The trio never lost sight of their aims, however. The notion of breeding a strain of super-Americans came to seem more and more important as the years went by and America sank deeper into crime, drugs and welfare. Berisford tracked the clones they had bred at the clinic. One group of eight—the group that included his own

"son"—showed an interesting combination of aggression and intelligence. Other groups, however, were failures. Natural breeding was too inexact. But the burgeoning science of genetic engineering promised to solve that problem.

Genetico continued to do research, both in its own laboratories but increasingly by contracting work to university departments, financed by the profits from the clinic. The research has two strands: i) to identify exactly which soldierly traits are heritable (some, such as courage for example, might be produced by upbringing rather than inheritance); ii) to identify the genes responsible for those traits and engineer them into test-tube embryos.

Berisford returned to the academic world and attained great distinction with his studies of twins, showing that much of human personality is inherited, rather than created by upbringing. As a consultant to Genetico he was seen as the dispenser of lucrative research contracts. This combination put him in great demand and by 1996 he held three professorships.

Proust became deputy director of the CIA then went into politics and became a Senator.

Paul Barck ran the company. Along the way Genetico became the owner of a handful of valuable patents. However, making money was not the prime concern of the trio.

As the clones grew up it became clear that the eightsome of which Harvey was one was the most interesting. All the clones were very clever and very aggressive, and all got in trouble with the law.

After the birth of Harvey, Berisford returned to his old womanising ways, and Pippa divorced him when Harvey was 10; but by then Berisford loved the boy as if he was his own.

By 1996 the trio was close to its original goal. It was now possible to alter an embryo, in the test tube, inserting a gene for resistance to a disease. One of the last pieces in the puzzle was the question of the heritability of aggression, and Berisford hired a brilliant young scientist, Jeannie Ferrami, who had done promising research on this topic.

(One of three professorships held by Berisford was in the psychology department at Jones Falls University in Baltimore. He recommended that the university hire Jeannie and arranged for her salary, and her research, to be funded by a grant from Genetico. However, he did not know that she had developed a technique for finding twins by searching large databases for matching pairs.)

The last twenty years have done nothing but confirm everything the trio came to believe in the sixties. A huge proportion of Americans now do no work and live on welfare, and they are breeding fast, threatening to overwhelm decent people with their drugs and guns and crime. The trio's political program is to enable affluent white people to produce genetically perfect children and to render the poor infertile. To do this they need political power as well as scientific knowledge.

Steve Logan is 23. His mother, Lorraine, is a famous lonelyhearts columnist, syndicated in 400 newspapers and author of numerous books on feminine problems. His father, Charles, is a strong but dour character, an army officer who works at the

Pentagon, writing speeches for generals. Steve was born to them somewhat late, when Lorraine was almost 40.

From the start he was an unusual child, bright and forward, happy and loving, but impossible to control. He was the despair of his mother and his father was baffled. He did not respond to punishment, and they early decided he had to be controlled with positive incentives rather than negative ones.

He was also athletic, and excelled at aggressive sports such as wrestling & football.

His mother became very successful and he went to private schools. Although always a discipline problem for teachers he was never quite bad enough for his education to be affected. If bored he would fail, but provided he could get interested in the subject he was always a straight-A student.

Both his parents in their different ways are highly moral people. Lorraine is constantly asked by her readers and correspondents to issue rulings in moral dilemmas, and she has developed a warm but logical approach that emphasizes the individual's freedom to choose her own path. Charles is a man for whom duty is the highest moral value: duty to family and country, but mainly duty to oneself, to be true to oneself and maintain one's integrity. These influences have produced a somewhat formidable young man, with all of the idealism of youth combined with more sophistication than is usual about issues. But he is uncompromising about right and wrong.

He was universally regarded as a dish and all the girls wanted to date him. They were generally willing to let him go just about as far as he wanted, but he never took advantage. But there was one girl at high school who resisted his charm. Her name was Fanny Gallaher, and she was vivacious and careless and she was not interested. He pursued her for months and finally got her, and they dated for a year, and had sexual intercourse. However, they broke up when they went to different universities.

Steve went to Yale and did philosophy. Then he decided that the way to express his idealism was to become a lawyer, and maybe go into politics later. He could have got into Yale Law School but he decided to go to an inner-city college close to the people with problems, hence Washington. His grades are mixed: he gets As in the subjects that interest him, criminal law and trial practice, and scrapes by in commercial and property law. He has dated a few girls but has not fallen heavily for anyone since Fanny. This behaviour has got him a reputation as a heartbreaker. Indeed he uses his charm rather callously to win girls' hearts then discards them casually. But when really in love, as with Fanny, he is loyal. He also has a dreadful temper and when riled he has been known to beat people senseless. He has never hit a woman though.

He is impatient with education and keen to get on with real life. He aims to make the world a better place. He knows it is within his capabilities to be president of the USA. And he wants to meet another girl he can love as much as he loved Fanny.

Characters

	Jeannie	Steve	Berisford
Mother	2	5	46
Father	12	5	3
First memory	18	22	6
Most vivid memory	12		
Greatest sadness	33		28
Greatest joy			
Greatest shame	11	4	32
Greatest triumph	40	9	16
Worst failing	9	8	19
How others misperceive me	15	17	24
Contradiction in character	21		26
Favourite music			21
Favourite book	25	25	
Favourite painting	9		9
People skill	7		
Intellectual skill	23	7	
Sexual fantasy	20		37
Other fantasy	43	39	
First love	31	25	
Greatest love	4	51	