

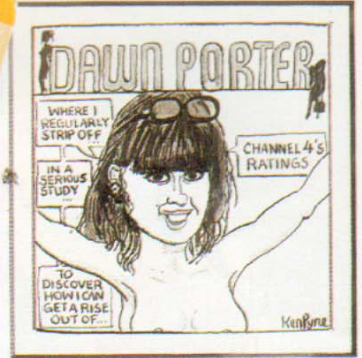
EMOTIONAL ties



My mum Carol died two days before my seventh birthday so my elder sister Jane and I were raised first by my grandparents and then by my aunt and uncle on Guernsey. Mum wore this ring every day – I was given it for my 16th birthday. I never take it off.



I STUDIED **ORANGES ARE NOT THE ONLY FRUIT FOR A-LEVEL** and it is still my favourite book. This is my school copy. I love to look back at all my annotations.



I WAS THE SUBJECT OF THIS PRIVATE EYE CARTOON when I started out in television in 2008. Even though they were taking the mickey out of me it was still hugely flattering to be featured! It now hangs in our bedroom.

DAWN O'PORTER
Writer and TV presenter

Dawn, 34, invited us into the colourful home she shares with Irish actor Chris O'Dowd, their dog Potato and their cat Lilu to share the memories of her childhood on Guernsey and life in London

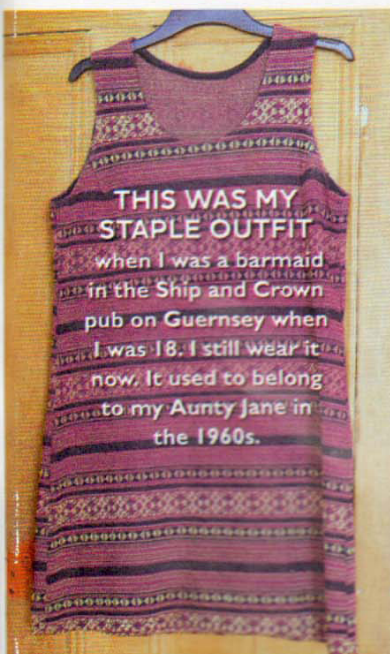


I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE TO MY DAD BILL. He lives in a caravan on the edge of Loch Lomond and is definitely one of a kind. This picture perfectly sums him up – a big burly Scotsman.



Chris gave me this Guernsey Pottery siamese cat for Christmas a few years ago. I have cat ornaments all over the house. I've had my cat Lilu for ten years and she's travelled the world with me. I could never love someone who didn't love my cat.

Motto Chris and I always say, 'We make the rules.'



THIS WAS MY STAPLE OUTFIT when I was a barmaid in the Ship and Crown pub on Guernsey when I was 18. I still wear it now. It used to belong to my Aunt Jane in the 1960s.



MY AUNT AND UNCLE HAD A SHEEP FOOTREST and I always wanted one of my own, so they had this made as a wedding gift to me and Chris.

Dawn's latest novel *Paper Aeroplanes* will be published by Hot Key Books on 2 May, price £7.99. To order a copy for £7.49 with free p&p, contact the YOU Bookshop on 0844 472 4157. you-bookshop.co.uk



Chris and I broke up for about a month not long after we first started dating four years ago. I was so miserable that I started taking guitar lessons to keep myself busy. About a week after my first lesson we got back together and I never picked up my guitar again. It now sits in the corner of the living room as a symbol of how much I loved him.