

about ed /2/ no saint

you have mentioned that ed had a way with people. what exactly do you mean by that? you mean he found it easy to get along with everyone? was he fun to be with? did he have a lot of friends?

well, all of that is true. **those** were his **outstanding qualities**. **even as** a young boy, he **would have** people **remark on** them all the time. you see, everyone **thought** he had great emotional intelligence, **in addition to having** a high IQ, and the ability to **get on with just about** everybody, **whatever** their age or background. it's true, eddie simply seemed to **make friends** everywhere he went. and another thing was, he was a wild optimist, an enthusiast. he **believed** it's possible to **make a difference**. and he **could have**. **in fact**, in his short life, **he did**.

you make it sound almost as if he was a saint. do you think he would have approved of you talking about him like this?

no, **not at all**. he **would have hated for anyone to call** him **that**. **for one thing**, he was very **disorganized**. he **would** lose things **on a regular basis**. he **kept misplacing** his wallet as well as his car keys. he **would** often ask us to ring his number **so that** he could find his phone. and he **hated being upstaged**. he was so **irritated not to have been made** head boy at his school because he **considered** himself the best candidate. he quite possibly was, but **there was no way** I, as headmaster, **could have done it**.

what about his lovelife? did he meet anyone in Lebanon that he thought he might date or even marry? or was he involved with someone back in England?

not that I know of. he was a hopeless romantic, **as far as I know**. he once tried to **win a girl by sending** her a postcard with the **lyrics** of Take That's "Back for Good" translated **into** Latin. also, I hope he wouldn't **mind me pointing out** that he **found** Lebanese girls quite **stunning** and it **bothered** him a lot that he **had trouble chatting them up**. for instance, there's a chapter in his **diary** where he **recalls** how his french **let him down** when he most wanted to **impress** Celeste.

I don't believe this name has come up yet. would you mind telling us more about this Celeste girl? it sounds as if she played quite some part in your son's life

apparently, Celeste was **this** beautiful secretary **at** the hostel where he **first** stayed in Beirut. he **thought** she had the most **adorable** French voice. and he absolutely **cursed** himself when his French **broke down** as he **chatted** to her. he actually wrote in the diary that he would often **imagine living** with Celeste in a **gorgeous** stone villa from **the thirties**, **although** I'm not sure if **he'd approve of us sharing** this **piece of information** with you.