

Transcript

Rhianna

Child of Our Time: Turning 20

Rhianna:

People often say you don't need money to be happy, but they're people who haven't had to live on the poverty line.

My mum was working as a garment technologist and Dad was doing what he could. Mum was the higher earner.

Tanya, Rhianna's Mum:

I would be happy to take on 100% of the childcare if I didn't have to go out to work.

Andy, Rhianna's Dad:

It's just financial reasons. I cannot earn enough at the moment to support the three of us and the house and everything, if Tanya doesn't work.

Rhianna:

Dad did a lot of odd jobs when I was growing up and didn't really keep a constant steady job.

He's quite an anarchist in some ways and doesn't particularly like being told what to do, so he tried to set up businesses of his own and try and work as much as he could for himself.

Mum:

To be honest, you've always been a really, really good worker when you put your mind to it. It's just that in the past, you got slightly distracted quite quickly.

Dad:

I can start sort of mentally thinking right if I can save 100 pounds here and 100 pounds there - it never quite happens like that I'm afraid... I always seem to find some way of spending it. But hey ho.

Mum:

I'll work on that one.

Rhianna:

It was a very difficult, very difficult time.

I was very occasionally told like, you know, we don't, we don't have a lot of money right now.

I think it's important that children know that like, we can't do what we've been doing before because we don't have the resources to. It's not a bad thing, it's just a...it's how the world works.

As a little kid I was going, look this is an own brand and this is not an own-brand... this one's cheaper.

So you know, I knew from quite an early age how much things costed, and you know what I can't get and can get.

There was a weird point when I first went to Secondary School, where I was suddenly exposed to all these people who had so much more than me and had all the branded clothing and if you didn't have this branded clothing, you couldn't be cool. You couldn't be popular.

And my mum she would have given it to me but she just couldn't. And when I look back, I'm glad she didn't because it kept me out of that really negative social group where if you have to have, to be included, why would I want to be there? Instead I got in with a really good group of friends who accepted me for who I am and what I have, whether I had anything or not and we support each other through that.

I'm 19. I've done my GCSEs. I've done college and now I'm at Uni.
I study psychology.

I didn't have this great epiphany when I came to Uni about how much things cost, I already knew I already knew how to budget and how to survive and where the best cheap places to shop are and I like living like that.

So I don't think it matters where I end up, if I end up earning more money than my parents because I'll find a way to make what, whatever I have content and liveable and comfortable. And if it means that I live in a van for a while and I go touring and I do odd jobs to get money to fuel my van and make some food then that's, that's fine.

If you can master the art of not needing things to be happy and just having your basic needs covered and maybe a bit more for some luxuries, then that's a good way to be.