

# MY LIFE

TV MAGAZINE GETS TO KNOW...

# CHARLOTTE RITCHIE



**My earliest memory is sitting in a washing basket.** It was when Mum and Dad were living in France. I was sitting in the basket at the bottom of the stairs and having a meeting with some of my teddy bears. I must have been about two years old.

**I was a horrible, horrible teenager.** From about the age of nine to 14, I was a precocious t\*\*t. If I'd met myself then, I'd have been like: "Wind your neck in!" As a young child, though, I remember being desperate to please, making my family cups of tea and biscuits. If they told me to lie down and be quiet, I would.

**My family are opinionated, so I had to shout to be heard.** That's probably why I'm an actor – I'm attention-seeking. We always ate together as a family, so I would often listen to debates that my dad, older brother and elder sister would have; my mum would chime in too. I grew up arguing all the time. I realise now that if I can debate stuff with someone, that's a sign of friendship.

**My least favourite phrase is: "Man up."** I went to a girls' school and I hated it when people said: "You throw like a girl" – which is inherently the most sexist thing you can say because it's implying that you are weak.

**I was bad at maths.** I met my old maths teacher a year or two ago and she said: "Oh, Charlotte, I remember you – you were so good at maths." I replied: "Really?" She said: "No, I was only joking – you were terrible!"

**My siblings used to listen to quite a lot of angsty 90s music.** My sister would storm upstairs, slam the door and listen to Alanis Morissette's album *Jagged Little Pill* on repeat. So I remember the 90s as this amazing time of Nirvana, Pearl Jam, serious emotion, tie-dye and incense candles.

**Strangely, I get recognised more for *Fresh Meat* than *Call The Midwife*.** It's a much smaller audience but I think

"I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE ON A TUBE TRAIN"

I see more of its viewers out and about in bars and places like that because they're older.

**My worst personality trait is worrying too much.** I get really anxious. I worry about anything there is to worry about. It's almost like I'm so obsessive that if I don't have anything to worry about then something is seriously wrong. Now, knowing that I have to audition for new jobs is a big problem. It's much easier to worry about little things, like what time will I get to my mum's house, than the huge problems in my life.

**I hate washing up cups that have been in my room for a week.** I don't mind cleaning, although if my housemates read this, they'll say: "You don't do anything." I am lazy. I can't be a\*\*\*d to walk up our flat's tiny flight of stairs.

**I thought I was going to die recently.** I was stuck on a Tube train and it sounded like another train was coming from behind at about 100mph. I looked around the carriage as it got deafeningly loud. I thought: 'It's going to hit us and I'm going to die.' It was so weird. I was so scared and I don't normally panic about big things like that. Then the other train flew past our window. I was so relieved. In the 10 seconds I thought I was going to die, my mind went blank. I didn't think about anyone I loved. I just felt: 'Woah, I wonder what this will be like?'

**My perfect Saturday would be spent with my best friend** watching classic films like *Clueless* and *Mrs Doubtfire*. I'm desperate to watch *Mrs Doubtfire* again. I don't know why I haven't – no one's stopping me. I could buy it for £2.99. Robin Williams is a genius so I need to watch that again. Then I'd take a stroll round the park and, in the evening, go for drinks.

## THE DAY THAT CHANGED MY LIFE...

"When I got the role of Oregon in *Fresh Meat*. I'd never really done anything professional before except three days on a Caroline Quentin sitcom and a short film. I wasn't even sure I could act. I feel that if I hadn't got that job, I doubt I'd be doing all the things I'm doing now."

