



To Arth, my younger (and often confused) self.
Here's some painted Polaroids of a future that you
don't think is possible...



Hey, you never learnt about LGBT stuff at school because the stupid Government made teaching about it illegal. That's why you felt so confused as a child. One day there will be a Plymouth Pride on the Hoe and loads of people will proudly throw pebbles in the mainstream.



There's going to be a really dark time that you will get through, even though you don't believe you will. Trust your parents; they are wise. And then you will meet your future husband at an LGBT coffee group! Your friend Emma may have set you up. It's a great match, well done Em.



Yes Arth, you will have your own family. You are going to adopt the most perfect and wonderful little boy. It's like looking at love through a kaleidoscope; brighter and deeper in colour. It's proper grown-up stuff, but you will be amazed.



How proud you will be of your family. Look how happy you are. Over the years, laws and attitudes will become more progressive. Trust me, being gay will only be a small part of your identity.



Arth, being confused and afraid of what others will think is the cause of your anxiety. One day that door will close and a new one will open. Now listen, life is about sunshine and rain in equal quantities, so include plenty of rainbows in your paintings. And on that note, you're going to be an artist, so keep practicing your painting for goodness sake.