



One fingerprint set in 7 billion

Video transcript: Clip from *Countdown to Life: The Extraordinary Making of You* (BBC Two, 2015).

MICHAEL MOSLEY:

To the authorities, this woman is invisible.

She can bamboozle the most sophisticated security systems on the planet.

Cheryl is one of a tiny handful of people who was born without fingerprints. Just a few small creases on the end of her fingers.

That is really strange. Mine's got the classic whirls and yours has just got a few scratches.

Cheryl's condition is known as immigration delay disease.

CHERYL:

I worked as a flight attendant, and after flight attendant school you have to get your security clearance.

And for most of the students in my class it took two weeks. It took almost ten weeks for me to get mine.

MICHAEL MOSLEY:

Because people just couldn't believe that you didn't have them...

CHERYL:

... yeah, yeah.

MICHAEL MOSLEY:

It's very strange, because fingerprints are something that we absolutely see as a core part of our identity, who we are, ehm and yet you don't have that. In a way that makes you even more unique, even more unusual.

CHERYL:

Yes