

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, NY 10028

March 2, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

You asked about my mother Pearl.

I know some of her childhood. She had an extremely close relationship with her parents, Harry & Helen Schwimmer. Both of them have died.

She has two brothers, one living (Louis Schwimmer) and one deceased (Irving Schwimmer).

My Uncle Louis is the one who got me the job as a sheet metal apprentice and I'm very close to him and his wife (Beatrice).

My Uncle Irving I loved very deeply. He was such a wonderful, quiet and mysterious man. Rarely did he venture out of the house except to go for long walks. When he went walking he was gone for days. He loved the solitude and the mountains and this is where he went. Irving was a most amazing fellow.

However, all his life he never had a friend. He was a total loner and a recluse. Uncle Irving died alone and was buried alone. He was friendless.

Really it was a suicide type thing - gradual. He died of loneliness more than anything else. I was the closest one to him out of the whole family with the exception of his mother, Helen.

We shared our long walks together. But this was until I was thirteen years old. After that I lost track of him. His mother (my Grandmother) Helen Schwimmer, was placed in a home for the elderly. He lived with her all his life and when she got sent away, a few years later he died.

But this is my mother, Pearl's family. ~~NE~~ They are fine people although Irving was the emotionally troubled one.

My mother was extremely attractive I was told (this was when she was a child and adolescent). However, she was one of the younger kids in her neighborhood. All the males would flirt with her. This, of course, made the other girls who were a little older than her jealous. So they teased her and pulled her hair. They also did other things to torment her as would be expected from vicious children.

My mother I was told, often ran home crying. Her older brother, Louis Schwimmer, often went to her aid and they were close companions. Irving was the youngest of the children, but he had no friends.

Several Aunts told me all this and I remember the details quite well. They told me this after my mother's funeral. The names of these Aunts I cannot recall because they weren't close to me. But they lived in the neighborhood with my mother during their childhood.

(3/2/80)

My mother went to college for a few years. But she never graduated. She fell in love with my dad (Nat) and she went off with him into the service. They both served together down south in an Army Base.

She was very devoted to this Nation and to my father. I believe it was called the woman's army corps back then. She was assigned to a clerks job and worked in an office. My father was a Master Sergeant. Because of his skill at keeping books and storing surplus, he was assigned to the Quarter Master Unit.

I forgot my mother's rank, but I'll have to check with my father.

During the war (WW II) my father spent alot of time in the Pacific. He was stationed in Guam. His job was to supply the men on the front lines with supplies and order the supplies from the States. However, I forgot the exact job my mother had, except that she worked in an office.

For other matters, I hope you liked the article from the Rochester newspaper.

Also, I hope you liked my letters to the Governer. I do want to help crime victims and I will continue to do so without the help of the Crime Victims Compensation Board.

Incidentally, Harry Lipsig wrote to thank me for the two letters to Governer Carey. He says, "I might directly tell you that I find your concern for justice admirable."

Lipsig, happens to be the chairman for the Crime Victims Rights Organization. He said that he dosen't mind my writing him, however, I will decline from doing so. Still, I'm grateful for his kind reply.

Sincerely,

*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, NY 10028

3/11/80

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Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

More than two weeks have gone by and I have yet to hear from you with regards to Klausner and his book, your book, etc. Really, I did feel that I deserved some explanations. I would like to know what is happening and so forth.

I sent you a three page letter on 2/19/80, although the letter may have been first dated 2/12/80

I sent you two letters on 2/16/80. One letter was two pages. A second letter was one page.

I sent you a letter on 2/28/80.

A letter with the information about my mother (Pearl) was sent to you on 3/2/80 - another letter.

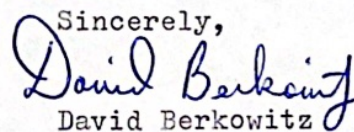
As of yet, I have not received an acknowledgement of these letters (total: 5 letters) nor has anyone told me about the arrangements between you and Klausner.

Miss Johnson told me about the mention in Publisher's Weekly, with regard to Klausner's book. Well, what did the article say? Is the book expected to sell well, etc?

Will your book be published within a year and will you be able to use all the letters and other materials in it? I hope so.

Again, please keep me informed.

Lastly, I will be putting a motion before the Brooklyn (Kings County) Supreme Court to have myself be adjudged competent. My letter has already been typed up; I've enclosed my own inclosures; Mrs. Mills has prepared psychiatric reports. So I will keep you posted.

Sincerely,  
  
David Berkowitz

cc/db

DAVID ABRAHAMSEN  
1035 FIFTH AVE.,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

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3/12/80

Dear Dr. Abrahamson,

Thank you for showing me this article from the "TENNESSEAN."

I can see that the news media loves a catchy headline. Of course I do not keep a score card on mass killers.

all I did was compile a list of these individuals to show Mr. Jones just how serious of a problem this Country has.

I no longer get much pleasure out of reading about someone else's misfortunes.

Thank you again for sending the article.

Sincerely,  
David Berkowitz

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, NY 10028

109  
Mar. 16, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

On March 2nd I sent you a typed letter telling you many things about my mother.

I also sent you a letter on March 11th on a different matter.

Now, I have your letters of 4 and 11 March. Of course, you did tell me that you were going on a cruise and won't be back until 23 March. This is why I didn't respond sooner.

With regard to this reporter Jack Jones. I really haven't given him too much, but the only reason I've been talking with him is because I thought you wanted this.

Remember, you were also hunting for someone to do a story on my sanity. I felt that I was only complying with your wishes. Now I know different and I will discontinue our (his & my) interviews.

Dr. Abrahamsen, this shows the need for us to be more open with each other. You see, I didn't expect your book to be out for at least another year. So I saw my interviews with this man as harmless. However, I will again comply with your wishes.

Let me add, too, that this is one of the better reporters. I read several of his stories in the past and they were accurate and fair. This is why I choose him over the media people who've made numerous offers lately.

Once again let me ask you to come up in early April. This is necessary so that we become aware of each others wishes. Unless we could discuss this openly, then I'm apt to make further mistakes.

Sincerely,

*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, NY 10028

110  
March 17, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

This is reference to your letter dated 4 March 1980.

Thank you for letting me see the article from a Tennessee newspaper. I returned it to you under a seperate cover.

Questions:

(1) "I general, do you remember what Jultak & Stern talked to you about and what they advised you to do?"

Ans: Both of them asked me to get into this "demon" story in its fullest length. This was only to please them. They also asked me to put as much as possible on paper.

Putting it on paper also included my writing in a notebook as well as, numerous letters.

To be honest, they have alot of material from me. It is innaccurate in one sense, but accurate in another. What I mean is that I lied to them about the demons, however, it is accurate in that I wrote it.

Ques: (2) "Who talked to you more, was it Jultak or Stern?"

Ans: Jultak talked and visited me often. Stern, however, was more involved with the legal aspects of the case. Jultak, only the story (my story).

Ques: (3) "How long a time did their talks last?"

Ans: Several hours each visit over a period of many months. Jultak visited nine out of ten times.

Ques: (4) "Did they make notes?"

Ans: Yes, often. They (especially Jultak) used a tape recorder sometimes.

Ques: (5) "How would you characterize their talks with you? Were they pleasant, angry, persuasive, etc?"

Ans: The conversations were both pleasant and also most persuasive. Of course there was no reason for them to be angry. I gave them what they wanted and wanted to hear, merely for the asking.

Ques: (6) "Did the lawyers talk with your mother, and what did she tell them?"

Ans: They talked often and my mother made several trips to Jultaks office even before I was sentenced. Common sense tells me that they became quite close. <sup>END</sup>

David Berkowitz

David Abrahamsen  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

March 23, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Welcome back from your vacation.

Hopefully, I answered all your questions. Now, however, I just want to remind you that April should be the month in which Klausner's book comes up for review. Therefore, I would recommend that you watch the New York Times Book Review. Chances are very good that it will appear for review in this periodical.

Of course I would like to see a copy of the review. So please send me a copy as I cannot afford to buy the Review (which is separate from the N.Y. Times newspaper).

Please keep me posted.

Sincerely,

*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

cc/db

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, NY 10028

March 27, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I received your three page letter dated 25 March 1980 today.

Yes, I will try to make the arrangements you suggested soon. However, I doubt if the institution would grant this privilege to you. Jack Jones has plenty of friends here and last summer he did a lengthy series on Mrs. Mills' Mental Hygiene Unit here. It was an excellent article, but as a result, Jones has literally been given the run of this prison. Also, he is "press." Still, I will try.

Please tell me on April 10th if Klausner's attorney has revealed anything about the McGraw Hill book. The title puzzles me. It doesn't sound sensational and I really cannot think what the book could possibly contain that hasn't already been told. Actually, only you have the "Inside Story," because you're the only one I've confessed to.

As for Jack Jones, I stopped seeing him in March. I have also received about a dozen requests for interviews with others. And as I promised you, I declined the offers.

My hunch is that Klausner's book will not touch very much on the insanity/sanity issue because it is too arguable and controversial. He will simply quote all the things I said about demons, preaching on street corners, the crimes, etc. Of course, all these things taken out of context will create the image of a madman. This makes for exciting reading and it makes for a gory Hollywood movie. So please don't be suprised if Klausner's book climbs to the best seller list.

← top of the

Yes, my father did receive your letter and, as expected, he was most upset. You see Dr. Abrahamsen, my father doesn't want to believe that I was sane. Try to understand his position. He is my father, he loves me, therefore he wants to protect me. So my father feels that the public will not be sympathetic to me if they found out (or at least believed) that I was not insane (which really means sick and not in control of my senses).

Actually, my mother was not a flirt. I said that because she was very attractive, the boys in the neighborhood always made passes at her and gave her all their attention as opposed to the other girls who teased her out of jealousy.

I would expect Publishers Weekly to do an "advance review" on Klausner's book.

Sincerely,  
*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz



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David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, NY 10028

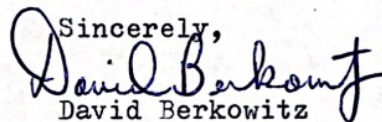
April 3, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I have been trying to arrange a private room and for you to be able to use a tape recorder. But please give me some time. And bring up all your recording and writing materials anyhow, because I don't expect the authorities to reach a verdict until April 9th or so.

If possible, please bring me up a copy of New York Magazine (the latest issue) and any other old magazines you might be able to spare. There is a shortage of good reading materials here, so I always appreciate some magazines.

Unless you have a change of plans I will see you on the 10th.

Sincerely,  
  
David Berkowitz

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

114  
April 10, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I am going to answer some of your questions which you asked during our visit today.

As you know, Ira Jultak, my former attorney, was once in partnership with Leon Stern, another former attorney. It is my understanding, however, that the reason for their recent split is because of some unethical doings of Jultak. It has been told me that Jultak had been slipping materials (my writings, tape recordings of talks with Jultak, etc) to Klausner on the side.

As you may recall, McGraw Hill didn't approve of the deal until I had already been confined to the Central New York Psychiatric Center at Marcy, New York. Klausner, however, had been working with Jultak for quite sometime.

This is all <sup>too</sup> complicated to explain, but it appears that Jultak had been operating not only behind my back, but Stern's as well. Stern, as far as I know, threw Jultak out of the office because he found out about his younger partner's doings. Of course it was inevitable that he would eventually find out.

Anyhow, I didn't find out that my life story had been sold to a publisher until I happened to glimpse a small article in the back pages of the Rochester, New York, Democrat & Chronicle Newspaper. This was how I found out that a multi-million dollar deal had been made, developed, and even approved by the court. And this is even stranger. If it was approved by the court shortly before I learned of the deal, then obviously, it was being planned for quite some time.

Obviously, too, I knew nothing of the deal, nor did I hear of the name Klausner until I read the small two paragraph article. So the question is, is it correct and justifiable to do this. And if it is, then what rights could a conservatee possibly have. Surely I have few if any!

Yes, it is true that I did not know of the McGraw Hill deal, nor did I give my consent (which isn't even necessary according to Law). This is ridiculous, of course. But what can I do?

As I told you in a recent letter, Jultak has an abundance of material, most of which I gave him. Furthermore, alot of this material was on my childhood and things. I told him, Dr. Schwartz, and other doctors, a great deal of my past life.

Now, when I learned that a multi-million dollar deal had been arranged with the help of Stern and Jultak, I was then finally faced with the reality of the situation. I thought that this deal would further magnify me as an insane madman and crazed murderer.

4/10/80

Therefore, I had to take an action that would forevermore put an end to this "demon" thing. So I called a press conference with three reporters.

While I was holding the conference a guard came into the private room to notify me that my attorney was on the phone. I asked him for a name and he told me "a Mr. Jugtick," or something like this. Of course he was talking about Jultak. So I told him (the guard) that that man was no longer my attorney and that I fired him.

Obviously, Jultak had tried desperately to halt the interview which he and the others (Klausner & McGraw Hill) found threatening. But I can be quite stubborn. Besides, I realized before I called for the interview with the reporters, that it had to be done. I wanted desperately to tell the truth and let the world know that I was lying and that I knew damn well that I committed those crimes.

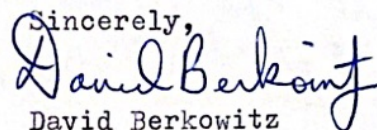
I wasn't too successful with my efforts so far. Still, it was hard to admit it, but I knew that you really knew what was going on. Schwartz knew so very little, the other doctors were on Cloud Nine, and my defense attorneys - well, I lied to them so much. I got so caught up in my lies about the demons that I couldn't remember which demon was which or who told me to slay who, etc. I knew back in Kings County that I forgot the names of the demons and their ranks or whatever. So what I would've said during my trial in June wouldn't have matched what I said during my initial days of confinement, talking into those stupid recorders.

I was in a mess and this was one reason for my plea of guilty.

Getting back to Klausner's book, I want to tell you that when I was getting ready to give the conference to the reporters, McGraw Hill (the top man) called Miss Johnsen. This is the first and only time that McGraw Hill has ever called them. Anyhow, this individual ordered Johnsen to put a stop to the interview. She refused to do so and told this person that she had no control over such matters.

I'll write again over the weekend.

cc/db

Sincerely,  
  
David Berkowitz

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, NY 10028

115A  
April 26, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I am a "psychotic!" According to Webster's Dictionary, a psychotic person suffers from a psychosis and "is very seriously disorganized and contact from reality is usually impaired." Of course, I do not feel that I am disorganized nor suffering from a break with reality. However, according to the senior editor of McGraw Hill, I am psychotic indeed.

Dr. Abrahamsen, you know how cunning I am at times, so do to a lack of information about the Klausner book, I simply dropped McGraw Hill a letter of inquiry. Apparently it was intelligently written and plausible enough to cause McGraw Hill to reply quickly.

Yet there is something else. I sent the letter to them via Bernice DeNota. Naturally, McGraw Hill could never believe that I could have written such a letter. But, unknowing to the Senior Editor, Mr. Bruce Lee, he unwittingly gave me the information about the book which he also printed "CONFIDENTIAL" at the head of. Furthermore, Mr. Lee requested that the information contained in the letter not be "released to any form of news media."

I will without doubt, send you a copy of the invaluable letter. Of course it didn't say much more than we expected anyhow, and that is that I, David Berkowitz, am a very sick man, detached from reality, and a lunatic.

I have received your letter of April 17th. Yes, I received the magazines you left and I enjoyed them.

Now as for this cult. I am aware of many stories about an accomplice. But this isn't true. And I think it doubtful that Mr. Rubenstein could have told you this. One reason is simply because we never discussed this, although I know that the Queens District Attorney consulted him often for information. Another reason is this: should I have (only for arguments sake) told him of something like this, then by telling you, he would have violated an extremely confidential attorney/client relationship. So please do not be concerned with rumours.

As far as I know, it is just like you said. The investigation in Westchester didn't lead anywhere. I assume that it has been discontinued, and it probably started because of a series of unrelated coincidences and erroneous information.

Also for your information, McGraw Hill, according to Mr. Penn, has postponed final decision on the manuscript until September. The reason for this is that the movie producers have decided to go through with the deal. They originally had until August to decide, but they moved it up to next month or thereabouts.

4/26/80

The book is supposed to appear in December of 1980. This is the hard cover edition.

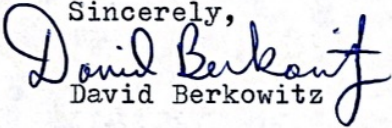
I had requested from Miss Johnsen that she send you copies of my published letter to Inside Detective Magazine and the article that appeared in the Buffalo, New York, newspaper. I hope you received them.

Next, I'm certain that you've heard about this Veterans benefits thing. Honestly, I had nothing to do with this. Both Johnsen and Rubenstein made the decision on their own and without my permission, to challenge the Veterans Administration for payments for sometype of mental or emotional disability.

I have not heard from them about this and I have only a vague idea as to what they are basing their claim on, how they're going about it, and what it entails. You see now what happens when one is a conservatee.

Honest to God, even I don't know whats going on and I'm not pleased about it.

cc/db

Sincerely,  
  
David Berkowitz

115B

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

April 27, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Yesterday I told you that I did not tell Mr. Rubenstein anything about this cult business. And as I also told you, District Attorney Santucci from Queens asked to visit with me about the matter. Checking through my files here for additional information, I came across this paper which should explain everything.

Santucci consulted Rubenstein several times to get him to persuade me to allow a visit with the D.A. I informed Mr. Rubenstein that I did not wish a visit and he thus informed the Queens D.A. So apparently the only conversation Rubenstein and I had about this cult business is when he asked me if I'd like to talk to Santucci. (See inclosure).

Playboy Magazine printed a letter of mine in its "Forum" section. This is a letter that is similar to the one that was printed in the detective magazine.

I am happy about this because Playboy is a well circulated magazine with very intelligent readers. Of course I want to impress people with the fact that I am sane and not "psychotic" as Mr. Bruce Lee would have everyone believe.

This is the June 1980 edition.

Variety, a show business newspaper, will be running a full length advertisement for the coming "Son of Sam" movie soon. I could try to get additional information, but perhaps it would be easier for you.

According to Miss Johnsen, it will be a full page ad, and it will be paid for by Giles and Ramierz. If I'm not mistaken, they would take the money out of the fund for the victims. Deductions from their share can be taken from their account.

I guess I've covered everything for now. Please send some postage stamps. Thank you.

1 Incl.

cc:db

Sincerely,  
*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

115

DORIS JOHNSEN  
50 COURT STREET  
BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11201  
—  
MAIN 4-1084  
MAIN 4-4636

April 23, 1980

Mr. David Berkowitz  
78A - 1976  
Box 149  
Attica, New York 14011

Dear David:

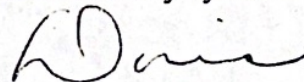
✓/ Mr. Rubenstein spoke to Penn (Klausner's lawyer) on Tuesday. <sup>22</sup> Penn says that the publication schedule has now been substantially revised for two reasons.

First, there are further extensive rewriting procedures being followed. They are being done at a leisurely pace because of some events relating to the movie. Apparently, the producers have determined to proceed with the movie and that they will exercise the option (although they have not done so formally and are not required to do so before August). The producers are contracting for a full page ad in Variety to announce the movie and have committed various monies to it. This being so, McGraw-Hill has decided that it would prefer not to publish until after the movie option has actually been exercised. They feel, in this fashion, that the paperback rights will become much more saleable.

This revised schedule would then call for the option for the movie to be exercised in August, the manuscript for the book to be accepted in September, the paperback rights to be marketed shortly after that, and the book to appear in hard cover edition in December.

Of course, we have no corroboration of any of this and do not at all know to what extent it is accurate. I would imagine that if it is correct, we will hear about some of the movie expenditures somewhere along the line. If we do, I will let you know.

Sincerely yours,



DORIS JOHNSEN

DJ:cb

*Dr. Abrahamson's Copy*

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

April 29, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I have made copies of the two letters I mentioned previously. I'm sure you will find the letters upsetting in one way, yet interesting in another.

The McGraw Hill letter I acquired by disguising myself as Bernice DeNota.

Incl.  
2 letters

cc:db

Sincerely,  
*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz



General Book Division

McGraw-Hill Book Company  
1221 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10020  
997-2490

18 April 1980



CONFIDENTIAL

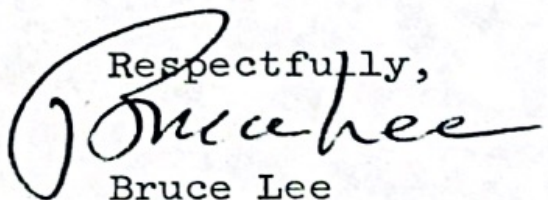
Dear Ms. DeNota:

Thank you for your letter of March 28th about our forthcoming book SON OF SAM.

I hope that I can ease your worries by saying that our book will be based on more than 300 interviews of police, detectives, politicians, surviving victims, families of the victims, David's family, plus the authorized transcriptions of taped, official documents and diaries of David.

Thus we should be able to present to the reader all the bits and pieces that turned Berkowitz into a mass killer. We should also be able to tell the reader how the city reacted to his deeds, and how a psychotic can affect the lives of millions of New Yorkers.

This letter is written to you on a confidential basis and is not to <sup>be</sup> released to any form of news media.

Respectfully,  
  
Bruce Lee  
Senior Editor

Ms. Bernice DeNota  
937 42nd St.  
Brooklyn, NY 11219

Dr. Abrahamson's Copy

D.B.

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

117  
May 1, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I just received your letter of April 29th and there were postage stamps enclosed. Thank you.

Yes, budget cutbacks have already eliminated many of the inmate programs, and the five free letters per week may go too. It's not certain when.

Also, Mrs. Fran Mills' Mental Hygiene Unit has been discontinued. She still has her office and she still cares for her patients. But now her patients cannot be housed near her office. As a matter of fact, all the emotionally disturbed and psychotic inmates who were under her care have been transferred to my floor. This has created some havoc as these guys are quite noisy. Plus, some of them defecate on the floor of their cells, then pick the wastes up and hurl it down the tier. The Observation Unit closed because of budget cutbacks.

Yes, Klausner's book is being postponed as I've recently told you. So you were correct after all. However, I have been doing some checking and it appears as if the ~~xxx~~ recent trend is movies and books about the same subject appearing simultaneously.

The story of country music star, Loretta Lynn, is one example. The movie, "Coal Miner's Daughter," and the book have appeared together, and I suppose that both promote and advertise each other. Therefore, it is quite possible that Mr. Penn is telling the truth when he informed Miss Johnsen that the book won't be out until December of 1980 - the manuscript being accepted in September 1980.

Dr. Abrahamsen, it is your decision, of course. But I can't see how you're going to have to wait one and a half years after publication of Klausner's book before you can publish your book. This will force you to hold off until late 1982 or sometime in 1983. Therefore, if it were possible and financially reasonable, I would force Klausner to take you to court.

Sincerely,

*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

cc/db

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

May 6, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I have just been told that Newsweek had an article about me in their Science Section or Behavior Section. The subject in relation to me was Forensic Psychiatry (or so I'm told).

The guy that told me about it was unsure whether or not it was in the April 28th issue or the May 5th issue. Please check. This article is one that you shouldn't miss. Neither should I. So far, I don't know any more than I've just mentioned. If you locate it, let me know.

Sincerely,  
*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

cc/db

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, New York

119  
May 17, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Thank you for your letter of May 15th which informed me of Glassman's book. You yourself don't seem to feel threatened by it, so I assume that he will only recapture some of the historical events in his book.

I do hope, however, that he doesn't attempt to portray me as a deranged madman, or something of this nature. But I'm sure that you've convinced him long ago that I was totally sane at the time.

I will attempt to obtain the mailing address for Pegasus Books. I want to have Miss Johnsen order me a copy. So please tell me if it will be hard-cover or paperback, and in what city or town Pegasus Books is located.

With the exception of ten minutes, I don't believe that Glassman could say very much, for this is all the time that we spent together. I wouldn't call this a relationship, nor would I consider this ten minutes something worthy to base a book on. Yes, I do want to read his book simply because I cannot see what all he could possibly say.

Of course, I am not the least bit suprised at Klausner's tactics to stop Glassman's seemingly harmless and superfluous book. Really, he (Glassman) poses the least threat of all.

There is something very important which I was going to hesitate to tell you until I checked it out further, but I will tell you briefly about the matter.

On Wednesday afternoon (5/14/80) I received a fourteen page type-written letter from Susan Wishengrad Sugar. She, if you recall, was the author of the Good Housekeeping article. Anyhow, the letter was most disturbing, and it prompted me to immediately call Mr. Rubenstein (I was on the phone with him for half an hour).

It seems as if my mother (Betty Falco) has gotten into a real jam up with Klausner. Or, even better, Klausner has done irreparable damage to himself.

Falco, has sworn that she never never talked with Klausner or gave him information. So either she is lying, or Klausner has simply fooled McGraw Hill into thinking that she has been collaborating, only to be supplying the publisher with bogus and phoney tapes (recordings of the interviews).

We will have to discuss this later for it is very complicated. Nevertheless, Mr. Rubenstein will thoroughly check the matter out. Too, he was instructed by me to phone Susan Wushengrad, and I expect the results of the conversation to reach me soon.

Sincerely,

*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

cc/db

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, NY 10028

May 25, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I received your letter of May 22nd and the enclosed stamps.  
Thank you.

Since Glassman is holding an elaborate "publications party," then I must assume that his book is coming out in hardcover. This is suprising.

Now for some news both good and bad. I have received another lengthy letter from Susan Wishengrad (six full length typed pages). However, it is impossible to let you see the letter, and it is impossible to cover all that she's said. Anyhow, I have finally confirmed that my mother did cooperate with Klausner, and did, according to her, grant at least one half-hour interview. Of course, there's more to it than this.

As it goes, Klausner approached her doorstep about a year and a half ago. He had a copy of the Good Housekeeping article in his hand and outright demanded an interview. When she appeared reluctant he made a verbal offer of \$2,000, which to my mother would seem like ten times more (she's never seen that much money in her whole lifetime).

Then she gave an interview and signed a release form. Klausner, mentions Susan, signed nothing. And as expected, over a year has passed and my mother has yet to see the \$2,000.

Although I have not been a "good and loyal" son, I feel that I should, perhaps out of gallantry, rally to the side of my helpless and naive mother and get her 2,000 dollars which Klausner owes her.

Yes, although my mother did cooperate to a degree, Klausner still is not in the clear. I say this because my mother, sister and Susan, will be up here for a visit in mid-June. I will straighten out everything, obtain the facts, and then begin legal action against Klausner and McGraw Hill.

To me a verbal agreement between adults is as good as a written contract and just as binding. Furthermore, I pack a great deal of clout with the newsmedia and I know several reporters whom I could turn to in order to denounce Klausner as a trickster, conartist, <sup>and</sup> manipulator. I am, I might add, quite capable at doing all this intelligently, and I'm certain that McGraw Hill will be a bit queasy at the thought of scandalous publicity.

All in all, either Klausner immediately pays my mother the \$2,000 plus interest, or I will go public and expose the writer's skulduggerous tactics.

Now, if my mother is telling the truth that she only granted an interview of about thirty minutes, then Klausner has nothing significant for his book. You see, without my immediate family, the only other sources would all be somewhat second-hand - people who only knew me slightly or vaguely. But we will discuss this later.

5/25/80

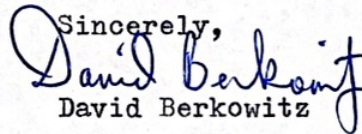
Also, when Klausner did approach my mother, he did tell her that if she didn't cooperate, then he could obtain all the information he wanted via the Good Housekeeping article. He told her that her cooperation was not imperative. All this is in Susan's letter which I'd love for you to read (on a strictly confidential basis). But when I figure out a way to get it to you, and if you promise to return it instantly, then perhaps I will allow you to read it. The letter is extremely informative.

Susan mentions you in the letter. So I assume that Rubenstein told her about you. Still, when I meet all of them in mid-June, then I will explain my collaborating with you. I'm sure this will clear up all the mistrust and may help you get an interview with my mother and sister.

I'm sorry, but I cannot locate the carbon copy of the letter Bernice/ aka I, sent to McGraw Hill.

I also found out that my sister Roz, never cooperated with Klausner and only spoke with him once. Betty was obviously cornered alone by Klausner who, according to Susan's letter, brought along his wife and child with him. This, in case you are unaware, was the same "nice Jewish boy" tactic he tried using on my father. Klausner brought his wife down to Florida to meet my father, who later wrote me saying that "his wife appeared to be as phoney as him."

As usual, I will keep you informed.

Sincerely,  
  
David Berkowitz

cc/db

David Abrahamsen, M.D:  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, NY 10028

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122  
Thursday  
May 29, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

A couple of days ago a friendly civilian handed me a copy of a popular detective magazine which was dated August 1979 and it contained a lengthy story about my case. Of course, my two letters, one that was left on a shooting scene, and a second which was sent to a news columnist were printed in the article. The crime scenes were vividly described and some of my confession was printed too.

The funny thing about all this is that I looked on in both horror and disgust. "Was this me?" I said to myself. Truthfully, looking at the writings with the printed slant and looking at the shooting scenes were nothing more than a distant remembrance.

Perhaps you could explain this reaction that I have because to me its like viewing the actions of a stranger. Oh, I'm fully aware that I committed every single crime. I can, till this day, recall all the fine details, the most trivial of events which occurred around about me, etc. But still, I sometimes cannot believe that I could be capable of such destruction.

I can recall another troublesome aspect of my life. This isn't related to the article in the detective magazine, but it is related to the crimes in general.

Ever since I was very young I committed a multitude of anti-social or criminal actions. Some were more serious than others in that they caused a good deal of property damage. But the main and even tragic similarity is that when I did these destructive things I did them alone. No other youths were with me to start the garbage and abandon car fires. No other youths were with me when I wrote graffiti and curse words all over the elevator and stairways of my building at 1105 Stratford Avenue, where I lived when I was young.

When I broke windows and car antennas I did it alone. When I overturned a gallon can of white paint in the stairwell, I did it alone. This act caused alot of damage and the super raised hell, but he never knew it was me. You see, I was coming down the stairwell of my building on Stratford Avenue, and several house painters were working in an apartment of the third floor. Apparently one of them left an almost full gallon of the paint outside the apartment doorway. The top was off it, and then when I walked by, I felt a strong urge to turn the can over and let the paint spill out all over the hallway. So, listening carefully for noises in the apartment, alone and without anyone looking, I quietly turned the can over and went on my way.

No, I cannot explain why I did it. I know of no motive. But I had a compulsion to do this <sup>AND</sup> mess up the hallway. And this act was one of a multitude that I did throughout my life without any rhyme or reason. Also, I think I was about eleven or ten years old during this incident. Furthermore, I didn't even know the person who lived in the ~~px~~ apartment!

5/29/80

Dr. Abrahamsen, whatever happened to this thing which they call "peer pressure?" I sure as hell don't know, for every destructive act which I did was without pressure from others of my age group.

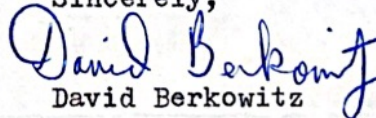
When I was truant from school it was the same thing. When I didn't go to school I either took long walks or stayed home watching television or merely spending aimless hours. Then at three thirty I'd telephone my father at his store to tell him that I just came home from school, even though I never went.

Most of my friends did mischief from time to time. But it was nothing in comparison to my actions which they never knew about. Of course, I was careful not to tell anyone of my secret ventures into other neighborhoods to set fires, and to share my almost precious and joyful acts of thievery with others. Yes, I did enjoy my actions to a degree and I had no desire to stop.

Truly I am a compulsive destroyer of nearly everything that is capable of being destroyed or damaged or taken apart. Perhaps I'm as capable now as I was ten years ago. In any case, I certainly can do a thorough job. And this is better than doing good because it is easier. The destruction is complete, it is usually total, and I did the job (or jobs) well. Perhaps this compensated for my failings at other things.

It becomes difficult for me to understand myself when I can't even understand many of my motives. Unfortunately, too, I wish it were possible for me to list point by point and detail by detail, every single destructive and vandalous act which I committed in my lifetime. I would be overjoyed to show you what one individual could do in his lifetime - how one single man could cause so much chaos. But I never kept a diary.

Sincerely,

  
David Berkowitz

cc/db



David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, NY 10028

June 11, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I have received your letter of June 2nd.

At this time my mother, Aunt (Betty's sister), Susan Sugar and her husband are coming up for a visit in late June. Perhaps the last week, they claim. Anyhow, this will give me a chance to explain our relationship (your's and mine) and to present your motives to them. Afterall, they don't trust you, but this feeling is only due a lack of knowledge.

The visit will give me an oportune time to discuss Klausner and to find out what happened, what his goals are, what his promises are (or were, because he never kept them), what he told my mother, etc. This will also give me a chance to ask about Jultak, my former attorney, and what his involvement is with all this.

With regards to Klausner, I've already prepared a tentative list of questions which I plan to ask Betty Falco and I will certainly keep you informed.

With regards to McGraw Hill, I noticed a number of new books that they're advertising in the recent edition of the New York Times Book Review. Several of the books were crime/espionage fiction types and, of course, there was no mention of Son of Sam. Therefore, perhaps its really true that the book won't be out until the fall.

I think it would be ridiculous and presumptuous to think that it will never come out or that it will "bomb out." The publisher has already invested \$250,000, obviously an exorbitant amount, and it wants this money back, plus a tidy profit.

Please, therefore, put it in your mind that McGraw Hill will publish it regardless of any delays, and will advertise the book to the fullest extent. Frankly, too, I don't see how something like it could not help but be a Best Seller even though it is incomplete.

Enclosed is one of the letters that Susan sent me. Dr. Abrahamsen, I am requesting that you not give copies of it to anyone. Furthermore, if a visit can be arranged with my biological family, please do not mention that you read these letters because Susan requested that nobody but me read them.

When you are done, please return the letters to Bernice. You have her address, correct?

You may make photocopies of the letters, of course.

6/11/80

I will be sending a second letter in a separate envelope and will mail it along with this letter, at the same time. Please send me a brief acknowledgement when they arrive.

Thank you for telling me that my writing is improving. No, I haven't taken any writing courses. However, this September I will be enrolling in a college program and I hope to further cultivate the few qualities I have with regards to writing.

You may have also noticed that my spelling has improved too. This is because I now use a dictionary, whereas, I used to attempt~~ing~~ spelling words by their pronunciation. I also knew a great deal of words, some of them quite impressive and respectful, but I always hesitated to use them while writing because I didn't have the faintest idea of how to spell them.

Sincerely,  
*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

Encl.  
Susan's letter dtd. 5/8 & 5/11.  
(underlinings in letter were  
done by me)

cc/db

2<sup>nd</sup> letter enclosed also.

# Letter # 1

May 8, 1980

Dear Richie,

Please forgive my long delay in answering your letter of 3/22. Usually I'm much more prompt than that, as you will soon find out. But I've been under a lot of pressures these last weeks and until I got certain things done and over with, I didn't feel free enough in my mind to sit down and write the kind of letter I wanted to.

There are so many things to say, I hardly know where to begin -- but in fact, I'm reluctant to say all of it in a letter, because I still feel uneasy about who might get a chance to read these words before or after you do. I'm afraid you will have to do a lot of reading between the lines. I'm especially concerned about how private and confidential any correspondence between us can be in view of the fact that the first letter that Aunt Mary wrote to you in which she specifically mentioned me, explained who I was, and gave you my address and phone number, was never received by you (remember, I told you about how she got back an opened, empty envelope?) and then the last letter I wrote to you, a very long one, again with all details about my address and ~~my~~ phone number, got lost somehow via Bernice. It seems the stars ~~are~~ are against me - but I hope my luck will change this time. I'm really sorry in particular that you never received my last letter (unfortunately I don't even have a copy of it) because I think if you had read it yourself rather than hearing about it second-hand perhaps you wouldn't have misunderstood some of the things I said and taken offense to them, which by your last letter, would seem to be the case.

✓

I would never want to do ~~x~~ or say anything to make you as angry as you appeared to be in this last letter and I'm anxious to try to set things straight. I confess I was very upset at first by your letter, which was so cold and angry and different from all the others, which was signed David instead of Richie (we all know you as Richie in this family!) and which in fact wasn't even signed in your own handwriting, but was signed in type. And at the same time I heard from Roz and Betty that they, too, had received very angry letters from you, letters that seemed so different from the ones they usually get that they almost didn't know whether you yourself had actually written them. It's a little easier for ~~x~~ me to remove myself from all of this and try to be objective and understand what's going on in ~~x~~ your mind, but <sup>for</sup> Roz and Betty, who have loved you so much and felt so close to you, even in spite of the fact that there is much about you they don't understand and perhaps never will, it has been harder, and they have been very, very hurt. Perhaps this letter can help clear some of the problems and misunderstandings between us all.

From the way you have recently written to all of us, I can only assume that somehow, in some way, either through other people or things you've read or just by virtue of the fact that you are isolated from us and your imagination has so much time to dwell on all kinds of possibilities, somehow or other you have been misled about what is actually going on in the minds and hearts of the family. Your most important misunderstanding is with your Mom.

Your mother, as you know, I am sure, is a very nervous person in general -- she tends to worry about things that don't even need worrying about, and when something happens that's truly upsetting, she really gets thrown into a dither. I'm sure you understand that this whole experience, ever since your arrest, has been a shock ~~whix~~ which affected her deeply. What's made it particularly difficult ~~haxexaxix~~ is all the publicity and problems ever since -- trying to avoid reporters, worrying about the reaction of neighbors, etc. In general she has tried to keep a low profile to x avoid trouble, and yet she wants more than anything to keep in touch with you, to hear from you, and hopefully to visit you whenever possible. Communicating with you has been a real hassle for her. As far as writing to you, she is always afraid that other people will intercept the mail before you get it (this is, as I said, something we all worry about) and therefore she's afraid to say too much, to spell things out too clearly. So very often her letters may appear to be "secretive" when in fact she is simply afraid to say too much. Perhaps there is no ~~cause~~ cause for such fear, but that's the way she feels. On top of your thinking that she is secretive, you ~~also~~ also feel she treats you like a baby. ~~Whix~~ ("a tiny helpless child"). Well, you know, to some extent she treats us all like babies -- that is just her nature; she loves us all and worries about us, and sometimes that's how it comes out. [But she never tried to be sneaky and keep things from you or "maneuver" behind your back. That is just not Betty. She of all people wouldn't even know how to do that if she wanted to.]

Now  
SEE  
SECOND  
Letter!

Take this Klausner business, for example, You feel she has kept things from you about it and further, that she has sat down and talked with the author and collaborated with him. I must assure you that that's absolutely not true! We -- none of us --knew anything about this whole Kåausner thing until we heard about it from you. She has never spoken to the author, and she would never, never give any information to anyone, except to the members of her own family, who are the only ones w she trusts. And I can assure you that none of us would dream of collaborating with anyone who sits down to write a book about you. We have ~~absolutely~~ absolutely no reason to help to want/ some stranger ~~xxx~~ make a bundle of money by exploiting your own story. We feel as strongly as you do about the injustice of all these people making money out of this tragedy, with not one of them making any offer to share the profits with the victims. And without your own cooperation, we feel that no book they write, no movie they produce, x could ever be the true story any way, and therefore couldn't possibly be of use to anyone in terms of helping us understand what happened, and why. So we really don't know what led you to believe that she ever spoke with the author, or anyone else, but it is most important, really urgent, that you believe that she never did, and never will.

As far as the Good Housekeeping article goes, ~~the article~~, that is a very long and very complicated story. I can't really tell you all about it in a letter unless I can be assured that no one else will read it, but I can give you a general idea about it.

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When we first got the idea about writing a story for a magazine, there~~were~~ were many reasons for it. We did feel~~that~~ that, after all, a lot of strangers were going to make a lot of money and it seemed just plain unfair for the victims to get no compensation at all. I consider your family, ~~and~~ <sup>that</sup> and means Roz and Betty as well as your father, to be victims in this case. If I could do anything at all to help them, to give them some kind of ~~some~~ compensation (even though they would gladly forego even a million dollars if they could only wipe this whole thing out of reality and have you back with them again), then I wanted to do it. I knew nobody else would. But most of all, and I really ~~mean~~ <sup>mean</sup> mean this, our <sup>main</sup> intention was not to make a bundle, but to give the other side ~~of~~ of the story. We were all upset about the kinds of articles that were being printed in the media about you, all depicting you to be a monster and all distorting the truth ~~about~~ about your background, and Betty's personal history. We knew a side of you that no one else did, and we wanted people to try to see you in a different light, as a human being, not a fiend, as someone with problems and feelings and sadness and dreams just like the rest of us. We thought that if people could see that you were a human being just like the rest of us, that they would understand that this kind of thing ~~can~~ <sup>can</sup> happen to any of us, that we are all in the same boat, with the same potential for success or failure, for happiness or grief, for sanity or insanity. Whatever it was that caused you to do what you did, we hoped that by ~~shedding~~ shedding some light on your story, by sharing what we knew, that it would help

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people understand how close we all are to you, whether we like to admit it or not. In sum, we wanted to set the story straight as far as we knew it, from our ~~xxx~~ own very limited point of view, and hopefully make some kind of useful contribution that would help people rather than exploit them.

But it was never so simple as that. It turned out to be a most difficult and complicated and frustrating project. To begin with, there was no way for me to contact you directly, and Roz was having enough trouble just communicating with you at all, much less ask for your permission or cooperation in this project. Secondly, because of all the crazy goings-on, with people interviewing you right and left and taping your voice ~~and~~ all that, I discovered that most agents and publishers didn't want to be involved with a story emanating from you directly. If they were interested at all -- and most didn't even want to be connected with it -- they wanted merely the story about your mother and your sister, a simple story about their own experience and nothing more. Especially for women's magazines, that was the only angle they were interested in. Rozlyn did try to ask you about your feelings about such a thing, at one point. She asked you, if it were possible one day for the true story to come out (because you were very upset at that time about all the lies being printed about you) would you want that, and you said yes, ~~xxxx~~ you would. And by writing their story, not yours, we hoped to get some of the truth out. It was important to us to do it at the time, and we thought it should be done. And since, as I said, there ~~x~~ were enough problems and



7.

complications at that time without the added anxiety of consulting you about the project, and since it didn't really involve you directly, we felt the best thing to do would be just to go ahead and do ~~x~~ it and tell you about it afterwards. If we ever did anything without telling you, it was that, and that alone. And incredibly, you found out about it immediately, before we ~~EMEXRX~~ even had the chance to mention it.

Actually I only mentioned half the complications. What gave us the most trouble, and made life difficult for us all at that time, was the reaction of your lawyers. We did feel it necessary to tell them our plan to write and hopefully publish such a story, since they were defending you and we didn't want to do anything that might jeopardize your case, <sup>in turn</sup> and they did everything they could to talk us out of it. At the beginning they promised Roz that someone else would be writing a book, that they themselves were negotiating to make a deal, and that our article, if published too soon, would ruin the deal for them, And they tried ~~x~~ all kinds of tactics to stop us. First they said that Roz and Betty would be involved in the book and get profits from it, although I knew right off that that had to be bull, and I did everything I could to help them see reality. They they tried scare tactics, and said that if we published such an article, especially one that was sympathetic towards you, it would jeopardize your whole case. First they said, wait until after the competency hearing; then they said, wait until after the judgement; then wait until after the trial; then wait until after the appeal; on and on, it was unbelievable. Jultak called me several times because he was

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so worried and upset about this really insignificant project, and  
when Betty tried to talk to him he wore her down with his brilliant  
double-talk. He seemed so sincerely interested in your welfare that  
we were all afraid to do anything. But as time moved on, I knew the  
article would be worth less and less money, and worse, would have  
less and less chance of being published altogether. It would be  
considered old news, and no self-respecting magazine is ever interested  
in old stale news. As a matter of fact, that's what happened. People  
who had been somewhat interested in the beginning later told us they  
were no longer interested, and I had to work ~~me~~ very hard to sell it,  
as I finally did, to Good Housekeeping, which I still consider a miracle,  
after all the things we'd gone through and all the time that had  
passed.

I can tell you frankly that we did not make a bundle, but whatever  
we made, we shared ~~me~~ equally, something that no other ~~me~~ author would  
have done for Betty and Roz. In fact they ended up with much more than  
fifty percent, since I declared the entire amount in my own name and  
paid taxes on it myself, and since I had incurred at least \$100 worth  
of expenses, etc. etc.

So when you say that you and I could have sat down and had a nice  
interview, that is not absolutely true. At the time I don't think you  
would have been in shape -- or given permission by your lawyers -- to  
do such a thing, and furthermore, (and I speak from first-hand knowledge)  
the magazines ~~and~~ at that time were not ~~stripping~~ over each other for  
the chance to publish an interview with you.

I have always felt, since the very beginning, that your story --

the true, authentic autobiography of David Bekowitz , could make a fascinating and helpful book -- something that would truly give insight, and provide readers ~~and~~ (laymen and professionals alike) with important information, not just be a best-selling profit-maker. If you ever feel that you would like to sit down ~~in~~ with me and do such a book, I'd be honored beyond words for the opportunity to participate. But ~~even~~ if such a time never comes, I would hope that you could trust me and feel my sincere interest in you as a person, as well as a relative. I hope to be able to help you in whatever way I can -- whether it's getting you information you need, or just keeping you in contact with the world outside your prison, or receiving your letters and delivering them safely to your family, or clearing up misunderstandings that develop between you and Roz and Betty. In whatever way I can help, I want to do so. I care about what happens to you. If I didn't care, I could never have written the ~~xxxxxx~~ article that I did (and which you were, initially at least, very pleased with; you wrote that it was a very nice article ~~xxxxx~~ and that Roz and Betty should ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ thank ~~xxxx~~ me from you for having written it -- <sup>+</sup> those complimentary words meant a great deal to me!).

Getting back to communication ~~xxxx~~ between you and your family; ~~In~~ terms of Betty and Roz receiving your letters, that has also ~~be~~ been a problem, which I believe was explained to you before. Betty's situation -- a combination of sharing an apartment with someone she didn't trust and her own natural inclination to be nervous about publicity -- made her unable to receive your letters at her own address.

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She wants nothing more in the world than to keep receiving your letters, but she would like you to send them to me, where they will be received in complete security, and then I will relay them to her. Roz also has a problematical situation in her house, where the mail is dumped on the floor in the lobby and any of several neighbors could have access to it before she does. This possibility makes her very nervous. She too wants to hear from you as often as you have the chance to write, but she would like your letters to her to come to me also. And as for Aunt Mary, that arrangement was fine for a while, ~~x~~ but now that she is ~~xxxxxx~~ retired and no longer consistently living in her apartment (she has been traveling) and further more is on the verge of moving to Arizona, permanently, she can no longer receive your mail at her Flushing address. When she moves soon to Arizona, she will give you her address there and ~~w~~ you will be able to correspond with her directly. But until then, we ~~sk~~ have all decided that the safest and most convenient thing for all of us would be for all of your mail, whether to Betty or Roz or ~~x~~ Mary or, of course, myself, to come to my address in Yonkers. ~~xxxxxxx~~ I can certainly understand your confusion and ~~xxxxx~~ eventual disgust with the constant changes, but it's really not that complicated in the end. As long as you send it all to me, they will all receive it, and nobody will have to be nervous about anything.

I had explained all this to you in my last letter, via Bernice, which somehow got lost.

I'd also like to talk a bit about the possibility of visiting you. We would all like to, especially Betty and Aunt Mary, and

//

Robert and I would be more than willing to help them drive up there.

Betty told me she had mentioned it either to you or to Bernice, and said something about Bernice not thinking it was a good idea. Well, I really don't know who said what, but she does very much want to see you, and I'm sure you can understand & how she must feel, if you accept visits from a friend but reject visits from your family. After all is said and done, I really do believe that it is your family, Roz and Betty and Mary ~~and Bernice and Mary~~ <sup>et cetera</sup> that you can really trust, above all. If you don't feel that way now, I hope you will someday. We have never done anything to hurt you -- if we've hurt you, it has certainly never been intentional -- and we would hope that if things ever get confusing to you, that you can be sure of one thing ~~above~~ above all -- that you can trust us and rely on us. Please be frank about your desires -- if you have reasons for not wanting ~~xxx~~ your family to visit, we will listen and try to understand. If you want only to see Roz, or Betty, or Mary, or me, or whatever combination thereof, just say the word. But we do hope the answer will be yes. Mary especially would like the chance to visit you before she leaves. She is a very devoted aunt, as I'm sure you realize.

As far as my comments on the success of the Klausner book, I'm not sure Bernice interpreted what I said correctly, but at any rate, I certainly have no way of knowing how ~~xxx~~ the book will be received. I can only hope, for your sake and ours, ~~xxx~~ that it is not the success they want it to be. There is a good chance that it will bomb out, if only because it is second-hand information, and a lot of time has passed, and all that. But on the other hand, I know

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what kind of effect a large-scale publicity effort ~~is~~ can have on these things, and if they go all out to sell it, they just might

~~be~~ *be lucky.*

I was informed about your recent letter in Playboy, and I was very impressed with it. You are yourself a fantastic writer -- I envy your talent, in fact -- and what you said was absolutely true, right on the mark. I admire all your recent efforts to encourage a change in rules so that the victims get a share of the profits, and to discourage the success of the book. x

I'm going to finally end this overly long letter, and give your eyes a break. There is much left unsaid, but I hope to be able to say more in other x letters, to tell you a little about w the things I've been doing and the news of the family that might interest you. We enjoy your letters immensely, and hope to keep receiving them. We're especialy interested in how you spend your time, what your life is like there, that kind of thing.

I hope I've in some way helped clear up misunderstandings. Please feel free to ask any questions about anything you want -- I'll do my best to answer. And also feel free to call me collect, if you should ever need to speak to us immediately. 914-968-3682.

Give my regards to Bernice when you see her, and tell her to feel free to call me anytime, also.

Write soon, and be well,

*Love,  
Sean*

5/11/80

Dear Richie,

This is written as a postscript, after a conversation I just had with your mom. She told me something I hadn't previously known -- that you have been giving all of Rozlyn's and Betty's mail (and I guess mine and Aunt Mary's, right?) to Bernice to hold for you, because you don't have enough room in your cell to keep it all. I can't help but think that this is a very unwise practice on your part, and I must insist, really, that from now on if you have no room to keep these letters, then please return them to me, all of them, along with your new letter. I am enclosing some stamps to help you do this, but if you need more, let me know. It is absolutely ~~XXXXXXXX~~ crucial, ~~we~~ if we are to trust one another, that whatever personal information passes between us be kept strictly in the family, regardless of how you feel about someone else, whether it is Bernice or anyone else. Please honor this one request -- send our mail back to us or else keep it safe in your possession. I can well understand, now, why your mother is so afraid of writing straight out all the things she would like to. And I can certainly understand her anger ~~xxx~~ and extreme pain at your recent letters to her which were so upsetting that they brought on another severe asthma attack. When we contrast these recent letters with the beautiful ones you used to write in the beginning, and which you wrote by hand,

*or, if you prefer, simply destroy it after you read it.*

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and signed by hand, and which we knew were yours, we can't  
help but wonder if someone isn't deliberately trying to  
~~xxxxxx~~ turn you against us -- we don't know who, we don't  
know why, but ~~xxx~~ there hardly seems to be any other  
explanation! Doesn't it strike you as rather odd that  
Bernice "lost" the letter I wrote to you? Anything is  
possible, but when you come to think of it, one wonders  
how on earth it could have happened, and if perhaps she  
were ~~xxx~~ reluctant (again for reasons known only to her)  
to let you see it, because she doesn't want ~~xxx~~ you to  
feel close to us or to trust us. It doesn't make sense --  
unless ~~xxx~~ she has some ulterior motives and wants to  
get us all out of the picture by alienating you from us.  
I am not saying this to point an accusing finger, but only  
to make you aware that there a lot of possible reasons for  
things that happen, other than just what ~~any~~ one person may  
be telling you. So please, do not give our letters to anyone.  
That is the minimum we can ask in terms of feeling secure  
and private about our correspondence. I'm sure you can  
understand.

Love,

Susan

P.S. I think  
a personal visit  
from her would really be helpful  
in clearing up a lot of this - I hope you agree.  
Betty told me again today how eager she is to be able to  
see you again in person & talk to you. Please give  
her the chance.



May 21, 1980

LETTER #2

1980

Dear Richie,

This will probably be the most important and difficult letter I've ever written. I hope you will read everything I have to say and try to think about it as calmly as possible, without jumping to conclusions or reacting immediately in a way you might later regret. In other words, bear with me, and let's see if we can work this thing out and keep the family together. That is, after all, the only thing that really matters.

Last Friday I received the call from Mr. Rubenstein, and <sup>on</sup> Saturday ~~we~~ I received your letter. Saturday evening, Aunt Mary and I spoke to Roz and Betty and found out the truth. The answer to your question is, regrettably, Yes. Your mother did give Klausner an interview for his book. Mary and I were both shocked and very upset. After all her warnings and pleadings and advice to Betty not to speak to anyone before consulting one of us, Mary would have sworn on a stack of Bibles that Betty never spoke to anyone, least of all ~~Klausner~~ Klausner. I myself, long before writing to you and then again just before mailing that long letter, had asked Betty many times to please tell me the truth, had she ever spoke to Klausner, and she said "no". So this is what we ~~thinks~~ believed, but we were wrong. I can understand and sympathize with whatever anger and pain you must be feeling at hearing this. I myself was angry, because I too felt betrayed. I had, in point of fact, been deceived and lied to. But when I took the time to talk to Betty and Mary and Mr. Rubenstein and Robert about it, and mulled it over in my own mind, and ~~thought~~ <sup>thought</sup> about it calmly and rationally, I found I was able to feel much differently. This is what we must do if we love each other and if the family relationship means anything to us. We must try to understand exactly what happened and how it happened and why it happened, and put it into the proper perspective. I beg you to try to do this.

As best I can figure it out, this is how it happened.

About a year and ~~half~~ a half ago, or whenever this whole thing began, Klausner ~~contacted~~ somehow managed to contact Betty, and he then apparently used a combination of subtle pressure and seductive promises. First he asked her outright for an interview, and when she showed reluctance, he offered her \$2,000 for her cooperation. Now, Richie, think about this. You yourself understand what a ridiculously small sum \$2,000 is. Imagine how poor and desperate Betty must have felt at the time if this sum sounded good to her--and I truly believe that to Betty it sounded like a fortune. She was so poor that she couldn't afford to rent an apartment for herself, but was forced instead to share it with someone whom she detested. She was so poor that she could barely

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afford the expenses involved in traveling<sup>ing</sup> upstate to see you. It must have seemed terribly unfair to her to think of all the people who are going to make fortunes out of this book, while she herself can't even visit her own son in prison. The \$2000 must have loomed before her as a way to be able to afford this. She knew, too, that for some reason you yourself had provided fellow inmates with handwritten autographs which were subsequently sold for hundreds of dollars. It seemed as if everyone was coming out of this with something except herself.

On top of that, when Klausner appeared at her doorstep, he brought along a copy of the Good Housekeeping article and thumped on it with his fingers, saying, "Listen, I can get all the information I need out of this article whether you cooperate or not." So it must truly have seemed to her that it was in her own interest-- and could not harm anyone else--~~if she~~ to consent to the interview and possibly come out with a few dollars to make her already difficult life a little easier.

She could not imagine there would be anything harmful in what she was ~~x~~ doing. After all, she had nothing new to offer besides what she'd already told me for my ~~x~~ GH article. She certainly had no secrets or information about you that she could give away. As a matter of fact, she "said only the nicest things" about you and was probably glad in her heart to be able to say these nice things and let people know how she felt.

Most of all, she saw no reason to distrust Klausner. If Betty is anything, she is naive and trusting. You know the story of her life, and you can see how it is this very trusting quality that got her into the troubles she's ~~had~~ had all her life. Klausner seemed like "such a nice guy." When he came to see her, he brought along his wife and his little girl, who played outside while they talked. He seemed like a decent trustworthy family man. And he said he would show her what he wrote about her before it went into print. It never occurred to her that, as a total ~~str~~anger, his main interest was in making money for himself, not making money for her or protecting her image or that of her family. She saw no difference between him and me, or between his book and my article. I see a ~~x~~ tremendous difference, of course; to me, it is obvious. But it wasn't to her.

And this, Richie, is what frightens me so much. I feel certain she couldn't have done you any harm by anything she said. What worries me is what she may have said about herself, which, if printed, could be embarrassing for herself and for Roz. I know what I'm talking about because, when I interviewed her, I had to summon all my best judgment and all my love for her in the way I handled it. I edited out 95% of what she told me, and cleaned up the other 5%.

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She has a very open and emotional and dramatic way of talking that can make an odd impression if written down exactly as said. Needless to say, she herself has no idea how she sounds as she speaks. The same goes for all of us. That's why giving an interview can be a tricky and risky thing, unless you know and trust the writer. As her relative, as someone who cares about her, I used my ~~own~~ judgment in how I handled her words--and of course I was absolutely honorable in sharing the fee I received with her. But a profit-seeking stranger has no obligation to be sensitive and thoughtful about what he writes, and <sup>is</sup> under no legal obligation to come through with the money, since--in her naivety--she never asked him to sign anything, <sup>+</sup> never received a word from him about exactly when she would receive it. She signed a release form, but he never signed anything. When I told her, over the phone, that she might never get the money, she was shocked. This is how naive she is.

To sum up my feelings about her "interview", I would say that Betty felt the book was inevitable anyway. She felt cornered, pressured, desperate, poor and sick. She was, in a word, vulnerable. She never for a minute felt in her heart that she was doing anything wrong. I had known all along that some kind of offer would eventually be made to Roz and Betty, and I had often told Roz that I would never try to stand in the way of her making money, even if I were not involved, but I warned her to be extremely cautious, to get everything down on paper, to consult with me or, if necessary, a lawyer, before committing herself to anything. I believe Roz understood this, but Betty did not. She is simply not sophisticated in any sense of the word, and she acted out of ignorance and poor judgment.

Part of my reason for believing she never meant to be deceitful or sneaky in any way about this, was the fact that she wrote to you openly about it in her letters. Mr. Rubenstein told me about the copies of her letters which he has, in which she practically spells out for you the fact that she had talked to Klausner. She wanted very much to see you in person and talk about it, but this was made impossible for her. As you yourself said, Klausner wanted to visit you and show you the manuscript, together with your mother. Perhaps you felt this was his sneaky way of getting an interview with you, and maybe that's true. I don't know. But you could at least have consented to see your mother. Instead, you discouraged her visit with every possible reason and excuse. I understand that you may have been genuinely concerned for her welfare, because of the snow, or the bad things that were going on up there, or the publicity--but the result was that you never gave her the chance to talk to you in person and she was very hurt. You must understand that seeing you in person was vitally important to her, because she was afraid to write. She had found that, somehow, personal information about the family was being distributed to all parts of the country, and then she was informed that you were

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giving her letters to Bernice. When she added this up, she felt she could no longer trust the mail or say anything openly in a letter. Bernice herself kept discouraging her in every possible way whenever she said she wanted to visit you. It seemed as if, between you and Bernice, there was almost a conspiracy to keep her away from you, and her feelings were devastated.

As for Roz, she knew nothing about any of this until I just found out about it and told her. She was <sup>as</sup> amazed to hear about Betty's interview as I was. And this is why she was so hurt when she received your nasty letter.

Try to put yourself in her place for a minute. Imagine how this whole thing affected her since the beginning (which is what I tried to depict in my GH article). Even to this day, she cannot escape the notoriety and publicity that goes along with being the sister of the Son of Sam. Everytime there is a movie on TV that resembles the Son of Sam story, ~~ex~~ every time you write one of your famous letters that end up in the front-page news or in Playboy, some friend or neighbor is sure to bring the subject up, and make comments in her direction. There is no end to it. But this is not even mentioning the terrible emotional trauma of seeing what it did to her mother and daughters or of her own pain, loving you and then going through the shock of your arrest, and, ~~ex~~ each time she visited you, deeply feeling your fears and unhappiness, and the pain of the separation. She ~~went~~ <sup>went</sup> through all of this suffering for something that wasn't by any stretch of the imagination her fault in the first place-- and then on top of it, out of the blue, she receives a letter from you that is so nasty and hurtful she bursts into tears when she reads it, because she has no idea why you wrote it, and can't even bring herself to believe that you actually wrote it, typed and unsigned and awful as it was. That was when she called Klausner and spoke to him for the first time. That was why Klausner told you you shouldn't have said those things to Roz because she really loves you. Perhaps he implied other things as well--I don't know--but this part of it was very much the truth. And ~~whx~~ then, when she returned your letter to you, hoping you would explain that you never wrote it, or at least apologize for it, she never heard from you again.

Richie, you said to me in your last letter that you have matured and grown in the last two years. I beg you now to prove this to me and to yourself by calling upon all the matureness and growth and sympathetic understanding and, yes, forgiveness, that you can muster. I ask you to accept your mother for what she is-- a simple, naive, emotional, desperately poor person who means no harm to anyone, who never knowingly or deliberately "sold you out for money" or set out to "betray you," and who never conceived of what awful consequences might result from a simple half-hour interview.

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There is no doubt that Klausner is partly responsible for what happened, that he tricked her into doing something that was not in her best interest; but it would be unreasonable to put the blame entirely on him. I don't think any of us should put the blame on any one person for all that's happened. The blame isn't all yours, nor is it Klausner's or Jultak's or Betty's or mine. When terrible things are done, terrible results ensue--results that, <sup>are</sup> undreamed of, complications unimagined. What it boils down to is that we are all human and we all make mistakes.

Painful though it is for you, you must admit that all of this started with your own actions as the Son of Sam. I have no idea why you did what you did, ~~or~~ or even what you actually did. Maybe you yourself don't understand it; maybe you do and someday you will tell me. Maybe nobody will ever know. But however that may be, the fact is, when it comes to being betrayed and hurt, no people were more betrayed and hurt than your mother and your sister, who had loved and trusted you, when they learned about your identity as Son of Sam on the day you were arrested. It has affected their lives in irreparable ways. Though they would like it to be forgotten, it never will be, nor will people ever stop reminding them of their connection with it, whether or not they give interviews, whether or not they write articles or books. It is something that will be with them for the rest of their lives.

And yet, Richie, even after this terrible ~~shock~~ shock and shame and grief, they never abandoned you after your arrest. They tried to understand that something beyond your control made you do what you did. They witnessed for themselves how much you regretted it afterwards. And they forgave you. They never stopped loving you. They wrote to you, visited you, sent you packages, and cared about you.

Now it is Betty who needs your understanding and forgiveness. She too, in her own way, was compelled to do what she did. Now that she sees the results of her actions, and regrets it, she would give anything to take it back, but it is not possible. And her suffering is terrible to see. For the first time since you found her, this year you did not send her a mother's day card. You have practically disowned her. And yet, as I live and breathe, I swear to you that she loves you more than she loves her own life. All she cares about is your health and happiness and safety. When I spoke to her over the phone, her love for you came through so strong and clear that I could almost touch it through the wires. When I told her you had written that you would agree to see her, I could practically hear her leaping for joy at the other end of the phone. "Oh, when, when can we go, I'm so happy, I can't wait to see him, in person I can explain, in person he will understand, when can we go, how soon, ask him what I can bring, I want to make a package for him, ask him what he needs, what he wants, oh please, let it be soon. I will do whatever he wants, only please

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let me see him." Her joy, her open boundless love for you was indescribable. I can't believe you could continue to hold a grudge against this innocent woman who loves you so much. If you can find it in your heart to forgive her, to continue to love her, and to accept her love -- I couldn't ask for anything more.

Betty wants to write to you, but she is afraid to until she learns what your reaction is. I can't tell you often or strongly enough how much she wants to see you. I fervently hope we can arrange to visit you in June.

One last word, about Seth Rubenstein. I was very impressed with him. Out of all the people you've dealt with since this all began, my personal feeling is that he is the first one who really understands the situation objectively, is working honestly on your behalf, and can be trusted to give good advice and make wise decisions. He was very open and honest with me, and extremely helpful. I still can't understand or condone the necessity for this book-movie deal; he says there are good reasons for it, but I don't know what they are. He also mentioned something about a book coming out by Abrahamsen, written with your consent and/or collaboration. This amazes me, because if anyone is a phony, I know Abrahamsen is the prize phony of the bunch. But we can talk about all ~~h~~ this later--right now, the only important question is: Will you forgive your mother and will you see her?

I await your answer.

Love,

*Susan*

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, NY 10028

June 15, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Through careful evaluation I believe I know why McGraw Hill has delayed publication and why it has not, as of yet, stated a reason for doing so. In my opinion, it is a result of fear, fear of the possibility of bad publicity, of criticism from their competitors and of bad public relations.

In other words, McGraw Hill is simply awaiting the outcome of the court decision as to who will manage the monies resulting from the book, movie and whatever else. If you look at the situation you will see a pattern between the continuous postponements of the court hearing, the final decision and the book's publication.


At first it appeared as if the money management decision was going to be quickly resolved. But then, many delays occurred causing the court hearing to be pushed back often. First it was November of 1979, then January 31st of 1980, then February, March, April, with the hearing finally being held on May 8th. As of yet, the final decree has not been given, but it should be soon (and you will probably read about it in the newspapers).

If the court decides in Mr. Rubenstein's favor, McGraw Hill may then back out of the deal because the media will play it up as to make it seem that I will be getting the "millions of dollars." The publisher knows this, of course.

But if the final decision is in favor of the Crime Victims Board, which is something that I feel McGraw Hill expected automatically, then it would look very good for the publisher from an altruistic point of view. The Company would play up the fact that the victims are sharing in the royalties and the added benefit would be to boost sales. Of course, we must admit that sales of such a book would diminish greatly if the media made it seem as if I was getting a huge share of the profits.

So, Dr, Abrahamsen, I believe it comes down to who will manage the money, and the "who" (Miss Johnsen or the Board) is going to be the deciding factor for McGraw Hill. After all, the publisher does not want to be faced with a critical, reproving public who would be left with the impression that I would acquire a good deal of the money. Therefore, it is a matter of public relations and only this.

This, however, is my opinion and I could be wrong. Regardless, my theory makes sense. You must admit to this.

Sincerely,  
  
David Berkowitz

cc/db

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

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June 20, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

JUDGE: "Has the jury reached a verdict?"

JURY: "Yes, Your Honor, we have?"

JUDGE: "Then will the forman of the jury please read the verdict to the defendant and the Court."

JURY: "David Berkowitz, we the people of New York City, find you not guilty by reason of insanity."

DEFENDANT: "Wait! I'm the killer. I killed all those people. I shot them with my gun."

JURY FORMAN: "No, David, you didn't kill anyone. Your sick mind was the killer and it wasn't your fault. We all lose our marbles once in awhile. Now go in peace and stop tormenting yourself with guilt."

Yes, at one time in my life this is what I wanted to hear. I felt that I had to hear it, lest I lose my mind altogether and really go crazy. Too, I wanted this type of feedback so that I could convince myself beyond a doubt that I really didn't do those horrible crimes, that it was someone else inside me, or that I was sick, mentally ill, insane.

I vividly recall the talks I had with Dr. Daniel Schwartz for they were, to me, ecstasy. They were the talks that produced the feedback I wanted. What a pleasure it was ~~for me~~ back then to hear this man exonerate me of all blame for my six murders. Oh, the pleasure of hearing this <sup>man</sup> telling his colleagues how sick I was - how ill - how insane.

I knew, too, although I did not consciously realize it back then, that all I had to do was slide "Sam Carr" and the "demons" into the conversation and I'd have him bending over his chair in my direction. Why he'd practically be wiping the tears from my eyes and comforting me saying, in a sense, "don't fret, don't cry, your a sick, sick boy."

Goodness, what a nice man he was - always telling me what I wanted to hear - always helping to push my rising guilt feelings back down into my mind. I knew I could count on him to listen to the demon story that I had. And, thank God he listened to it, for it was all I had. Had someone taken it away, then I'd have been standing there stark naked, guilty as ever, with nothing to hide behind, no safe ground, nothing but my own self.

However, I think that you, Dr, Abrahamsen, would be missing an important clue unless I told you this. That Dr. Schwartz was me! So were the police officers who caught me and so was my defense counsel. They, too, were me.



Although this statement seems confusing, it really isn't. All the others were my little puppets. People to be manipulated. They bent forward when I wanted them to, they talked about the subjects that I wanted to speak of, and they told me just what I demanded to hear - that I was not guilty!

So, in a sense, they were extensions of me, to be picked up and placed back down on the ground when I was finished with them.

You, however, wouldn't allow yourself to be manipulated that way. You did stick to your guns. You refused to yield and, as you know, I fought you like an alley cat would fight an alley cat - two males fighting over a lovely feline.

You didn't allow me the joy of receiving confirmation that I was not responsible for my crimes. I desperately wanted someone, preferably a doctor like yourself, to clear me of all wrong-doing.

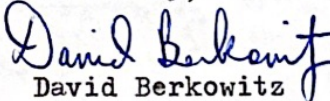
Unfortunately for me, too, I lived a most lonely life in the year before my capture. I was lonely for I had a deep, deep secret that I wanted to share with friends. It was on the tip of my tongue and I wanted very much to say it: "Hey, I'm Son of Sam."

There were so many times that the temptation to share my hidden secret became overpowering. I often stared at my telephone, my hands trembling somewhat, as I thought of picking the receiver up, dialing, then saying to the party at the other end: 'Hello, is this the Son of Sam Task Force? Well, guess who this is?'

I was often tempted to telephone my father saying: 'Dad, have you got a minute because there's something I want to tell you?'

Or, I wanted to sit my two precious nieces, one on each lap and say: 'I know you kids won't believe this but I want to tell you that I'm ...'

P.S. Received your letter  
of 6/12 with stamps  
enclosed.

Sincerely,  
  
David Berkowitz

cc/db

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

✓ Important Matter  
Act immediately

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June 22, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I attempted to call your office on Sunday evening but you weren't home.

Now, let me tell you that I am suing Klausner. However, please keep this a secret. At the moment I am filing a motion and notice of summons to the Court and to all concerned parties.

I already have the format and much of what I plan to argue in my behalf and as a plaintiff. And, for the time being, I will be operating on a pro-se basis (being my own attorney).

The summonses will be ready by this coming Wednesday and not later than. Then I must photocopy all concerned exhibits of which I have six (6). Then I must fill out the forms to send all of the parties the summonses via Registered Mail and Return Receipt Requested service.

✓ Now, this is what I need from you and your attorney, Mr. Norwick. Let me add that I need the materials sent to me as soon as possible. I need one dozen standard blue colored, Notice of Summons, coverings. I'm certain that Mr. Norwick knows what these are even though I may not be explaining it too well.

✓ The blue covering ~~is~~<sup>is</sup> slightly thicker than the regular bond paper on which the legal work is written. The blue cover is stapled to the outside of the paperwork on each individual summons.

✓ If Mr. Norwick has his office address preaddressed on the coverings, then send them anyhow for I have solvent to remove the ink (or printing). Of course, what I would prefer are blank summons covers.

Send them First Class immediately. Thank you.

cc/db

Sincerely,  
*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

June 28, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Today I received your short written letter of June 24th.

So, now for the first order of business. My mother wrote and says that she would like to talk with you. She seems eager, too. So here is Susan's address and phone #: (it would be better if you called)

914-968-3682

Susan Wishengrad  
112 Hollis Terrace North,  
Yonkers, New York 10701

During the visit between Susan, Betty Falco and myself, I told them all about you. They were suspicious of you at first. But I put them at ease. Nevertheless, be patient with them as they are frightened, confused and just plain overwhelmed at this McGraw-Hill/Klausner incident.

Betty has also sworn to "make Klausner eat dirt." Once we talked, we almost had to laugh and scream in anger over the way Klausner said one thing to her and another to my father. He said that McGraw-Hill had issued him his own private jet to fly about the world gathering information for the book.

During the visit I told Susan of a way to get McGraw-Hill to give my mother the \$2,000 due her. Our plan, which we rehearsed and pre-arranged, should work. So I am waiting to hear from Susan and about her talk with either Harold McGraw Jr., or someone from the Board of Directors.

Please, it is extremely important at this time that you do not talk to Rubenstein at all. Tell him nothing whatsoever. There is something up - something I've got up my sleeve to knock Klausner back to the age of fifteen years. But again, let my plan take its course. Say nothing to Rubenstein should he call.

Likewise, please do not tell Klausner or Penn that I saw the catalog advertisement for the coming book.

The next time that I could make a phone call would be July 6th. The telephone program operates every two weeks. So I cannot call you on June 29th, if that's what you were hoping. Please let me know where you will be on the 6th of July - in the Hamptons or at home.

Now, about this advertisement and all that Klausner is supposed to have (this is what I wanted to talk about when I tried to phone you).

Klausner has no real "secret diary." In fact, it wasn't even a diary. What I did have was approximately 20 pages of rambling notes in which I told about Sam Carr and the demons. These notes and letters, while they are authentic in one sense, are a repetition of all that I told those gullible doctors anyway.

The real question, Dr. Abrahamsen, is not what Klausner has (because he doesn't have all that much), it's what he could convince the public that he has,

I could tell you that the diary is nothing much. Of course, since he has nothing in the first place, he might as well take advantage of it. Therefore, this is where the danger is.

Likewise, I never committed the crime against the older woman on Christmas Eve. I don't know where he got it from. But if I said something like this, then it was malingering on my part. Yes, for him to say this, then I must have been bragging.

Yes, I will take it easy with McGraw Hill. Do not worry for I will do nothing rash.

I showed the advertisement to Mrs. Mills. She was most upset, of course. "Oh, what a shame. Why this is nothing but pure sensationalism," she said. By the way, Mrs. Mills will be going on vacation for almost all of July.

You asked about my mother, Pearl. This was about Friday evening Sabbath candles. Yes, she lit these sabbath candles faithfully every Friday evening and whenever a sacred Jewish holiday came about. I remember how she put a towel over her head, then opened up a tattered prayer book and quietly recited some verses. She did this as she was lighting the three candles and immediately after she finished. Obviously my mother was very religious as far as observing rituals.

She also kept a kosher house and we had separate silverware for dairy and for meat. When she died my father gradually discontinued this practice as it was too confusing and inconvenient. As for my father, he never went for this candle lighting stuff. He is somewhat of an agnostic, and like me, he sees no value in religious ceremonies.

I remember, too, that we ate baked potatoes often with meat. Me, I always liked butter on my baked potatoes. So when I tried to sneak some butter onto them, my mother screamed her head off. "No butter with meat, David!"

It was kind of silly. If she saw butter on the potato which was on the same plate with the meat, she'd practically throw out the whole meal. What a waste.

I'll keep you posted of various developments.

Yours Truly,

*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

cc/db

P.S. Please don't tell Susan that I sent you her letters.

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David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

June 29, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Today I received your letter of June 26th in which you recommended that I do not sue Klausner.

For your information, I am still deliberating. Also, I do realize that you can not become involved in this and I don't want you to. The matter is not in direct concern to you, and it only concerns me. Neither will the lawsuit, if I decide to go through with it, be out of vindictiveness. It would only be out of fair principle.

I personally believe that the type of publicity associated with a lawsuit of this kind would not be good for McGraw-Hill. What the publisher would want at this point is total silence from me.

Don't forget, too, that very shortly the movie deal will be exercised. Then the book rights for paperbacks will be sold immediately afterwards. Then the reviews will come and then publication. So now I would remind you that once it gets to this point, it may be far too late for me to stand up for my own rights.

cc/db

Sincerely,  
*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

2  
130  
David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

July 14, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I have your letters of July 1 and 2. I'm sorry, but I just couldn't find the time to write sooner; its been hectic.

I wasn't able to telephone you because the phone program officer would only let me dial the number that was listed on my card. Your Hampton Bay number was not listed.

I am glad that you're "plugging along" with the book. Surely you will accomplish alot of writing out in vacation paradise of the New York City area.

Mrs. Mills has been on vacation. Therefore, I have been unable to obtain updated psychiatric reports. I wrote to the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Mental Health and I explained my plight. This was three weeks ago - no answer.

Tell me, there's been so much of this Social Security business in the newspapers lately (banner headlines for weeks at a time in Washington, D.C.), how do you feel about this?

I myself think that the public has been robbed by an embezzler ~~by the name of~~ Johnsen, accompanied by her cohort in crime - Rubenstein. I seriously believe that they submitted fraudulent claims to the Social Security Administration. I say this because I cannot see how this Administration granted payments in the first place. Truly its been a real tragedy.

You know, the actions of Johnsen and Rubenstein may seriously jeopardize your book. Their actions have caused me to be in the headlines constantly. In Buffalo and Rochester, New York, both papers ran Sunday Editions on my case - the Social Security case; not the criminal case. The result, of course, has been an extremely angry public. The public is outraged and I'm sure this will hurt, for you're attempting to do a serious study. Now, however, people are just too angry to be serious. Therefore, I think I will remove Johnsen and dethrone her.

The visit between my father and I was pleasant. But he's much too passive to be of any value to me. The man is always trying to reason, to think in the abstract, etc. This is his flaw. Really, he ought to be more straightforward. The man is too fearful of this power-crazed Rubenstein. To me, however, Rubenstein is dirt.

Lastly, if the sea gets rough, stay calm. Land may be over the next wave.

Sincerely,

*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

cc/db

Please send me the complete address for the legal counsel for Gikes and KAMIERZ (the two independent movie men).

Get this to me immediately and send their attorney's zip code.

David B.

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

July 24, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I have your letter of July 17th, however, I am busy now. Therefore, I will answer your questions over the weekend.

Well, Klausner has been quite busy I see. Variety newspaper has begun to run full page advertisements for the Son of Sam movie. Next, People Magazine did a story on Klausner and his wife (check the current issues for both periodicals).

No wonder you haven't heard anything from McGraw-Hill, and I don't think that you ever will. This company has no fear of you or your book. Nor does this company feel the need to make a contract with you. They already have their story and its destined to be a best-seller unless....

Within a month I should be back in New York City on business. First, I will seek to have an injunction placed against Klausner's book - this disgusting piece of crap. Next I will terminate the contract between McGraw-Hill, Johnsen and Klausner. I'm not satisfied with it one bit. To me it was an unconstitutional contract to begin with.

Next, I will have Johnsen and Rubenstein removed completely. Of course, if the Court dosen't grant me this wish then I will file a Federal lawsuit against the Supreme Court of Kings County.

Too, if this Kings County Civil Court dosen't grant me a speedy hearing on the matter of competency, I will then withdraw my guilty plea under a 440-10 motion.

As a matter of fact, I've already written to Mr. Gold, Mr. Merola and Mr. Santucci about the matter. I asked them to help me with a phone call, but we'll see what happens.

You see, I am not going to tolerate one Court labeling me sane and worthy to remain in prison for a lifetime, while another Court of equal rank labels me too demented to pick up a 25¢ pen (this is exactly what it amounts to). Therefore, I'll just claim that I was insane when I took the guilty plea and these Courts could begin again.

Oh yes. When Rubenstein is removed, at that moment I will begin immediate proceedings nullifying all the contracts that both he and Johnsen made. This, of course, means that your contract with them will be cancelled. However, rest assured that I will renew it immediately with you.

I'll answer your questions and talk about my mother in another letter.

Sincerely,

David Berkowitz



David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

August 8, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Today I received your letter of August 6th. Yes, I, too, have been awfully busy and unable to write much. There's far too much legal work to be done.

I was suprised to hear that the New York Times contacted you. I haven't heard from them myself, nor have I noticed any articles in reference to the lawsuits with the exception of a small article on 8/5/80.

At this time I am seeking to have the McGraw-Hill contract nullified because the rights were sold or given away without my express permission. This is a flagrant violation of my constitutional right.

Too, I have now learned that the Supreme Court of Kings County, Civil Part, has never found me mentally incompetent, only incompetent to manage my financial affairs.

However pure the intentions of the conservator (this is what see claims), she has acted in an extremely ruthless and audacious manner. For this she could lose her license, however, I will be satisfied to simply see that Klausner's book cannot be published.

I have left you out of the lawsuit, of course. I have no desire or need to involve you, and since you're going to publish the manuscript (edited manuscript) regardless of McGraw-Hill, then I will leave you to do that. Still, there has been some mention of you since I told many people that you're working on a book; this will not be harmful, however.

Suprisingly, the news coverage about my cases (civil cases) has been accurate, fair and humane. And, while there is still a great deal of animosity and anger towards me, the general consenses at this time is that I'm not insane or psychotic.

Lastly, I'll be telephoning my mother soon. I have received from letters from her which indicated that she was upset. Nevertheless, I will talk to her - it was only a misunderstanding on her part, I'm sure.

Sincerely yours,

*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

cc:db

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
30 Woods Lane,  
East Hampton, N.Y. 11937

August 11, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Yesterday I received your letter of 8/7/80. I see, too, that you will be at your summer address.

Dr. Abrahamsen, I have read through many law books concerning conservatorships, committees, contracts by these two groups, and everything in relation to them. I have found, too, that the contract by McGraw-Hill, the conservator and the court is improper and should never have been.

I have found nothing whatsoever in any of the many volumes of law that justify the court's decision to appoint a conservator in my place, and to appoint her for the reason that Justice Vehtiera gave - "He couldn't negotiate contracts." This cannot be supported as a valid reason.

I have truly been robbed of the very right to decide who I, David Berkowitz, choose to work with and give my private story to. McGraw-Hill should never have received the right without my consent. And it appears as if my consent was necessary indeed. Unless I was incompetent as a result of a mental problem, then I just cannot be incompetent in the manner that the judge based his decision on.

All Laws in the State of New York that concern conservatorships come under the Mental Hygiene Law. No conservatorship law is present under any of the criminal laws; imprisonment is no reason for appointing a conservator and robbing the precious right to give my story (the story of my life) to whom I please.

If you don't recall, I found out about the McGraw-Hill deal when I read about it in a Rochester, New York, newspaper. According to law, however, I was supposed to be present during the signing of the contract (In my case the concerned parties should have been present up here).

Its all very complicated. Yet it can be resolved if I had the proper attorney. At this time I do not. I have nobody and Heller hasn't been performing. Therefore, I must go to the top of the list. I need a Temporary Restraining Order placed against the McGraw-Hill atrocity and it must be placed against it forthwith.

Dr. Abrahamsen, there is only one solution - one savior:  
William Kunstler, Attorney At Law.

Dr. Abrahamsen

(2)

8/11/80

Doctor, I need this man ever so desperately. Perhaps you could either write or call him; you could encourage him.

William Kunstler  
Attorney At Law,  
13 Gay St.,  
New York, N.Y. 10013

telephone: office 212-674-3303

home 212-924-5661

Yes, you are correct, I must go to Federal Court. Too, this man is a expert and a fighter - a winner. If he would take my case, a case that is a true winner if I had the right attorney, then the contract centering around McGraw-Hill will be instantly voided (this may sound like wishful thinking, yet it isn't).

Lastly, something is truly amiss. The court in Brooklyn has sealed the records of the matter concerning the conservatorship. The stench from this foul, underhanded move is overpowering. I smell a foul deal up here.

yours always,

*David Berkowitz*

David Berkowitz

cc:db

134A

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

August 22, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I sent you letters on July 24, August 8 and August 11, 1980. The August 11th letter was mailed to your East Hampton address.

At this time I am having some difficulty with the lawsuits for the simple reason that I do not have a competent attorney to represent me - I don't have anyone. This makes it difficult, of course. I have many legal papers to respond to and I cannot do it alone.

I asked you to help me by contacting William Kunstler. It would be invaluable to me as he is knowledgeable of the law and can put up one hell of a fight.

If your attorney knows of a big law firm that would be interested, then please have him contact the firm and put them in touch with me.

Perhaps you think that I am incapable of initiating something of vital importance. This is not true, however. Everyone who saw the lawsuits after I typed them up was impressed.

After reading the Mental Hygiene Laws of the State of New York, and other laws concerning conservatorships, I have discovered that the contract between Klausner, McGraw-Hill, Johnsen and the court was improperly done. No, I'm not being naive or foolish. Its all right here in the books.

By law the Supreme Court is not suppose to sign away my property or dispose of substantial pieces of property or money unless a representative of mine were present. The representative (ad litem) in this case was Rubenstein. However, this is a clear conflict of interest. The general rule is that an ad litem cannot represent both the conservator and conservatee. Therefore, Rubenstein's action WAS improper (to put it mildly).

My father made a big error no doubt. He was once conservator. But without consulting me, he went to the court to have himself discharged. Therefore, he paved the way for this Doris Johnsen to come onto the scene - as a stranger who had no real interest in me.

Dr. Abrahamsen, I think that it is imperative that you quietly try to help me in this. I want to be declared competent to manage and control my own property (which also consists of literary property).

The benefit to you, in this instance, will be that I will now control who I work with as per a book. This may, of course, render McGraw-Hill's claim to "exclusive rights" as ineffective. Since they never purchased the rights from me, and since the rights were obtained in an underhanded fashion, then I will refuse to recognize McGraw-Hill's contract, and will proceed on my own. This would be beneficial to both of us.

Dr. Abrahamsen,

(2)

8/22/80

You know, of course, that McGraw-Hill refuses to enter into any form of agreement with you. In fact, it can, when your book is ready for publication, seek a restraining order and injunction on it, thus preventing you from publishing it. As long as the present publisher possess exclusive rights, anything is possible.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Yours Truly,

cc:db

David Berkowitz

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
30 Woods Lane,  
East Hampton, N.Y. 11937

135  
August 24, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Yesterday I received your letter of August 21, but I think that I misplaced it because I cannot find it anywhere.

Today a friend of mine who was recently out to court informed <sup>me</sup> that an attorney was interested in taking my civil case (he's generally a criminal attorney).

The attorney sounded enthusiastic and sincere. So yesterday I sent him two lengthy letters. Hopefully he'll respond immediately and contact the Superintendent here to arrange an immediate visit. I would telephone, however, he's not on my correspondence list. If he took my case and officially became my attorney, then, of course, I'd be able to telephone him from time to time.

So this seems pretty promising to me, and I am aware that you have your own problems and that you cannot help me. This is fine provided I get my own attorney.

I have been checking the law books again and again and have amassed an abundance of evidence that shows the conservatorship to be improper - the validity of it can be challenged - contracts that were made by the conservator were clearly improperly done and done with self-interest (something that is prohibited of a conservator).

You must realize that this is how cases are won. Finding an error in procedure, an incorrect action by the court, a loophole in some form or other, often leads to a reversal or voiding of an order. It is done everyday when prisoners get their cases overturned, etc. Thus, after reading the law books, I am convinced that I have something here that may cause the McGraw-Hill matter to swing in my favor.

One major point is with the guardian ad litem. He is Seth Rubenstein. This is outrageous. The rules prohibit a guardian from representing both me and the conservator. This cannot be done unless the conservator and ad litem are both in the same family. It is truly a severe conflict of interest to see Rubenstein playing both sides - looking out from a financially profitable position, while at the same time, trying to protect my property and interests.

A situation in which a stranger is appointed guardian and is also personally representing the conservator is enough to warrant dismissal of the conservator, guardian, and a questioning of just what their goals were in having this improper arrangement. Something such as this happening at state level is enough to send a federal court on the warpath.

Other laws and rules prohibit a court from selling a person's property (an incompetent person) without someone from that person's family being present (if family is available, which they were in my case).

Another point is that the conservator cannot put the conservatee in a harmful position, no matter what the circumstance.

Another, self-interest of the conservator is not allowed.

Another point is that no one investigated whether or not I was competent to manage my affairs. There was no determination of a mental incapacity. Therefore, the duties of a conservator, in this instance, would be sharply curtailed and restricted.

Furthermore, Doris Johnsen violated many of my constitutional rights. First, by allowing a sensationalistic and cheap publication titled "Son of Sam," she has put me through extreme mental anguish. The McGraw-Hill book is filled with deceitful lies, fabrications, etc. It has caused me to be treated so callously inside it's covers, that there has already been damage, and there will be more damage, to my Psyche. She has subjected me to mental cruelty of an extreme nature, and this is not proper for one who is sworn to care for me.

The law also states that "...one is not incompetent merely because he lacks sagacity that makes for business success." (In re case, 1915, 214 N.Y. 199, 108 N.E. 408. In re Briatico's Estate, 1949, 195 Misc. 432, 90 N.Y.S. 2d 329).

The conservator has never informed me of my right to a competency hearing to determine whether or not I am competent and able to handle my own affairs.

I didn't mean to bore you with all this. Still, I wanted to show you that I have been probing and have uncovered some things of great value. Now, all I need is an eager, zealous attorney who will pound on the courthouse doors. I need an attorney who is knowledgeable in civil matters on both the state and federal levels.

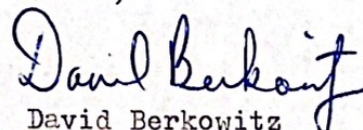
My inmate friend mentioned this guy Albert Gaynor. If he is as sincere as the guy indicated, then I will hire him. Of course, the attorney must come up here for a visit. This is imperative because of the huge volume of legal papers which I possess and cannot mail out. I also want to plan a line of strategy and make arrangements for him to get me back to court and for him to take over with the lawsuits where I left off.

As I said, I wrote this Mr. Gaynor two letters over the weekend. Now I am waiting for his reply. If I were him, and since time is of the essence, I wouldn't wait for the mail to go back and forth. I would pick up the telephone and call this prison to make immediate arrangements for a visit (not later than September 1, 1980).

At this time I am preparing a request for a Temporary Restraining Order and Injunction against the McGraw-Hill Book. This request will be submitted to the Federal Court, Eastern District at Cadman Plaza, Brooklyn, New York. However, if Mr. Gaynor intervenes, then he may certainly take over.

I just hope that Mr. Gaynor realizes that I am not indigent. Doris Johnsen has over \$4,000.00 in Social Security benefits. Once I get the conservatorship nullified, I will control this money and he will be able to get his retainer fee plus working capital. Then there is \$54,000.00 in my estate that was part of the McGraw-Hill advance. Once Johnsen is removed, then according to law, the remaining money (\$54,000.00) will go into the hands of the N.Y.S. Crime Victims Compensation Board. By law they must pay my attorney out of this fund and they must pay him first. So I would estimate that within one year he could have himself \$10,000.00. I'm just mentioning this because attorneys are usually concerned about their fee. Too, he could even win this case. The evidence indicating many errors is overwhelming.

Yours,

  
David Berkowitz



David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
30 Woods Lane,  
East Hampton, New York 11937

August 25, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I talked to my counselor today and he will try to arrange it so that I may call you at your summer home. On Sunday, August 31, I will attempt to telephone you between the hours of 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I sent to the Justice in charge of my cases at Kings County. I think I did a good job with it. Too, I think that the letter may be useful to you.

I'm still waiting to hear from this Mr. Albert Gaynor, an attorney that another inmate recommended to me. I think he will be good.

I want to tell you, too, that this individual must be a real fighter and must devote himself fully to the task of tearing the McGraw-Hill contract apart. He must also secure a Temporary Restraining Order in the Federal Court, and must also get me back to court in Kings County promptly.

If an attorney is capable of doing the above, then he will be my attorney indeed. I won't settle for anything less.

Once the court appointed conservator is removed, then I will no longer have to tolerate her peculiar form of bondage and punishment which she continues to mete out to me.

In another related matter, I have continually tried to stir my father into action against McGraw-Hill. However, this terrified, passive man has refused to aide me. His small apartment has become his little hermitage, his hiding place used to escape the challenges of life and an escape from reality.

Obviously, Nathan Berkowitz has become to passive and mentally weak. He has lost his ambition, his drive, and has succumb to the continued haranguing and ridiculing of his wife, Julia.

His refusal to help me is a clear sign of his weakness. This is not the man I once knew. This is not the shrewd businessman of fifteen years ago. Nathan is now unrecognizable. He is no longer a man but a frightened old man. My God, what happened?

Encl.

Yours truly,  
*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

cc:db

134  
Hon. Domic V. Lodato  
Supreme Court of Kings County,  
Special Term, Part VI  
111 Livingston St.,  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201

August 16, 1980

Re: David Berkowitz vs. Doris Johnsen et al. &  
McGraw-Hill Book Company,  
Matter of Index: 85067/77

Dear Justice Lodato,

At this time I have received numerous legal papers from the attorneys for DORIS JOHNSEN, McGRAW-HILL and LAWRENCE D. KLAUSNER. In addition, I understand that on August 11, 1980, Mr. SETH RUBEN-STEIN argued for approximately two hours asking that the motion papers that I submitted be dismissed.

Today I received an Affirmation in Support of Motion by Mr. ROBERT PENN, attorney for LAWRENCE D. KLAUSNER. He emphatically stated that, "David Berkowitz is - at this time - under a legal disability and is not capable of instituting the action referred to above against McGraw-Hill Inc., and my client." I disagree, however.

MR. PENN's mention of my incapacity seems rather vague. I'm not certain if he's implying that I'm incapacitated because of my inexperience in legal matters (I filed pro se and prepared my own papers). Or because I have a conservator appointed to handle my business affairs, that this is a sign of mental incapacity (this Court has never made a determination of my mental competency). Or does he feel that I must, according to Mental Hygiene Law, Section 78.15 (McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York, Book 34A, Notes of Decision, ¶11, both paragraphs), be required to enter the Court via my conservator.

If the latter is the case, then we have a unique situation. The present circumstance makes it difficult for me to use MISS JOHNSEN as a vehicle in order to initiate a motion. I have filed a lawsuit against her. I have appeared before the Hon. John S. Conable of the Supreme Court at Wyoming County pursuant to Section 77.33 of the Mental Hygiene Law. My conservator has now joined together with McGraw-Hill Inc. Therefore, she would be too prejudicial to properly aid me.

Nevertheless, if any of the above reasons are, as Mr. PENN feels, causative factors for getting my civil actions dismissed, then I believe that he is incorrect.

In another matter, I have before me an Affidavit by CHARLES E. DORKEY III, attorney for McGRAW-HILL INC. On page 4 of his affidavit he says, "...the central legal question is what right, if any, does Berkowitz have to challenge by a suit in defamation or otherwise statements made in "Son of Sam," the book based on his story, where a conservator was appointed to control and develop his literary property, where the essential purpose of the development of Berkowitz' literary property is to compensate the victims of his crimes, and where this Court has approved all actions of the conservatorship with regard to that literary property. The underlying factual issues turn on whether and to what extent Berkowitz is competent to handle his affairs."

After I read the above words I am convinced more than ever that those connected with McGRAW-HILL have seriously misconstrued just what permissions the Court gave them, and what permissions were given to the conservator.

The Court has given permission to McGRAW-HILL to have the exclusive rights. It has allowed the publishing company and author to have the right to possess many tapes, writings, official reports and other materials (a sizable amount which has already been made public). It has carefully scrutinized the book contract. The Court has also provided for my victims (I find no fault in this instance).

However, the Court, once the contract was signed by all parties, concerned itself basically with the management of monies to my estate. It also concerned itself with handling the many lawsuits against me for damages caused by my deplorable actions.

Yet, the defendants associated with McGRAW-HILL seem to be under the impression that the Court has personally endorsed the actual book. Unknown to Mr. DORKEY, your Honor, the Court has not done this.

The Court has never set up any guidelines for checking the progress of the actual book. It hasn't requested that each completed chapter be sent to the Court for examination and editing, as it would be required by the editor.

Editing the manuscript is not the job of the Court, of course. Nevertheless, McGRAW-HILL believes that it is accountable to no one for the quality and accuracy of the publication. This isn't true, however. It is accountable to me; it's my story.

It is my belief, your Honor, that McGRAW-HILL's ideas are absolutely asinine. It may very well own the literary rights. But this is no excuse to make a mockery of my story and list one lie after another. There is no excuse whatsoever for listing a host of other crimes which I never committed (page 7 of DORIS JOHNSEN's affidavit mentions only the "blurb" and nothing else).

This amounts to nothing more than a disgraceful, contemptible and unprofessional literary work. It is also in violation of the invisible code of ethics which the reputable publishing companies along "Publishers Row" strictly adhere to.

It is also my assertion that McGRAW-HILL, because it felt that there was nobody to account to, and because there was nobody to supervise and oversee it's actions, took it for granted that it could get away with murder - fictionalized murder - the listing of other crimes far beyond the scope of truth - far beyond rationality. This is inexcusable. Therefore, the action against McGRAW-HILL should not be dismissed.

Your Honor, I also wish to apologize to the Court for any inconveniences that I may have caused. I know that I'm beginning these legal proceedings rather late. And, it is my fault.

It is my fault for being ignorant of so very many things -- ignorance of my rights, legal matters, what a conservator's job entails, etc. I have procrastinated far too long. Yet, I truly don't know of any restrictions or time limitations in relation to these matters.

Understanding that I have a debt to pay, the cruxes of these matters are: where do we draw the line between the payment of the debt and the abuses and punishments I must endure as a result of the nonsensical publication "Son of Sam"? Where do we draw the line between developing something of social value as opposed to developing a titilating entertainment package?

DORIS JOHNSEN, in her letter to me dated June 22, 1979 (her exhibit #049) said, "If he (DR. ABRAHAMSEN) says that you are sane, his book will be about nothing (there will be no public interest in a sane man who kills people)." This view, I'm afraid, is too shallow and sad.

8/16/80

I am now preparing a rebuttal with regard to DORIS JOHNSEN's ominous looking affidavit and exhibits. The size of it is impressive, no doubt. Nevertheless, I insist that most of it is either frivolous or superfluous. That it is in chronological order, but it is also arranged with a degree of haphazardness. It is totally out of context and perspective. There are also many factual errors present.

Many of her arguments are preposterous and they evade the real issue - that I am guilty of those crimes! All of the arguments are filled with nothing more than hot air. All of her reasonings and justifications for my despicable actions are useless. I appreciate her concern for me, but claiming my deliberate and extremely destructive criminal actions to be a result of mental illness, is an insult to everyone's intelligence.

The labeling of my actions to be that of a "psychotic" should be an outrage to the very families who were directly affected by my actions. To place this label on me so that I need not be held responsible for those crimes which were so obviously deliberate, is a disgrace to the dead!

Your Honor, my guilt is overwhelming. I cannot escape the consequences and neither can society. Nor can society get off easy by writing me off as a madman. This is the easier path, of course. Yet everyone would be shirking in his duty as a human being unless we attempt to find some answers to my actions (I don't profess to have the answers nor do I think myself an "expert" as MISS JOHNSEN claims on page 19 of her affidavit).

DORIS JOHNSEN says that I am "incapable of logic." However, I don't believe that anything I've said here is illogical. The truth isn't always easy to swallow. I had a hard time of it myself in having to accept my guilt. But to say that this is madness because we don't understand, is actually a crime in itself.

I'm sorry that Mr. MARK HELLER wasn't able to attend the hearing. Still, I have secured him as my attorney and he will represent me in these matters. I expect to hear from him shortly.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully yours,

*David R. Berkowitz*  
David R. Berkowitz

cc:db

Sworn to before me on this 17 day of AUG. 1980

Notary Public:

*William J. Reed*

WILLIAM J. REED  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Qualified in Seneca County  
My Commission Expires March 30, 1982

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

8/27/80

This is just to let you know that I will telephone you on Sunday, 8/31/80 between the hours of 5:00 & 7:30 p.m. This will be at your East Hampton location unless I hear from you instructing otherwise.

I won't tell anyone that you've recommended a Mr. Gaynor. Of course, I haven't heard from him so I'm still in the dark. I'm waiting, however.

If I don't hear from Albert Gaynor soon, then I will seek other counsel. Again, I have a powerful case. Everyone in the law library and the legal aide attorneys all agree that I've got a whopper of a case. But unfortunately, I'm still working ~~as~~ pro se (as my own counsel). This could jeopardize things and there's no room for marginal errors in this instance.

I think that Mr. Gaynor will be impressed with me and the way I can conduct myself. I have no fear of public speaking, at least until the first few minutes pass.

I did well being interviewed by a crew of reporters in an impromptu news conference, and I performed well in the courtroom at Attica before the Hon. John S. Conable.

I will not keep a carbon copy of this letter because of the direct references to Mr. Gaynor, whom you don't want to make known spoke to him.

Yours,

David Berkowitz

137 A

David Berkowitz  
#78-A-1976  
P.O. Box 149  
Attica, New York 14011

Albert Gaynor, Esq.  
Attorney At Law  
44 South Broadway,  
15th Floor  
White Plains, New York 10601

August 31, 1980

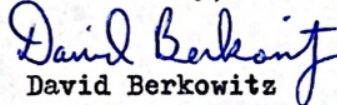
Dear Mr. Gaynor,

Last weekend I wrote you two letters. My purpose in the letters was to outline my case and get you interested in it.

As of today I am still without counsel and I certainly need an experienced attorney to help me in my legal matters concerning the McGraw-Hill Book Company and its libelous publication, "Son of Sam." I am convinced, too, that the case is a winner.

If you are interested, then I will gladly accept your assistance. All you have to do is write me and/or telephone the Attica Correctional Facility at 716-591-2000. Ask for the Service Unit and request an immediate visit.

I am hoping to hear from you.

Yours Truly,  
  
David Berkowitz

cc:db

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

September 1, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I am typing this the day after our telephone conversation. Also, I am sending this to your Manhattan address because in our haste I forgot to ask you if you were returning back to the City after Labor Day. I assume that you are.

You mentioned Glassman's book. Please tell me the title, the television station he appeared on, how much of an advance he received and the number of copies that the publisher printed. Since this McGraw-Hill matter, I have been extremely interested in matters concerning the publishing industry.

Please include Glassman's current address in case I want to make comments, or in case the copy he is sending me doesn't reach my hands ( something which is apt to happen around here).

As for Doris Johnsen, yes, she is in "hot water." She is also quite angry at me for I will, by my court action to remove her as my conservator, keep her from managing the monies that will eventually flow into my estate. This money, if McGraw-Hill is successful, could exceed millions of dollars.

As a general rule, guardians of estates in which large amounts of money and/or property is present, make out like bandits. There is much to lose in her view.

The legal matters are very frustrating for me and I wish that it was over. Yet, I realize that I must be firm and decisive. I will remain optimistic and resolute that I will eventually be victorious.

Again, I am convinced that many of my rights were violated with regard to the selling of my property (literary property) to McGraw-Hill. Therefore, no matter how much of a nuisance all this is, I will have to fight it out until I win.

I'm happy that Mr. Gaynor was impressed with my letters. Unfortunately, however, a problem has arisen with regard to his fee.

My father is very ill. He is taking tranquilizers as a result of this Klausner business. He's really upset about this book/movie project beyond words. Nathan's afraid that all the dreadful publicity will start anew. All the peace and quiet that he is beginning to achieve, the stability, will all be yanked out from under him.



Dr. Abrahamsen,

(2)

9/1/80

I will take care of any difficulties concerning my mother. This won't be a problem.

Unfortunately, my sister is as bad off as my father. She is extremely upset over the coming book. Susan Wishengrad wrote me last week saying, that after she spoke to Roz, that my sister was hysterical and angry about the McGraw-Hill business. Apparently my whole family can sense something dreadful and sinister about it all. They all fear it because of its sensationalistic and unprofessional style. A book and a movie that promises to supersaturate the world is terrifying for them.

Susan says that my sister has started a new lease on life, and for this I am glad. I did, after all, put her through a hell. However, her new found social life and her "secure, comfortable" job may crumble, so she feels, over this new wave of publicity generated by McGraw-Hill.

I was disappointed to learn that you don't even have a publisher yet.

Please give Bernice a call once in awhile. She is upset because she thinks that you're leaving her out or hiding something from her.

Several weeks ago I got the opportunity to meet Bernice's mother for the first time. Both of them came up for a long visit. We all got along so well. Both of them are warm, loving persons. Oh, poor Bernice has had such a sad life. I love her.

Sincerely yours,

*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

cc:db

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139

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

September 8, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I received your letter of September 4th today. As it turns out, Mr. Gaynor chose not to take my case. His letter is enclosed.

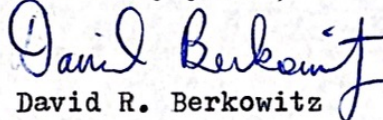
On September 8th (today) there was a hearing in Brooklyn as to whether or not I will return to Brooklyn. Since I have no attorney or proper representation, then I suppose that the original court order will be denied.

There is no other news and I am awaiting word from the court.

I have spent a tremendous amount of money on postage. Therefore, can you please send me a book of stamps. Thank you.

Encl.

Sincerely yours,

  
David R. Berkowitz

cc:db

David Berkowitz  
78-A-1976  
P.O. Box 149  
Attica, N.Y. 14011

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

Sept. 27, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Today I received a letter from you dated 9/22 and a letter dated 9/24. Thank you for the postage stamps.

On October 1, 1980 Mark Heller, my attorney, will be in civil court to argue my case. It appears as if Heller was working for me all along, but that we had a breakdown in communications because he dosen't write. I, being mistrustful of persons in general, assumed that Heller lost interest when he never replied for more than a month. Apparently it was an "oversight" as he claims.

The purpose of the ~~committee~~ hearing will be to prevent a committee and end the conservatorship. Then, and only then, will I be able to take control over the situation. Of course, I am anxious to make a deal with McGraw-Hill because if I don't, then the judge will probably decide in favor of the conservator. Its all very complicated though.

Penn's answer to my motion is self-serving and I think that Justice Lodato realizes this. The attorneys for McGraw-Hill (Sullivan & Cromwell) decided ~~to~~ not to place a motion before the court on the matter but to reserve decision or await the outcome.

I feel that if I didn't make an out of court deal with McGraw-Hill, then the Judge will favor Johnsen. The reasons for this is because McGraw-Hill outlayed \$200,000 for the project and Klausner has worked on the project for two years. To stop the project at this late date because I waited three years before challenging the validity of the conservatorship, will complicate matters and affect those that are innocently involved.

What I would like to avoid is a trip to N.Y.C. I think it best that I don't go back down and would prefer to stay here, provided, of course, that my lack of appearance dosen't decrease my chance of a decision favorable to me.

9/27/80

At this time I would like to eliminate much of the publicity surrounding my case lest I stir up interest and promote Klausner's book. Too, by stirring up interest in the case, I may cause the book, movie and paperback rights to increase in worth. I don't want to make things too good for Harold McGraw, of course.

I recently finished reading two books, "Hoax (the inside story of the Clifford Irving/Howard Hughes affair)" and "The Real War" by Nixon. Both were excellent and I couldn't put them down.

Oh yes, something else about McGraw-Hill. As you may well know, a \$40,000 deposit was placed in behalf of two independent movie people for the movie rights to Klausner's book. The final \$210,000 was due on August 15th but wasn't paid. Rubenstein said that he thought the delay was because of that strike by actors and actresses. No one has heard from the two men.

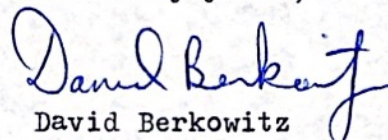
Also, the final payment for the book, payable to Klausner by McGraw-Hill has not been paid. I had originally assumed that the manuscript was accepted, but McGraw-Hill, always leaving itself a way out, is holding off the final payment. This payment was scheduled for September 1st (if my information is correct).

Tell me, is a copy of the manuscript available for reading at the galley? My feeling is that the project is almost top-secret. There are reasons for this - me, of course. But I guess that they now realize I will fight them even though they tried to hold off on the book's publicity because they were fearful as to my finding out. I found out nonetheless.

I see that Glassman has done alot of promoting lately. He was on television in Buffalo, a show called A.M. Buffalo. This was a half hour of talking. Truthfully, he bored me to death; he's very egotistical.

As for my mother, I doubt if another visit can be arranged. But for further insight into current events concerning her, I have enclosed a recent letter to me from Susan Wishengrad Sugar. You may keep the letter since I already replied to it.

Sincerely yours,

  
David Berkowitz

Encl.

cc:db

P.S. Sorry. Cannot locate letter.

David Berkowitz  
78-A-1976  
P.O. Box 149  
Attica, N.Y. 14011

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

Sept. 30, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

This is just a short note to let you know that on September 28, 1980 in the Book Review section of the New York Times (page 32) was an advertisement **For** Glassman's book.

The fact that he is serious makes me laugh more than if I knew it was a joke. I have not received the copy that he was supposed to mail me. Obviously, however, I'm not missing much. Did you get your copy yet?

On Sunday was the Book Fair along Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. Did you attend? According to the New York Times, McGraw-Hill had five booths near 57th Street and Fifth Avenue.

I had asked Bernice to go but she could <sup>not</sup> attend the fair. I was disappointed, of course.

Let me know if you went and if the General Book Division of McGraw-Hill had a booth and if it had anything regarding Klausner's project.

Yours truly,

*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

cc:db

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

142  
10/3/80

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Enclosed is a letter dated 9/29/80 that was sent to me by Susan Wishengrad Sugar. The primary subject of it is my mother and this is why I'm sending it to you. I've already answered the letter, so you may keep it.

As you can judge for yourself, Betty Falco has many negative qualities which are now beginning to become apparent to other family members. My mother can be quite devilish and isn't always the innocent person as appears on the surface. I suppose that I'm the same way, however.

Nevertheless, this letter should cover you in case you have a problem (which I don't think you will have). There is really no cause for alarm about my mother. She won't hassle you.

This is the first time in my life that I've ever heard about my sister and mother having an argument. They always seemed to be the perfect mother/daughter match. This, of course, isn't the case and my sister, Roz, is filled with deep hostility towards her mother.

However, I always sensed under the surface that Rosalind wasn't happy with her life as housewife and mother. She, I feel, is much too attractive to be confined to this simplistic role. Hopefully she will make something out of her life even at forty years old.

My mother is a hopeless case.

This letter of Susan's amazes me. I think she has a good grasp of everyone's lives and is very keen on human behavior. I think you will find the enclosed letter invaluable.

Yours truly,

*David Berkowitz*

David Berkowitz

Encl.

cc:db

~~xxxxxx~~

September 29, 1980

Dear Richie,

I just received your letter of 9/25. It was a good one--~~if~~ it confirmed for me that you have a good ~~xxxx~~ grasp of the whole situation and are in control of all the complicated goings-on, ~~ex~~ even though I'm still curious about the facts that ~~we~~ lead you to believe some of the things you do, such as why McGraw hill has lost enthusiasm for the ~~xxx~~ project, etc. But it doesn't matter how you know. I assume you do know, and it's interesting to hear about it.

Let me go down the letter point by point, again, so I don't miss anything.

Your first paragraph states that I expressed anger in my 9/20 letter. I was so surprised to hear this that I immediately looked for the copy to read and find where the anger was. I'm really not sure that I can agree with you. I certainly wasn't conscious of any anger towards you, and upon re-reading it I couldn't find any indication of it. Perhaps in my sub-conscious I felt some kind of resentment and you could see through the lines. But I tell the truth as of this moment-- I don't feel any anger toward you now and I didn't then.

Possibly, ~~a~~ you say, this whole thing is just bad on the nerves and it's my nervousness that comes through. Your mother is, as I said, so impossible sometimes that I don't know what to do with her. I can't disown or abandon her, and yet she requires more time and understanding than I feel I have. It's a real problem.

Betty called me again yesterday, wanted to know if you had received her latest package and card/money, which she claims she still doesn't know. She does want you to write to her in care of me, from now on, but does not want me to forward it to her, for the same reason she won't allow you to write to her directly (or anyone else, for that matter!) She claims--whether out of reality or some kind of paranoia--that the kids in her neighborhood are vicious, that they destroy any mail they can get their hands on. So she wants me to read the letters to her over the phone. I do suppose you have nothing to hide from me. I think she does, on the other hand, since, as you accurately say, she is sneaky. She doesn't even mean to be sneaky. I don't think there is the slightest deliberate sneaky bone in ~~her~~ her body. But because of her irrational fears and paranoia, that's the way it comes out, and she gets herself into a lot of trouble as a result.

2

It's unfortunate for all of us that she behaves this way. You have enough problems to deal with, and as far as I go, she only frustrates my attempts to be of real help to her. Plus she alienates all her friends and relatives. But I've come to the conclusion that ~~there~~ there isn't a thing we can do about it. There is no reasoning with her, no learning from past errors. She will be the same, and possibly even worse as she gets older. It's very sad.

I still don't understand the business with the photos in the book, the ~~conservator~~ conservator, etc. Do you really think you will gain control before actual publication, so that you can stop the photos, or portions, ~~because~~<sup>for</sup> it's all out in the open? I'm just as confused as ever, but it's probably not worth your taking the time to explain.

I'm glad to hear you are happy about the prospect of Bernice's coming to Rochester, or wherever. Apparently I misunderstood ~~what~~ what I interpreted as a lack of enthusiasm. I know you appreciate her, and I agree you are lucky to have her. But I ~~did~~ did get the feeling that you were happy enough to leave things the way they were, without closer physical or emotional ties.. Apparently I was wrong. I can only hope for your sake, that she is as honest and decent as she appears and you believe her to be, and that she doesn't cause you any trouble. Your mother, needless to say, expects the worse any minute. It never occurs to her that her own sneaky behavior is a worse threat to you than anything Bernice is likely to do. There is no question that if someday Bernice wanted to make a bundle, she could, as a result of her relationship with you and her knowledge about you. I personally don't get the impression this is what she has in mind, but stranger things have happened and nothing would surprise me. Again, I hope you don't get hurt. It's too bad that because of her incredible devotion and interest in you, everyone jumps to ~~condemn~~ condemn her and think the worst. Personally, from what I've heard and seen (not that I ever saw her, but you know what I mean) I like her, I think she's a good person. But as a form of self-protection, which I learned is a necessity in this life, I always leave room for some skepticism, so if the "unexpected" happens, I won't be too shocked.

As far as the fallout between Betty and Roz, this is a long story. You sound, understandably, skeptical that this could really have happened. You are smart to doubt it, because in the past it would have been, as you say, farfetched that they would have argued to a point of not speaking. But unknown to you, circumstances in Roz's life have changed drastically over the past ~~xxx~~ year, and she is now a different person, and as a result, what was formerly unthinkable is now very much a fact.



3

Although Roz has admitted that ~~he~~ there would ~~be~~ probably be nothing wrong in your knowing all the details, she still isn't ready to make the information public, as far as the changes in her private life go. Until she is (which, under my influence, will ~~probably~~ be soon--I believe you ought to know, and that you of all people could be trusted with the information) you will just have to take my word for it that there have been changes in her life and she is a different person now, and that what may have seemed an ideal relationship with her mother years ago, was not really as ideal as it appeared. Basically, your mother was always the difficult person she is, and Roz, because of her own insecurities and problems, just blindly put up with it, and did everything her mother told her to do. She obeyed, she catered, she suppressed her own chance for happiness in her blind devotion to her mother. She was the "perfect" daughter. She finally got to the point where she realized she was unahppy with her life and decided to make changes. As a result, she found she could no longer do everything your mother asked of her. She could no longer even visit her like clockwork every single Sunday--it became every other Sunday, which is still incredibly good, but not enough for Betty. And Betty, in her typical irrational supersensitive way, misunderstood and misinterpereted everything Roz did, was insulted and hurt for no reason, and finally struck back visiously, saying and doing things to Roz and the girls that caused them ~~a~~ tremendous grief. kRoz, still the devoted and loving daughter, tried to keep the peace, to talk about it, to deal with it rationally, but Betty would have none of it. She stormed out of Roz's house, made a terrible scene, hangs up whenever Roz calls, and calls up Wendy behind Roz's back and says terrible lying things about Roz to her. Yes, it is ~~xxx~~ really true and really awful, but Roz had to make a choice--she heuld either subjugate herself for the rest of her life to her mother's wishes, or she could lead her own life and try to find real happiness. She has opted for ~~xxx~~ happiness, but because she has always loved her mother and has not stopped, Betty's terrible behavior has put a real damper on the happiness that Roz should be enjoying. It is the saddestthing you can imagine. Roz called me a few days after the party to explain ev~~er~~thing to me and we had a really good ~~a~~ long talk and everything that I had been confused about was explained to my satisfaction.

I can tell you honestly that if your mother hadn't given Roz such a hard time, <sup>since your arrest</sup> you and she would still have been in good contact and communication. But Betty made it really impossible for Roz to deal with the matter, and with you, any longer.

Now this, I must stress, is all absolutely confidential, even though it isn't full of details. But I felt you should know

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at least a little about it, so you won't doubt my word and also, most important, w so that anything Betty may write to you about Roz you will be sure to take with not just one but 100 grains of salt, and check with me if you want to know the real story. I believe I have a good grasp of the truth, after speaking to all parties.

I'm sorry to say that you are probably right about your mother wanting to get money out of all of this. She's been aggravated ~~sxxxxxxx~~ since the word go, when she kept hearing about the so-called millions everyone else was ~~a~~ making, and I guess it's always been in~~x~~ the back of her mind that she too deserved something, if that's what it was coming down to. She would never deny that your happiness and welfare are the most important things to her. As I once said, I firmly believe she would give her life for you, if it would do you any good. But this idea of "money" has some kind of terrible grasp over her better judgment, and it colors everything she does.

I haven't the vaguest~~xxxx~~ idea what her expectations were of Abrahamsen. That was one book I felt sure she understood had nothing to do with money for her, but was rather a way of getting back ~~of~~ at ~~Kxx~~ ~~K~~ Klausner and getting the truth out. I was shocked to learn that she expected money from him too. From now on, nothing she does will shock me, w but as you see, I don't enjoy dealing with it.

As a word of warning, which I feel is essential at this time, you should know that she has always had the hope and expectation that sometime, in some way, I would have another chance to write about you, or for you or with you, and make money that she could get another share in. If she ever brings this up, you should be prepared for it. I've told <sup>her</sup> a million times you don't want anymore publicity, but she can't accept this because she sees everything you are doing now as a form of publicity and sees no difference between that, and whatever I might write. The only thing I can imagine writing at this point would be a kind of update article, ~~xxx~~ clearly explaining what your feelings are at this time and what you are trying to accomplish. But who would publish this, or whether it would be helpful or harmful to you, or whether you would even remotely consider such a thing, is beyond my knowledge--and I would never dream of taking any action, in the form of writing, again without your explicit knowledge and approval. As I once said to you long ago, if I were ever to be involved in writing a book for you or with you about the "true" story, I would be honored. But I expect nothing and it's not what's on my mind when I write to you! I can't seem to get this through to Betty, however, who, though she wants to hear from you and to be assured that you are well and to send you love and money and stamps and packages, also--always--is hoping that

5

some money will also come out of this whole thing for her. Well, I'm sure this is nothing new to you and that you've suspected as much all along. The irony is that you would gladly help her get whatever money she can, if she would only be honest and open with you, and that she is defeating her own purposes by being sneaky.

I knew nothing about her asking you for poems. That's really awful. But I can imagine that she might have had it in mind that your letters to her would be valuable and that Klausner may have been one of those who encouraged her to that end.

I don't where you got the information that she ~~sax~~ claimed Klausner "just appeared" at Roz's door and ~~Mxxx~~ your mom was there too. I don't remember ~~xx~~ hearing that story from anyone. It seemed to me she was honest at least about that, that it was prearranged and that she had asked Roz to ~~at~~ ~~be~~ be present with her during the interview. Did Betty tell you this "coincidence" story in one of her ~~xx~~ letters? She must have been really desperate to seem innocent again so you wouldn't stop loving her.

Again, one thing I've learned for sure about your mother over these past months, and it's been confirmed now by some of the details pertaining to this latest problem with Roz, is that, as Seth Rubinstein once explained, she is one of those people who are capable of ~~sax~~ believing something so strongly as a result of wanting to believe it, that after a point it becomes fact to them, to the extent that they would swear on their life by it. You mother may have actually convinced herself at one point that the meeting with Klausner was a coincidence, and she may have had no consciousness of lying to you when she wrote or spoke about it--though again, I myself don't recall hearing that particular version!

One thing is certain. You realize that communicating with her can only be done a simple level, and once that's established, and once you know for sure she is totally unreliable as a source of information even about herself, then you are all set. No more need be said.

So as it now stands I will receive what I assume will be letters specifically to her which I will read to her on the phone, and hopefully her letters to you will get to you and not be returned to me. She said something about signing them with my name, if that would help. I'm sure you'll have no difficulty knowing which letter is whose.

The only good news of the day is that Mac and Mary finally did get a buyer for their apartment and they are now in

6

process of packing and moving. From what I've heard, Mary is as nervous as ever--now she has to deal with all the details of moving, as well as her own mixed emotions about the move.

But as you say, I'm sure the move will be good for both of them, and they will enjoy their retirement years in a city that's cleaner and ~~xxxx~~ calmer and far safer than New=York.

I will say it again--don't feel anxious about responding to my letters, but--if you can--do drop your mother a brief note for me to read, since she's most anxious to hear from you. And don't be shocked by anything she may say--we've both learned a lot about her. these months, haven't we?

I also told her that I would be willing to accompany her on another visit to ~~xxx~~ you, if you would want that, and of course she was thrilled to pieces at the prospect. The only problem is, while I loved visiting with you, I did find the trip most difficult to take because of the smoke and the noise, and I have to be able to find a weekend to set aside for the trip that I don't have to worry about other obligations for--I can't promise how soon it could be, but if you would like it, and I know she would, I will certainly go again. It would be ideal ~~x~~ if somehow Roz could go instead of me, this time, but considering the way things are, it's hard to imagine when and how that would be possible.

What a mess! In spite of ~~xxx~~ it all, I'm glad you and I have been able to communicate so comfortably and I hope it continues. As you once said, honesty is the best policy, and as long as we are both honest, we shouldn't have any problems--with each other, ~~that~~ *at any rate!*

x

*Love,  
Susan*

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

142 A  
October 5, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Someone sent me a copy of the lengthy review of Glassman's book that appeared in the Westchester newspaper on 9/28/80 Sunday Book Review Section. I sent the copy to Bernice and if you want it I'm sure that she will send it to you if you ask. It didn't say anything much about the book one way or the other.

I am curious as to what McGraw-Hill thinks of it. It seems as if Glassman's book is bad news for them even though only 6,000 copies were printed. It will be bad, not because of the book in itself, but because Glassman, according to the New York Times advertisement, is on quite an intense campaign. He already appeared on most of the New York area talk shows. So my question is, how will this effect Klausner as he too wants to go on the same shows and talk on the same programs. It seems, therefore, as if Glassman has the spotlight.

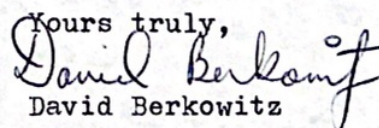
If I am guilty of procrastinating too long in not beginning an action to remove the conservator earlier, then McGraw-Hill is also guilty of procrastinating because the book was once scheduled for publication in June 1980.

Between my lawsuit, your book and Glassman's, it may be just enough for McGraw-Hill to lose its incentive and call off the project. Well, maybe.

Nevertheless, there is a right moment to publish a book. A little too late or a little too early and one can meet with failure.

On October 1st Mark Heller was supposed to be in court for a hearing on the discontinuation of the conservatorship. As of yet I still do not know the results, but I will keep you posted.

Lastly, I am interested in doing my own study of pathological firesetters. This is very important to me and I want to make it a very detailed project. Therefore, I would appreciate any books or professional magazines that you can refer me to. Perhaps you have some extra booklets or magazines on the subject and that you have no use for the materials. If so, then I will appreciate them.

Yours truly,  
  
David Berkowitz

P.S. I'm scheduled to start college level courses after January. Originally I was going to begin this past month but I got involved in this legal work and thought that there was a possibility of my returning to Brooklyn (fortunately this didn't have to go that far).

142 B

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

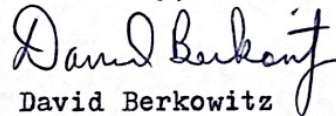
Oct. 8, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Enclosed is a duplicate copy of a letter that I sent William Sisselman. I typed two originals so that he has one and so do you. A carbon copy I will keep for myself.

Encl.

Sincerely,

  
David Berkowitz

cc:db

142B

David Berkowitz  
78-A-1976  
P.O. Box 149  
Attica, New York 14011

William Sisselman  
1720 Mayflower Avenue,  
Bronx, New York 10461

October 7, 1980

Dear William Sisselman,

I just wanted you to know that it was I who advised Dr. David Abrahamsen, a professional psychologist, to interview you with regard to my past. In this manner, I felt that he would be able to obtain useful information about my childhood that will be advantageous to his book.

I hope that you and your family had no objections to my giving Dr. Abrahamsen your address. Of course, anything you told him about your recollections about me is between you and him. I, myself, don't have any objections to your giving him the information he requested.

Please give my regards to your family and I'm sorry that I cannot write further. After all that has happened, I feel very awkward

Keep well.

Yours Truly,

*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

Sworn to before me on this  
8 day of October 1980.

*William L. Reed*  
Notary Public

WILLIAM L. REED  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Qualified in Genesee County  
My Commission Expires March 30, 1982

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

143  
Oct. 18, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

These are the questions to your October 7th letter.

1) If I remember correctly, my mother greeted me with a kiss and hugged me shyly. It was a nice get together - friendly and amiable but clumsy and awkward.

The first thing she started to do was apologize for giving me away for adoption. She also commented on the way I looked and seemed pleased that I appeared healthy.

We sat on the couch in Rosalind's apartment for quite some time and talked casually.

2) My mother appeared to me to be a little on the heavy side, with her hair done but in disarray. In other words she tried to do something with it, something cute and neat, but failed miserably. This was when I first met her, lately she has a better hair style.

She was plain looking and I was disappointed about this. She certainly wasn't as pretty as Pearl.

Of course Betty was very nervous but I was too.

Her clothing was neat and I could see that she had carefully manicured herself for the first meeting. Actually, she looked out of place and comical. Her dress was ill-suited for her. It was a low-cut dress that left the tops of her breasts exposed and exposed even more when she bent down. She also wore too much perfume.

All in all, she was nervous, friendly, cordial, shy, but ordinary looking.

3) The first time I saw her was at my sister's house. This is where we had the first meeting. My sister's house was clean and simple looking. The furniture was middle-class with plastic covering the sofa and club chairs in order to extend their life to the fullest.

My mother's house in Brooklyn (I first went here a week later) was immaculate and clean with polished wooden floors. However, the furniture was all very old - clean, in good condition and polished, but antique. Obviously an old person's furniture best suited for a home in the year 1920, not 1975. The furniture made me feel more sympathetic towards her. I remember feeling sorry for her when I saw the old furniture.



4) At the time that I sought out and found my "natural" family was I was feeling down and out and lonely. When I finally located them and spoke to my mother and sister I was eager to be accepted and eager to meet them.

When I first met my mother I was disappointed, of course. However my sister was very attractive. This impressed me. Yes, I thought that I may be able to find a new identity. I was pleased with the new name of "Richie." I never used a nickname in my life.

5) It never occurred to me that Betty Falco wouldn't be at the apartment. She seemed eager to meet me.

6) I wasn't afraid to meet her, I was nervous. It seemed awkward when I first approached the apartment door, but I had searched for so long and was so lonely that I had to put my nervousness aside.

I suppose that I was fearful of being rejected, that I was the one that they wouldn't like. This didn't happen, however.

7) Yes, I looked forward to meeting her.

8) Yes, I understood that I was her flesh and she made this clear to me by her constant apologizing. I believe that her actions in 1953 have caused her guilt and agony from the very beginning. She has been living a life of self-torment, fear and self-punishment for so very long.

9) We do have many things in common, my mother and I. We both have a sense of humor even in the most tragic of circumstance. We both have dark marks under our eyes. We seem to have similar defense mechanisms and continue to blame ourselves for the misfortunes of others. Betty and I are notorious at abusing ourselves.

10) No, I don't believe that our eyes are alike.

11) My neice Wendy and I have similar mouths. I don't believe that my mother and I have similar mouths.

12) My mother's face had no beauty in it. It is old and worn and tired looking. At this time in her sad life all the makeup in the world couldn't help her.

13) She often seemed to watch me but turned away from me when our eyes met. We could never keep our eyes locked upon one another.

14) She never told me what she wanted me to call her. Privately I approached my sister on the first day and asked her what I should call her. Rosalind said that she would love to be called "Mom."

15) I never received an enema when I was small. In fact, I never even received one ever.

16)

For other matters, yesterday I received Glassman's book and read it in four hours. It had to be the most comical book I ever read. No, I wasn't the least bit angry at all that was said because how could anyone believe it? Nevertheless, I believe that his life may be in danger. Anyone who spent \$12.95 for it will certainly be pissed off and perhaps homicidal. It was a rip off, don't you agree?

There has been nothing new with McGraw-Hill. As you probably know, I lost the case. As I understand it, Heller became quite abusive in court and asked the judge to disqualify himself, which Justice Lodato refused to do.

The judge had refused is allow a psychiatrist to examine me. Heller claims that this was necessary in order to end the conservatorship.

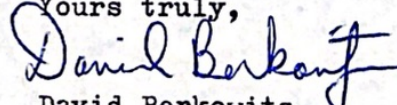
Unfortunately, everyone from the media seems to think that Klausner's book is "my" book and that I've been working with him. This is very bad and it has me nervous.

Otherwise, I cannot complain. The media is convinced that I am keeping the money from the victims. It is convinced that Rubenstein is my attorney and that the conservator is acting as per my instructions.

Perhaps all this negative publicity is good. It may be good in that should everyone be convinced that I am actually going to make one third of the profits that they won't buy Klausner's book. Wouldn't this be nice?

If the book is available for a galley viewing, then is there anyone you know whose seen it? I gather that you know people in the New York Times.

All this has been appearing in the newspapers, yet I want to assure you that I haven't been talking to them even though they write me about McGraw-Hill. I have received six letters from local N.Y.C. media people asking about this book which purports to me my story.

Yours truly,  
  
David Berkowitz

143A

David Berkowitz  
78-A-1976  
P.O. Box 149  
Attica, New York  
14011

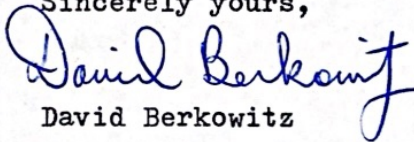
David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

Oct. 30, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

In case you have not already heard, there has been some news concerning Klausner's book. It is now scheduled for release on February 15, 1981. The movie, which is now being advertised in Variety, is to begin filming in March 1981. The only thing I do not know is where the filming will take place. I gather it will be in N.Y.C. McGraw-Hill has printed 100,000 copies of the hardcover edition. I will keep you posted.

Sincerely yours,

  
David Berkowitz

cc:db

143B

David Berkowitz  
78A1976  
P.O. Box 149  
Attica, New York

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

November 19, 1980

SUBJ: McGraw-Hill

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

My father has managed to obtain some information from Doris Johnsen, information which she did not reveal to me. Of course, she thinks that my father and I are not on speaking terms. This isn't true.

Nevertheless, in her letter dated 11/12 she says, concerning Klausner's book, "paperback houses have refused to bid for the book and some booksellers are cancelling their orders." This has been caused by the Crime Victims Compensation Board's revelation that Johnsen will manage the royalties. The impression is that I am getting the money.

Then she ends her letter with "The only other thing I can think of is the book itself. The official publication date is February 15, but I believe it will be actually in the bookstores by Christmas."

I figured that you would like to hear this and I am pleased with the actions of the booksellers. I hope this dosen't change.

What I am curious about is the book clubs. Literary Guild and Book of the Month Club should already know if they will sell the book and, if it<sup>is</sup> coming out by Christmas, should already have it in stock.

Perhaps it would be wise to call McGraw-Hill or one of the book clubs to inquire, but show yourself as ~~hostile~~ hostile to the fact that I will be sharing in the profits (if you know what I mean).

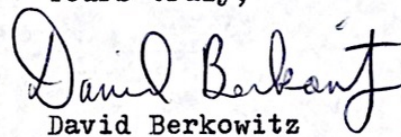
11/19/80

I am sending Bernice a copy of the Johnsen letter should you want her to read it to you over the telephone. I am also going to have her call every major book store, request to speak to the manager and, if they so dare to carry Klausner's book never patronize the store again. We have it well rehearsed.

You should do the same, not giving your name, of course.

If the book will be out by Christmas, then all the reviews should be completed. Publishers Weekly should be able to provide information on it.

Yours truly,

  
David Berkowitz

ccdb

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

11/27/80

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Today I had a long talk with Fran Mills. As you may know, she often goes into New York City on business. Unknown to me until this day, Mrs. Mills has been going from bookstore to bookstore in the City, inquiring about Klausner's book.

Mainly she has been going into the stores in lower Manhattan and, all the store owners expressed "intense interest" in the book. However, she did add that none of the stores know anything about it nor have they heard anything on it.

Mrs. Mills also went into the McGraw-Hill building to inquire. Someone there sent her to the public relations office and demanded her credentials. Of course they gave her no information.

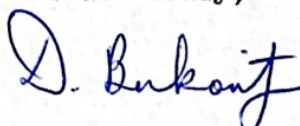
Mrs. Mills said that she has never seen a publishing company act so secretively. Thus, this causes her to have the feeling that the book will definitely come out. McGraw-Hill will publish Klausner's book one of these days.

I was saddened to hear that all the bookstores she went to had owners who were very interested. Too, I read her parts of Johnsen's letter and she (Fran Mills) said that she didn't believe a word Johnsen says regarding paperback houses not being interested or refusing to bid for the book.

Generally, we both came to the conclusion that the conservator is a bull artist and has something up her sleeve.

I would appreciate hearing anything you discover concerning the book.

Yours truly,



David Berkowitz

P.S. Please keep this letter confidential as Mrs. Mills wouldn't want anyone to know that she is checking on the book. As you know, she is being sued by Johnsen.

P.S.S. Perhaps you can telephone Mrs Mills privately if you desire.

144

David Berkowitz  
78-A-1976  
P.O. Box 149  
Attica, New York

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

December 10, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I did see the article that appeared in the New York Times on 12/5/80. True it didn't say much about me directly, but it contained enough information. I don't plan to take it lightly, however, I don't want to stir anything up.

I have written to Mr. Mitgang, the author of the article. It was a short letter asking him for information about "fresh" material. I told him that I provided nothing to Klausner.

At this time, with the exception of my short letter to Mitgang, I plan no further action. Publicity could be harmful now; McGraw-Hill is trying to sell the paperback rights and the serialization rights at this time.

Ironically, I did not receive my New York Times Sunday paper for 12/7/80. The first part of the paper I read is the Book Review. Since I did not receive my copy please examine your's and send me a copy of anything concerning Klausner (I hope that my failure to receive the Sunday paper was only a coincidence). I trust no one.

Sincerely yours,

*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

cc

145

David Berkowitz  
78-A-1976  
P.O. Box 149  
Attica, N.Y. 14011

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

December 13, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I have received your letter of December 8th. Yesterday I learned that the last part of the advance payment was paid. If you recall, McGraw-Hill was to pay the \$250,000 advance in three installments. Obviously, the publisher found the manuscript acceptable.

Of course, you are fully aware that McGraw-Hill does lack a great deal of fresh material. We both know, too, that they have exaggerated greatly. I never made "300" tape recordings as the ~~as the~~ catalog stated. Also, that McGraw-Hill made it appear as if I shot 32 seperate people, and the stabbing of the 42-year old woman, I did not do.

You say that Mr. Mitgang used a press release that McGraw-Hill sent to him. I was unaware of this, for it appeared as if they discussed this personally ~~over~~ via telephone. It seems as if Mitgang quoted a McGraw-Hill ~~repr~~esentative directly and didn't use a piece of paper.

In addition to the final advance payment, Mrs. Mills discovered something else. Her sister who lives around New York City, saw some type of display on the book. It was in a big book store at Fourth Street and Seventh Avenue, West Greenwich Village. Her sister said that it was in the biggest bookstore on the street. Therefore, I think it would either be a Waldenbook or B. Dalton bookstore.

The display also mentioned a magazine serial-ization, but Mrs. Mills Couldn't be sure. However, she did ask her sister to go back to the store and copy down the information (the display was solely for Klausner's book).

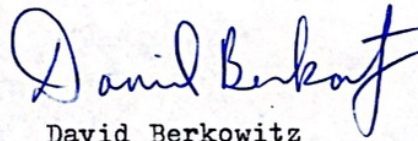


12/13/80

Bernice and I were both deeply upset over the tragic death of John Lennon. When I was outside of prison walls I owned all his records at one time or another. His music I will miss.

Naturally, when I get further information I will write. Also, Time and Newsweek magazines, as well as People, would be good sources to find reviews in.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Berkowitz". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

David Berkowitz

PS. Heller lost the case.

Encl.

cc

THIS IS THE LETTER YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

147

David Berkowitz  
78-A-1976  
P.O. Box 149  
Attica, N.Y. 14011

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

12/22/80

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

DORIS JOHNSEN made my Christmas complete by sending me a copy of Klausner's book, which, by the way, I now have in my possession.

RELAX, for it is harmless and incomplete. The book ends with my being sent to Attica Correctional Facility. There isn't even a mention of my being stabbed. So it is apparent that the book was written well over two years ago. Nothing has been added to it since then.

Naturally, you want to know what it says about you. I wanted to know this myself. So the first thing I did was turn to the Appendix. Your name was the first to appear under the A's. You are mentioned on pages 374 and 375.

All that you were quoted as saying was that I was competent and you also said this: "Your Honor, the defendant is as normal as anyone else. Maybe a little neurotic."

Sorry, but this is all. Why, its as if you don't exist. Naturally, Schwartz is mentioned on pages 101, 368-369, 373-375 and 377 (there are only 377 pages in the book, the rest of it, up to page 400 are photocopies of my letters).

I wish to add that I do not believe the book will be extremely successful, if at all. I found the book to be so innocuous that I am now going to write to Heller requesting that he discontinue his attempts to thwart publication and to stop the libel suit.

12/22/80

As you can see by the enclosed letter, the book is already appearing in bookstores. So I doubt if you will have any difficulty securing a copy. I cannot part with this one at the moment.

Dr. Abrahamsen, I would like to personally recommend that you continue with your project and ignore this current book. It would be an injustice indeed if the tragic story ends here (with Klausner having the final word).

Of course, I must also say that Klausner was kind. He didn't treat me badly and he was open-minded, but only in the context of the book. The book did not deal with the psychological aspects. Rather, he paid attention to only the crimes in themselves and all the horrors they created.

I have not shown the book to Mrs. Mills as of yet. But by the time you get this letter she ~~would~~ will have seen it.

I have not read the entire book as of the writing of this letter. I am up to page 140, however. And I also read ahead, including the epilogue. ☒

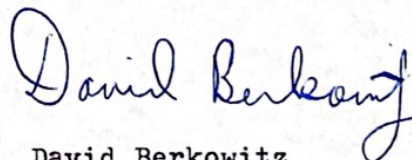
His view of psychiatry is pretty clear - it is quackery! He has nothing nice to say about Sigmund Freud and he expresses this on page 32.

Finally, the only ones who may eventually sue for libel are Pete Hamill, Jimmy Breslin, and Steve Dunleavy. He tore these men apart and exposed them as the vicious capitalists that they are.

The book will amuse you, anger you and disgust you. But it was well written, dull and so so.

Sincerely yours,

Encl.



David Berkowitz

cc

146  
DORIS JOHNSEN  
50 COURT STREET  
BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11201  
—  
MAIN 4-1084  
MAIN 4-4636

December 18, 1980

Mr. David Berkowitz  
78A - 1976  
Box 149  
Attica, New York 14011

Dear David:

I have your letter of December 13, 1980. I have done better than the appendix. I have the whole book.

To make sure that you know it is on its way, I am sending it under separate cover but it is going first class and simultaneously with this letter.

I have seen no ads for it but it is on the shelf in at least one local bookstore. X

Sincerely yours,

DORIS JOHNSEN

DJ:cb

David Berkowitz  
78-A-1976  
P.O. Box 149  
Attica, N.Y. 14011

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

December 23, 1980

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

As I told you in my letter dated 12/22, I received a copy of Klausner's book. Today I received a letter from you dated 12/16 with postage stamps enclosed - thank you.

I would like to talk with you about the McGraw-Hill book and I can telephone you on Sunday, January 4, 1981 (Unfortunately, I can not call next Sunday). If you won't be home on 1/4/81 please let me know right away.

To say that there are inaccuracies in this book is putting it mildly. There are so many - I cannot understand how McGraw-Hill could allow this. The editing is awful. The author says that I grew up on Seymour Avenue; it was Stratford Avenue. So many streets were spelled incorrectly, names were improperly placed - everything was screwed up.

Klausner had little to say about my mother, Pearl. There were few mentions of her in the book. But on one page he says that I often went to visit the cemetery and travelled over the George Washington Bridge to get there. However, on the next page it says that my mother was laid to rest in the Bronx! (This is just one example of the numerous but obvious errors in editing. I pray for his sake that the review people don't spot them).

He also lists streets in the Bronx which were not in the Bronx but in Manhattan. This happens so often that I lost track. Very peculiar. The writer has done no research.

Betty Falco and my sister had an entire chapter devoted just to them. But don't let your hopes get dashed. The chapter was only four pages long! (The GoodHousekeeping magazine had ten times more information in the article by Susan Wishengrad Sugar).

It will take an intense advertising campaign and plenty of "friends" to get this book on the best seller list. I'm not exaggerating here. You may read it for yourself, and I know you will.

This book is a cross between a Breslin "44" novel and a Glassman "Off the Wall." Klausner has me eating taco's and chocolate ice cream. I have never eaten tacos. This is similar to Glassman and his Cool-Whip.

Truthfully, I am totally shocked that McGraw-Hill paid a quarter of a million dollars for the materials (most of the materials Klausner never even used). There were no diaries in it. Only several pages of scribblings were printed and these were done at Kings County. Oh, this is so ridiculous.

To say that Klausner interviewed everyone connected with the case is bull... Only five or so victims and their families cooperated. Some of the information about many of the other victims was so miniscule that it was obviously taken from the newspapers.

Klausner claims to have interviewed the District Attorneys of the three concerned boros. This is untrue. Not a one was interviewed. If any one was, then he was left out. Santucci wasn't even mentioned. Mario Merola was mentioned once and Eugene Gold was mentioned on one page.

As I said in my last letter, this is the most incomplete and foolish book that I have ever read. Again, it ends in 1977. In fact, there is nothing in it about any psychiatric reports. Nothing from any of the reports was printed with the exception of the general findings: Dr. Abrahamsen, "he is competent. Dr. Schwartz, "he is incompetent. The other two doctors also said that I was "Incompetent."

Suprisingly, the book ends with my being captured! There is little mention about Kings County. No lengthy analysis of the psychiatric reports (hardly anything on them at all with the exception of the findings) was printed. There was nothing about my acting crazy in court just prior to sentencing (you remember this incident).

Mainly, the book was nothing more than an police story. It was basically well written with regard to sentence structure and so forth. This is what I meant to say yesterday. But it was dull.

The only things positive about Klausner was a sense of humor and a staunch stand against people (cheap writers) like Jimmy Breslin. Also, that he was kind to my father and the Falco/Rothenberg family.

When the movie deal was first being negotiated, the movie producers quickly came up with \$40,000 as a down payment with the promise to come up with the rest by August 15, 1980. As you know, that date past uneventfully. No final \$210,000 payment was made. Then I found out that the producers have chosen to wait until thirty days after publication before making the final decision.

Obviously these men had a change of heart when they saw the manuscript. Once the book was read by them, I am not suprised to see them waiting to see if the book is successful before putting up the nearly quarter of a million dollars. After reading this book I wouldn't put up a dollar!

I can not understand - I am totally confused - as to how McGraw-Hill, the largest publisher in the U.S.A., got involved with this. A spokesman for them once said that the book could earn McGraw-Hill between one and ten million dollars. Honest to God, if this thing sells I will start to peddle pieces of my underwear with my signature on it. If this book is a good seller, then it would show the people of this world to be insane.

All throughout the book I have tried to be objective. I carefully read and scrutinized every page - more so then an average person who may read the book. Honestly, this was an anticlimax.

Dr, Abrahamsen

- 4 -

12/23/80

When Bernice comes up here on 12/27 I will give her the book. I read it once and couldn't possibly struggle through it again. However, please don't call her before the 27th. I want to suprise her with the book - a Christmas present.

Please let me call you on January 4, 1981.

Yours truly,

*David Berkowitz*  
David Berkowitz

cc

P.S. Unless this book actually gets on the best seller list I will speak to no reporters about it nor will I give any interviews lest I unwittingly promote the damn thing.

P.S.S. I don't know for certain if McGraw-Hill is trying to sell the serialization rights. But I would assume so.



149

David Berkowitz  
78-A-1976  
Box 149  
Attica, N.Y. 14011

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

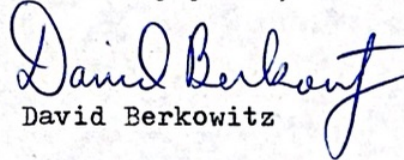
12/24/80

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Here are some quotes from Klausner's book which I felt you'd be interested in. Of course what he says is nonsensical. But it was well written.

Actually, these few paragraphs were not done by Klausner himself. You can see the difference in word choice and sentence structure when you read through the book. The two enclosed ~~pages~~ <sup>paragraphs</sup> were done by the editor.

Sincerely yours,

  
David Berkowitz

Encl.

cc

SON OF SAM

page 31: "Popular psychiatry is the natural business of journalists. It is, after all, easier to vent an opinion than to find a fact. But pop-psych also seduced professionals. There was no shortage of free psychiatric opinion as Berkowitz ran his murderous ways in cold comfort."

page 32: "Mental health professionals at once plead that psychology is an inexact science. Indeed. But once David was captured and we knew his life story, we could all spot points of crisis. With even a casual background in psychology, we can make diagnoses - one hardly needs a medical education for that. Once David was captured, the points of crisis and his responses were so obvious that you and I and Jimmy Breslin could stand with Sigmund Freud."

David Berkowitz  
78-A-1976  
P.O. Box 149  
Attica, N.Y. 14011

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

12/28/80

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Yesterday I had a visit with Bernice. To say that we celebrated is putting it lightly. We had our own party. As soon as we met we looked at each other and laughed. Klausner's book will be a flop, I hope.

Bernice told me that you saw something in Publishers Weekly. Dr. Abrahamsen, please send me a copy of the review immediately.

She also says that you are going away for some time. In case you were away and didn't get to read the New York Times, another article appeared in the publishing section. The 12/26/80 edition had an article by Mitgang; he did the previous article.

We were both mentioned and part of my letter to him was printed. This was a close call and I am going to be completely silent from here on. There's no need to give McGraw-Hill additional, free publicity

Coincidentally, Bernice and I both had copies of the book. I had no idea that she already purchased one, so I gave it to her as a Christmas present. This was funny as we exchanged identical books.

Gallery magazine, a pornographic B-grade magazine, did the excerpt to Klausner's book. The February issue of Gallery is now at newstands and in sleazy places throughout New York City (that Klausner's excerpt appeared in a porno magazine dosen't suprise me).

Dr. Abrahamsen

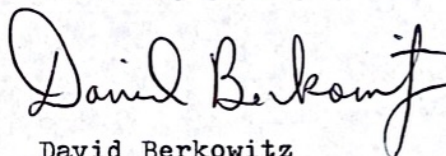
- 2 -

12/28/80

It was courageous of you to return the book to Barnes & Noble and demand a refund. I always thought that books were like record albums - you must exchange it for an exact duplicate or nothing.

Time and Newsweek magazines may do reviews soon. I've always kept you informed at every turn, so help me out too.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Berkowitz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

David Berkowitz

cc

P.S. If you didn't see the N.Y. Times article for 12/26/80 let me know.

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

151  
January 4, 1981

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I am typing this brief but important letter after our telephone conversation earlier this evening.

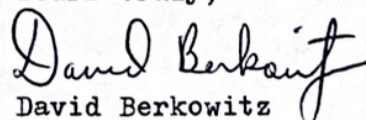
After you read me the Publishers Weekly piece I have become convinced that Klausner's book, as cheaply written as it is, will sell very well. The interview that was given to him merely confirms this.

I am going to wait for the two items from Publishers Weekly before I communicate further. After all, here I am always hurrying to get things to you, but having to wait two weeks for this.

Please try to remember that I am an adult and that I can take bad news maturely. There is no need for fibbing.

In spite of how bad you claim Klausner's book is, it seems as if Publishers Weekly has given him a spot worthy of credit and attention. Perhaps they project (or expect) this book to go onto the New York Times bestseller list - I think so.

Yours truly,

  
David Berkowitz

P.S. I'm not going to say anything about Kings County until I get the Weekly's article/interview.  
I'm tired of giving and never receiving, if you know what I mean.

152A

volves him in five more murders, one of which occurred 19 years before. Barnes is intelligent, pleasant and low-key. Other characters are just as likable, even some of the easily identifiable bad guys, and Plains, Montana, is a place where anyone would like to spend some time. The mystery is resolved with an interesting, if not entirely unsuspected, twist. The story itself, well written and evenly paced, is a good, if fairly prosaic, offering from a respected American poet. [February 15]

## NONFICTION

**WITHOUT ME YOU'RE NOTHING: The Essential Guide to Home Computers**  
*Frank Herbert with Max Barnard.* Simon & Schuster, \$14.95 ISBN 0-671-41287-6

Among a plethora of beginners' books on personal computing, this one by a leading SF author bitten by the digital bug stands out for its exceptional effectiveness in demystifying computerese. The material covered is not necessarily new, and what the coauthors have to say could have been said in many fewer words even though some of their extra verbiage is needed to make comprehensible the typical computer expert's concision. While the authors explain the machines, most valuable is their advice on shopping for a computer—the questions to ask (and why), things to watch out for—an area generally treated too superficially in other guides. The book is unconventional in other ways as well: the authors present, for example, their own special methods of flow-charting programs. For computer novices who want to really understand what they're getting into, this guide should prove to be a leading choice. Illustrated.

[January 30]

### BORN AT RISK

**B. D. Colen, photographs by Linda Wheeler.** St. Martin's, \$9.95 ISBN 0-312-09291-1

A medical journalist and author of "Karen Ann Quinlan: Dying in the Age of Eternal Life," Colen has written a gripping story of activities during Christmas Eve and the holiday in the neonatal section of a hospital. Names have been changed; otherwise, the report is an actual, minute-by-minute recreation of the fight waged by Dr. James Hannan and staff. To save the life of premature infants, the team use all their skills and available technological devices to start the awesomely tiny babies breathing at birth. The author makes the professionals, parents and everyone involved in the intensive care of newborns (some weighing no more than a pound) human and engrossing. Much of the immediacy is

generated by verbatim quotes from the people Colen shared the life-and-death hours with. Photos not see by PW.

[February 6]

### SUBURBAN WILDERNESS

**William Jon Watkins.** Putnam, \$9.95 ISBN 0-399-12552-3

This is a novelist's view of the suburban jungle rather than a naturalist's. Watkins's characters are a mad squirrel with a death wish, a demented bluejay, two neighborhood dogs and the local cats. His hero is a seal-point Siamese, Wise Teacher, which loses a daredevil apprentice, Carrunner, and gains another by testing himself. These are imaginative tales laced with morbidity. The squirrel, jay and Carrunner are all tragic figures; everybody, including the author (apparently recuperating from a motorcycle crash), is at risk. Since feline personalities play a major part in these stories, the book should have a marked appeal to cat owners. Although this reads like fiction, the publisher insists it's nonfiction. Illustrations not seen by PW.

[February 11]

**SON OF SAM: Based on the Authorized Transcription of the Tapes, Official Documents and Diaries of David Berkowitz**

**Lawrence D. Klausner.** McGraw-Hill, \$12.95 ISBN 0-07-035027-2

The story of David Berkowitz, the "Son of Sam," is, after all, a rather cut-and-dried case. Berkowitz killed six young people, was captured and is now in prison, so there is not much suspense for readers. Klausner has realized that and, concentrating on Berkowitz's personality and the police investigation that resulted in his arrest, has written a penetrating book. Insofar as a layperson can evaluate the mental processes of a psychotic, Klausner has attempted to analyze the background and formative years of the Son of Sam; insofar as an outsider can understand police procedures, he has tried to show how hard the New York Police Department worked to catch the most wanted man in the city's history. Klausner ("One Million Carats," etc.) makes it clear that, although the police were widely criticized, a relative handful of officers combed a metropolitan area with 15-million individuals to identify a lone sniper. Incidentally, Berkowitz's share of the royalties from the book will go to compensate the victims or their heirs. Photos and 40 pages of Berkowitz's notes and diaries not seen by PW.

[February 15]

**THE ENIGMA OF FELIX FRANKFURTER**

**H. N. Hirsch.** Basic Books, \$14.95 ISBN 0-465-01979-X

In this intriguing psychobiography, Hirsch develops a "plausible" explanation for the enigmatic behavior of

jurist Frankfurter, who began life as a charming young man defending radical causes and became a "vindictive" and passionate advocate of judicial restraint during more than 20 years as a Supreme Court justice. Drawing on the work of Erik Erikson and others, Hirsch argues Frankfurter was a "text-book" neurotic, filled with self-doubt, who compensated by assuming an inflated self-image and ultimately became "arrogant and self-important" in his dominance of others. On reaching the high court in 1939, he found himself among equals, unable to have his way all the time, and lost his effectiveness as a judicial leader. Tracing the jurist's relationships with family, friends and colleagues over the years, the author offers considerable evidence for his psychological portrait and its possible effect on Frankfurter's jurisprudence. Hirsch teaches government at Harvard.

[February 15]

**ALEXANDER THE GREAT: King, Commander and Statesman**

**Nicholas Hammond.** Noyes Data Corporation, \$24 ISBN 0-8155-5058-8

Robin Fox's "The Search for Alexander" (PW, Oct. 3) depicted this military hero as the possessed, self-proclaimed divine son of Zeus. Now, as a touring exhibit on Alexander attracts viewers at the National Gallery, Prof. Hammond's detailed military study sketches a differing viewpoint. Author of "The Classical Age of Greece," Hammond portrays Alexander as "a Macedonian through and through, only in part a Greek," a loving commander, a soldier of remorseless will led to believe he was "son of god" by oracles and priests whose prophecies he trusted. Alexander's sense of mission was tied to religious rituals he conducted as a child with his father, King Philip. Rejecting the recently publicized theory that Alexander was an alcoholic, Hammond maintains the evidence proves only that he was a drinker. In place of the megalomaniac or bisexual profligate, we have the brilliant tactician who welded a supranational community of peoples. Photos, maps.

[February 15]

**THE YOUNG VICTORIA**

**Alison Plowden.** Stein and Day, \$12.95 ISBN 0-8128-2766-X

The British author who has been praised for her books on Queen Elizabeth and "The House of Tudor" presents a well-researched, sympathetic biography of Queen Victoria, a story with the tensions and intrigues of a thriller. Kinder to Duchess Victoire, left to bring up her child alone after the death of the Duke of Kent, Plowden is acidly witty describing the contests among the other dukes to produce an heir to the throne of dotty George III. As a child, the future queen-empress

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

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January 10, 1981

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I received the Publishers Weekly piece on Friday and I owe you an apology. Thank you for sending it and I thought the interview humorous.

It seems as if the interviewer pegged Klausner as some type of bullshit artist - not wanting to make money and wanting to give his earnings to cancer research is, of course, nonsense.

How much of the movie advance (\$250,000) and the Gallery magazine excerpt payment did he turn over to charity? None, I believe.

Sadly, it appears as if the man feels very guilty about making money. Too, I find it odd that the victims are no longer hateful towards me. When the announcement was first made several months ago that the court awarded Johnsen the right to manage the money, Judith Placido, one of the victims, made a big stink about my getting out of prison one day. She wants to become a lawyer so that I never get out of prison. I don't care what she does, but I only want to point out that this person is quite angry at me - Klausner is a bull artist.

You asked about my "homosexual experiences." But I have nothing to say here because I never had any. Neither do I desire any.

Over the telephone you asked about this type of sexual activity occurring in the Army. I myself never witnessed any of this. But it has been the brunt of many jokes, all of which were invented. I might add, too, that this type of sexual activity is frowned upon in the Army, and is punishable by court martial. So none of this, if it does occur, is done in an overt manner.

As for being "attacked," no, I have never been sexually attacked by another man.

## Kings County:

As you know, I was confined to a desolate cell inside of the Kings County Psychiatric Prison Ward, Building G, for approximately nine months. And since all this occurred immediately after I was arrested I had many experiences.

My two former attorneys, Ira Jultak and Leon Stern, visited me often. I was grateful for the company, however, I believe that they had other motivations (they told others that I was a "vegetable").

Ira Jultak brought to me a hard-covered Composition notebook and asked me to fill in the pages with my thoughts and feelings. He also told me often that I could express my feelings very well on paper and encouraged me to "write as much as I could, about any subject that I wanted."

So at this time, which was shortly after I was apprehended, I began to write in the book. However, another incident happened. Some of my other writings that I had on loose papers was stolen and these items appeared in the New York Post (my picture also appeared - the one of me sleeping).

Ira Jultak's notebook was not taken and these writings were the ones that appeared in Klausner's book, exclusively. And I also want to tell you that this notebook was only partially filled. Jultak asked me for it shortly after the other notes were stolen because he didn't want the notebook to disappear too.

As you know, the notebook was alot of baloney. But I did say what I thought I should say and what my attorneys would want to hear (or read).

None of the letters as they appeared in Klausner's book should be considered a threat to you. They were nonsensical and childish and not at all like my writings today.

One problem that I had with writing by hand is that I cannot function with a pen. My handwriting is sloppy and it takes too much time to write words; my mind moves much more quickly than my hands and my hands cannot keep up the pace. I'm certain that you've noticed this because my typing is, for a man, quite good (at least this is what I've been told).

I can type quickly. My sentence structure is better and my vocabulary increases when I type. Also, I believe that my spelling, which was always awful, improves with the typewriter.



Another experience was getting to meet the "crazies." Since it was a psychiatric unit I had the opportunity to see for myself how the mentally disturbed lived.

I had always wondered what it was like to be a genuine psychotic and I wanted to see if they were really like the character who played the madman in Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho. None of them were, but they were disturbed enough.

I was both fascinated and saddened by the behavior of these confined men - men who screamed and yelled at all hours without the slightest compunction. ~~They~~<sup>There</sup> were also fist fights which occurred at times. However, they weren't too frequent because a straightjacket awaited those who broke the rules (some men were tied into these things on a regular basis).

I myself was placed in a "jacket" on at least one occasion. This is the time when I began to scream and carry on when the television was playing. Actually, it had nothing to do with the t.v. Rather, this woman was cracking her gum and it disturbed me terribly.

By the way, this is something that I forgot to tell you, I think. Gum cracking, the filthy, disgusting, wretched habit of clicking one's chewing gum in her mouth is, I believe, a crime to be punished only by death.

Nothing but nothing enrages me more than to see a man or woman (its most often done by a woman, I noticed) making constant cracking noises with chewing gum.

I have gotten off of buses sometimes a half mile from my apartment when a person was on a city bus and was cracking gum (I didn't say quietly chewing gum).

I have walked right out of the movies when someone in the audience begins to make that godawful popping noise. And I once was planning on going from corner to corner in the City (N.Y.C.) so that I may shot and kill people who crack their chewing gum in public places. I would have done it in broad daylight and without the slightest fear - so much do I hate this callous criminal action.

I don't know if Bernice ever spoke to you about this, but I have often complained to her about people who commit such an atrocity. She dosen't do this, however, and she knows that I would chase her out of the visiting room if she did.

Many women who have no class are often guilty of this.

Getting back to Kings County Hospital where I was confined, a black woman who was a typist was cracking her chewing gum incessantly. So I lunged at her and the guards placed me back into my cell.

The newspapers though, were quick to point out that the incident happened when I was watching television. It did. But this was immaterial. I would have screamed out and thrown a tantrum regardless of whether I was watching television or not. Gum cracking must not - cannot - be tolerated in a society which is crowded with many races of people.

I already told you about the doctors at the hospital and how easy they were to manipulate. Also, contrary to previous beliefs, after the first two months of confinement, I never saw much of these doctors.

During the first two months the doctors were examining me regularly. They had to. They were appointed by the court to speak to me.

After the first competency hearing I saw the doctors about once every ten days, and this was only for a few minutes. It wasn't until many months later, after the first judge removed himself and another judge (Corso) ordered a new round of examinations for a second competency hearing, did the doctors begin to visit me again.

For most of the time I was under observation by the guards. They didn't do much of anything except bringing me my food. They watched me constantly and this was annoying; an invasion of my privacy.

Just before I pleaded guilty I was very apprehensive. I knew that I would be going to prison and that it would be for a long, long time. I didn't know what it would be like and I was being my usual pessimistic self. So to me it seemed as if only terrible horrors awaited me in prison. As it turned out, Attica prison isn't too bad.

I am not psychotic. However, I am aware that I am a very disturbed person and something must have gone wrong somewhere.

Very often I reminisce about the past and about my childhood. I'm the type of person who sees nothing very good about the future, so I spend many hours trying again to relive the moments of long ago when my mother was alive (God wasn't very fair, was he?).

Yet my childhood was a horror. I was so miserable, depressed and angry that I recall few good memories. Most of the people that I loved deeply were killed early in life.

My grandfathers Harry and Jacob, died when I was very young. I relished the moments when Grandpa Harry (Pearl's father) used to treat me like a king, hug me, then give me five shiny new pennies which he saved just for me. Grandpa Jacob used to take me to the playground often. But they died long before I had a chance to appreciate them.

My mother, Pearl, you know all about.

It frightens me to look back and see what I was and what I became. It also angers me for I ask out loud, "why didn't someone see all the signs?"

For this I will give Klausner credit. He did point out that no one recognized or did anything about my abnormal behavior.

I was a disruptive, uncontrollable terror in school and was always being written up for screaming, cursing out loud, fighting, throwing "spit-balls" and generally creating a ruckus. Yet issuing me a "demerit" or putting me in the corner or keeping me after school had no effect.

Once, in third grade, I was almost left back and placed again into the third grade to start the year over again. Luckily, my mother intervened and I was given a break (only because of her pleadings to school officials).

You know, common hyperactivity wasn't known then. I think this is what I had.

Today, children who suffer from this ailment (if you can call it this) are able to receive treatment - a change of diet and therapy. This wasn't ~~available~~ available when I was a student as hyperactivity was almost unheard of. Or no one knew how to deal with it.

I think that I possess a basically misanthropic philosophy.

When I was growing up my father and mother gave me all sorts of toys. And you probably heard that I had more than any other child on the block, which is true.

My father once brought me a really fancy, expensive electric rocketship toy. This item was a luxury in those days. But, as I did all of my toys, I busted the contraption within two weeks (which was longer than most other toys).

My favorites were cars, trucks and soldiers (metal vehicles or plastic soldiers). The cars and trucks I smashed up in no time flat - often creating little car accidents so that the sides and fronts were all dented in and the toy became useless. The soldiers I pulled apart, sometimes burning them or throwing them out the window at people in the street below.

P.S. I'm laughing now as I type this because, when you think about it, it was a comical sight.

I stole toys often from the neighborhood stores; shoplifting it is called. Of course, with my parents I always had money and could get any toy I wanted. Stealing was fun, though.

Still, I never got caught - never. I left behind me, even when I was only about 12 years old, a trail of burned trash bins and burned automobiles. There were the dead fish, all of which I killed, The dead, poisoned bird (Pudgy). The torture chamber I created for ants, flies, roaches and any other hapless insects who may have been unfortunate enough to enter my room. The vandalized apartment building (1105 Stratford Avenue) with the yanked out elevator plates, the floods in the basement (some delinquent must have turned on the water pipes - it was I), the broken windows and the can of paint all over the hallway.

I also used to go up to the roof to cut the television antenna wires of other tenants. I used a pair of scissors and cut the wires in half.

1/10/81

I want you to understand, doctor, that I am not trying to brag or boast about these destructive acts, or how I managed to evade capture, muchless punishment. I only want you to know what occurred - see the signs - learn something.

I have often noticed just how unobservant people are. Its been said that parents are the last to know. This may be true in my case, for I wonder how I, at ages nine, eleven, thirteen, etc., managed to do so very many negative things and go unnoticed. It is puzzling, indeed. And I think you will agree that it is sad.

Sometimes I wonder if things would have been different if I grew up in Long Island, a quiet community without the wild youths whom I went to school with. No, I suppose that only the enviornment would have changed. I was born like this.

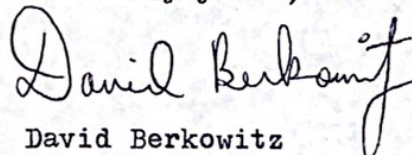
You say that your book is complete. Therefore, this lengthy letter would be of little value. Still, I'm glad to once again get things off of my chest, so to speak.

Tell me, is your book going to be a lengthy as Klausner's? His was, if you count my letters at the end, approximately 477 pages. (I think).

Also, do you plan to get accepted by a major publishing company, or a small house that does speacial books? Really, I believe that your book can be of value on the commercial market. Many books that are seriously written are published by well-known companies. The Times bestseller list (non-fiction) has many serious books. Klausner's is, after all, a commercialized book and of no real meritorious value.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter. As you know, I am nervous about sending off lengthy, revealing letters.

Sincerely yours,



David Berkowitz

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SUSPECTED DUPLICATE  
1001 NEW YORK NEW YORK JAN 9 81

DAVID BERKOWITZ  
C/O ATTICA STATE PRISON  
BOX 1 49  
ATTICA NEW YORK 14011

FROM EYEWITNESS NEWS

DEAR DAVID,  
HELLO... CHANNEL SEVEN EYEWITNESS NEWS (7)  
WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO INTERVIEW YOU AS  
SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE ARE DOING A SPECIAL ON  
MENTAL HEALTH IN N.Y.C.-- A TOPIC WHICH TOO  
FEW PEOPLE UNDERSTAND OR WANT TO KNOW ABOUT.  
AFTER WEEKS OF RESEARCHING THIS ISSUE WE AT  
CHANNEL SEVEN CANT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WERE FIT  
TO STAND TRIAL. BEYOND BEING SORRY THAT YOU HAVE  
BEEN SO MISUNDERTOOD--WE CAN ONLY AIR THIS REPORT  
AND HOPE THAT IT WILL DO SOME GOOD.

*No Reply.*

*D.B.*

PLEASE CONTACT ME-- SANDY HANEY AT THE NUMBER:  
887-3149 OR 8873106. IF THERE IS NO ANSWER CALL:  
887-31230 OR 8873124 AND ASK TO SPEAK TO BOB  
FERRARO. PLEASE CALL US AND LET US KNOW ONE  
WAY OR THE OTHER. WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO  
SPEAKING WITH YOU SOON.

SINCERELY,  
SANDY HANEY

2246 EST  
MGMCOM P MGM

*Dr. A.,*

*I'm just sending this to you  
in case you want to talk to  
these people - I don't.*

*D.B.*

Don't Return  
this

5241 (R1/78)

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David Berkowitz  
78-A-1976  
P.O. Box 149  
Attica, N.Y. 14011

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

January 15, 1981

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Klausner appears to be suffering from a case of pre-publication jitters. I cannot blame him for this since "Son of Sam" is his first major work. However, I must warn you that the heat will ultimately fall upon you.

He has been querying Johnsen about the progress of your book and is nervous because you will be done with your manuscript by February 1981.

If I were you I would be prepared for another round of legal hodgepodge in court and amongst attorneys. Neither do I know what to do to offset this since Klausner is a paranoid individual, suffering from the self-delusion that he is a great writer. He also has an inflated ego.

Please, at this time I think it wise to be quiet about your book. Too, if I am correct, I would guess that your book is still a year away from publication even if you do complete the final chapter by February. As I understand it, you have yet to find a publisher (although several have expressed interest) and that a publisher will still need to edit your book.

One thing that you do not want under any circumstances is for McGraw-Hill to seek a restraining order against your book. Something like this would chase off any publisher who may be considering your manuscript, besides costing you a great deal of time and money.

I have written a lengthy letter to Miss Johnsen informing her that taking legal action against you would be unnecessarily costly for her and even futile, for you are still a long way off from a complete book.

Near the end of Klausner's book, I think it is in the epilogue, Ira Jultak says that "unless we psycho-analyze David Berkowitz we will never know what makes him tick." So, in an indirect way he is, probably without realizing it, introducing your book. You are analyzing me, whereas, Klausner has done nothing but present a distorted view. He has not attempted to learn what made me harm others, and he begins with the premise that I was insane or "sick" from birth.

His book is basically a generalized work that deals with the entire case, touching slightly upon all different areas or subjects. Of course your's is not like this and is going to be very different. I know this and you know this. However, you must make this clear to Klausner and McGraw-Hill and assure them of this. Unless you do, you may be in for another legal battle.

Be open with Doris Johnsen and not secretive in any manner. She is basically an unemotional person who doesn't get excited or nervous over anything. She is highly controlled and doesn't panic. So she will calm Klausner down and help to dissipate his fears.

I am sorry that I scoled you over not receiving the Publishers Weekly piece sooner. I guess that I have been very depressed lately and Bernice has noted this too. I have been plagued with a continuous series of bad dreams at night that have left me feeling sad and exhausted in the morning, without my usual energy.

I am, to be honest, quite confused and fearful over the dreams, especially since one particular dream has been recurring over and over, night after night.

As you know, generally I do not dream at all. Or if I do, the dreams are usually so insignificant that I forget them by morning. No so, lately.



Dr. Abrahamsen

- 3 -

1/15/81

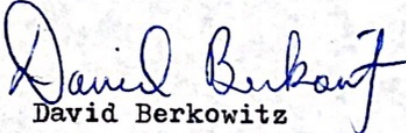
Yes, I will describe my dreams to you, if only because you may be able to interpret them. I already told my father about them since they concerned him.

My father has just about completed Klausner's book. He sad that some parts of the book made him sad because he feels partly responsible. My dad feels guilty because he moved to Florida when he felt that I needed him the most and that he somehow abandon me.

This isn't true, of course. After all, my father had his own life to lead, was recently remarried and sold his business - retired. I've already written him about this, assuring him that he was a good father, that he loved me deeply, stood by me even through this horror and still has high hopes that I will one day be free (I do not have faith in this - my release one day).

I do, however, possess a great deal of resentment about certain things in my past that I will discuss in a letter to you over the weekend. These things (if I can call them "things") were an intrusion in my life and caused me to feel ~~X~~ that I was an excluded member of the family (at least to a degree).

Sincerely yours,

  
David Berkowitz

cc

Received your letter dated 1/12/81.

D.B.

David Berkowitz  
78-A-1976  
P.O. Box 149  
Attica, N.Y. 14011

David Abrahamsen, M.D.  
1035 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028

January 29, 1981

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I am glad that you received the lengthy letters that I sent you. And for the McGraw-Hill matter, enclosed is a letter from my conservator. Perhaps you can glean something from it.

Don't forget that quite some time ago I gave you many personal photos and snapshots. Please remember to return them when you're done.

You asked about my resentment. For quite some time I have been resentful towards my father and his wife because of several things that happened when my mother died and immediately after my father remarried.

When Pearl passed away, within a week or so my father either gave away or threw out all of my mother's clothing among other items that were of sentimental value to her. On Stratford Avenue she had her own closet that was full of her things, but after her death all of it was disposed of. I harbored a great deal of anger over the callous disposal of her belongings. Many neighbors also came to gather up her things - many of these same neighbors never dropped by again.

Another thing concerned the cemetery in which my mother is buried. As you know, one of the first things I did when I acquired my driver's license in 1974 was to visit her grave frequently. My father would never go, even though I asked him to accompany me many times. His reason was that it was "disrespectful to Julia."

1/29/81

After my father got married he and Julia purchased a double bed. So once again I was angry at him for I always felt that Pearl was his one special woman and that no woman could equal her. To sleep side-by-side with a substitute was an outrage to me. (I had no objections to his marriage, however, I hoped that he wouldn't allow this woman to possess him).

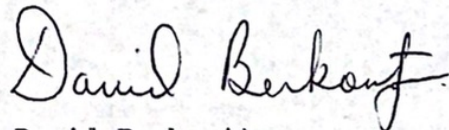
Of course, these things may seem so insignificant to you. But if you knew how much I loved my mother, then you would understand my anger or resentment. I cannot stand the thought of another woman taking my mother's place and trying to completely obliterate her spirit - a spirit that lived in the house after my mother died

My dreams during the past two weeks have been about my mother, Pearl. I dream't that I journey back in time and returned to the old neighborhood (Soundview/Stratford Avenue). Nothing changed in the Soundview section of the Bronx, and the streets were even cleaner then they were in the early 1960's.

The dreams disturbed me only because they were so real. Too, I was upset because I realized that they were only dreams - when I first awoke ~~every~~ every morning it felt as if those things really happened. This realization made me depressed.

Lastly, I hear that Daniel Schwartz is one of the doctors assigned to examine Mark David Chapman, the slayer of John Lennon.

Sincerely yours,



David Berkowitz

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DORIS JOHNSEN  
50 COURT STREET  
BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11201  
—  
MAIN 4-1084  
MAIN 4-4636

January 16, 1981

Mr. David Berkowitz  
78A - 1976  
Box 149  
Attica, New York 14011

Dear David:

I had not been aware, until your letter of January 10, about the second Mitgang article.

With respect to Dr. Abrahamsen, you may recall my having advised you many months ago that we had entered into an agreement with Abrahamsen to which Klausner was a party. It provided that Abrahamsen would contribute 25% of his royalties to the fund for the victims and that he would not publish until a year after Klausner's book was published.

Klausner's lawyer attempted to get McGraw-Hill to sign the agreement but they refused. Subsequently, by an exchange of letters, Abrahamsen's lawyer agreed that as between me and Abrahamsen, the deal was still on.

Within the last few minutes, Mr. Rubenstein has had a call from McGraw-Hill's lawyers who say that as of today (this is being dictated on 1/15/81) Heller is still pressing the appeal. Perhaps he has not yet received your letter of January 8 and maybe it crossed in the mail with something he is doing. If he continues to press it, we will ask him whether he has not received your letter of instructions.

Sincerely yours,

*Doris*

DORIS JOHNSEN

DJ:cb