

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

February 1, 1981

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Yesterday I received a letter from Doris Johnsen and she gave me an update on the book/movie situation. I have her letter before me now and I will quote it verbatim:

"I do not have any official sales figures but I am told that the first edition of the book was 25,000 copies and that it is completely shipped. A small second edition is being printed prepublication. The paperback has not been sold and the Literary Guild (book club) has selected the book as an alternate.

"I am told that Klausner has been appearing on talk shows and that the first newspaper advertising will be on February 8, one week before publication."

I myself have uncovered some information about the movie producer. As you know, his name is David Gill. The New York Times dated 1/30/81, Section C8 had an item about a special movie "Napolean." It mentioned that Gill did an award winning series for British television called "Hollywood" and he is now doing "The Unknown Charlie Chaplin." Apparently he is a well known producer and has high standards. This may mean that "Son of Sam" may do well as a movie.

The paperback rights, as Johnsen indicates, have not been sold and they probably won't be until the movie production gets underway. Right now the paperback rights are worthless because 25,000 copies shows the book to be only marginal. In fact, for McGraw-Hill to reach "black" they would have to sell all the copies plus rely heavily on subsidiary rights.

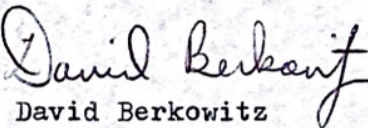
2/1/81

I didn't realize this before, but the victims won't make any money until McGraw-Hill reaches the black (begins to make a profit). The publisher has already laid out \$250,000 for an advance. However, they did sell the story to Gallery for about \$25,000 (only guessing) and to the Literary Guild for about \$50,000 (an estimation). Then they will take this \$85,000 and put it into advertising. So they're back at zero. (only a successful movie can save this book).

That the Literary Guild purchased this book is very good for McGraw-Hill. This is considered to be a plus and it could have only resulted from the book receiving some good reviews. It seems as if only one out of one-hundred books get selected by a book club.

I will keep you posted.

Sincerely yours,


David Berkowitz

cc

P.S. Please send me copies of the advertisement if you come across it. Also, any reviews of the book.

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

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

Feb. 5, 1981

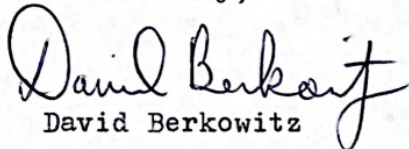
Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I see that Klausner is beginning to appear on radio talk shows. The New York Times, 2/3/81, radio section had this to say: 10:45-midnight, WMCA, Candy Jones, "Son of Sam" the Man, the Crimes, the Hype.

I have a feeling that Klausner was on this show. I would like to know if he was and if someone else appeared in order to discuss the case. Maybe he appeared with Jultak, or Schwartz, or a police official.

As I told you, February 8th begins the advertisements. Also, I wish to point out how crucial the next 45 days will be. The movie deal has not gone through yet and there is still the possibility that the two independant producers will back out - unable to get a major film company to back them - poor sales of the book or a combination of these two.

Therefore, please refrain from publicity.

Yours truly,

David Berkowitz

cc

Daily Mail

LONDON

160

(212) 986-1950

220 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

February 4, 1981

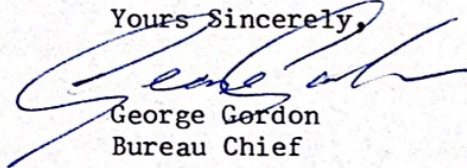
David Berkowitz
Attica Correctional Centre
Box 149,
Attica, New York, 14011

Dear Mr. Berkowitz,

As one of the leading British newspapers which covered your case, I am writing to ask your permission to visit you for the purposes of an interview and photographs. I would also like to discuss the Klausner "Son of Sam" book which was published a few months ago.

I hope you will consider the request and look forward to meeting you.

Yours Sincerely,



George Gordon
Bureau Chief

I did not reply to this.

D.B.

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

February 13, 1981

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I received your recent letter with the postage stamps enclosed - thank you.

I'm sure that you saw the full page advertisement in the Sunday Times book review section, page 5. Suprisingly, there was only one review. Perhaps the message that the publisher provided was more important.

I have no idea how the book will sell. A book recently published about the mafia ("The Last Mafioso") went immediately to the #11 spot of the best seller list. All of the reviews were poor and the book is selling only because of all the prepublication publicity that it generated.

You heard something on television about my involvement with, as you say, a "man." This isn't true. Too bad you didn't see the Friday edition of the New York Post. The large picture of this individual clearly shows a woman. There is nothing wrong with having sex with a female. The news reports said a "transsexual," not a transvestite. I believe there is a big difference.

I will keep you posted on the book.

Sincerely yours,

David Berkowitz
David Berkowitz

cc

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

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

17 March 1981

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I have your letters of 3/5, 3/9 and a handwritten letter dated 3/11. I sent you letters on 2/5 and 2/13. Please let me know if you didn't receive them; nothing important.

I am relieved to hear that the television program cancelled Klausner and Glassman's appearance. I am also pleased to hear that Glassman may sue McGraw-Hill. I would think that McGraw-Hill is sorry that it took up such a project as it is more trouble than it is worth.

I spoke with Mrs. Mills today and she said that as far as she knows Klausner's book is a flop. She also said that it seemed as if he "fell flat on his face."

According to her, not too many bookstores in the City have it in stock. Though three guards had copies of K's book and asked to have it autographed by me.

As for Doris Johnsen, I have not heard from her. However and suprisingly, two things have happened. First, the Court of Appeals has refused to dismiss my suit against the publisher and McGraw-Hill. All of the ~~opponents~~ opponents made motions to dismiss it but the Court said to submit additional briefs.

I did read the Jack the Ripper book quite awhile back. However, I have little interest in it.

Please do not quote me on this "I couldn't kill again." I'm not saying that this isn't true, you understand. But I just don't want to appear phoney. The public wouldn't believe this.

Mrs. Mills told me ~~that~~ she heard that the movie people refused to do the project - turned it down because it won't make enough money and it couldn't be presented correctly. But you may want to contact her for additional information.

Sincerely yours,

David Berkowitz

#712,713

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At a Term of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Second Judicial Department, held in Kings County on February 25, 1981.

HON. JAMES D. HOPKINS, Justice Presiding
HON. VINCENT D. DAMIANI
HON. GUY J. MANGANO
HON. FRANK D. O'CONNOR

} Associate Justices

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In the Matter of David Berkowitz,

Appellant,

for the removal and discharge of

Order

Doris Johnsen,

Conservator-Respondent;

McGraw-Hill, Inc., et al.,

Respondents.

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In the above entitled cause, the above named McGraw-Hill, Inc., respondent, having moved to dismiss the appeal (presently on the March term calendar), from an order of the Supreme Court, Kings County, dated September 23, 1980, or to extend its time to file and serve a brief; and the respondent Johnsen having cross moved to dismiss the two appeals on for the March term from orders dated September 23, 1980 and October 28, 1980, respectively;

Now, upon the papers filed in support of and in opposition to the motion and cross motion, and the motion and cross motion having been duly submitted and due deliberation having been had thereon, it is

ORDERED that the motion and cross motion are hereby denied; the respondents must serve and file their respective briefs on or before March 9, 1981.

Enter:

IRVING N. SELMAN

Clerk of Appellate Division

NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1980

APPELLATE DIVISION
SECOND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

IN RE BERKOWITZ, ap (McGraw-Hill, Inc., res) —Motion by appellant for leave to consolidate the appeal from an order of the Supreme Court, Kings County, dated Oct. 28, 1980, which denied certain relief requested by said petitioner, with an appeal (presently on the November term calendar), from an order of the same court, dated Sept. 23, 1980.

On the court's own motion, the appeal from the order dated Sept. 23, 1980 is removed from the calendar for the November term, on the grounds (1) the record on appeal is incomplete (the opposing affidavits are missing); (2) the record and appellant's brief were not served on the respondents and the affidavit of said service is lacking.

Motion, in so far as it is for a preference, denied.

Motion to consolidate the appeals is granted. The consolidated appeals are ordered on the calendar for the March, 1981 term, which begins Feb. 23, 1981.

The amended record on the appeal from the order dated Sept. 23, 1980, the record on the appeal from the order dated Oct. 28, 1980 and the appellant's brief must be served and filed on or before Jan. 16, 1981; and the respondent's brief must be served and filed on or before Jan. 30, 1981.

4/9/81

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Dear Dr. Abrahamson

I received your letter dated April 6, and I also received a lengthy letter from you - the one you typed when you returned from your trip.

I no longer have your earlier letter. It is in my property somewhere, or it was thrown out. I got into some trouble and am now confined to the "Box." On April 3 I jumped on another inmate and beat him up. Then I was also charged with assaulting several police officers - I was cleared of the latter charge - now I must do ninety days in confinement.

This isn't a problem, however, I won't be able to use a typewriter for quite some time.

I have no idea how Klausner's book is doing or if and when a movie will be made. His book is selling moderately well, I believe. If you continue to see it in stores let me know.

Dr. Abrahamson, I would like to see the review in the New Republic. If you only have one copy I will return it. I notice that the N.Y. Times has not reviewed the book as of yet. Also, I do not know how much longer it will remain on the shelves.

Within the next 100 days, or not until 100 days, I will be transferred to Clinton Prison in Dannemora, New York near Plattsburgh. I have been getting into too much trouble here at Attica. The officials say that I need a change and a new program. But I will be here for 90 days at least.

Good luck with your book and thank you for the postage stamps.

Yours Truly,
David Berkowitz

Dear Dr. Abrahamson

4/24/81

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I received two letters from you this past week, the latter dated 4/21.

It is correct that I made an agreement with concerning the photographs. I promised them to you, and I worked hard to obtain them so that you could use them for your book. Apparently, then, the message that Bernice was to give you was misconstrued. I did promise her the snapshots, but only when you've placed them into the book and have no further use for them. Please mail them to her (when you're done with them) instead of me.

As for the possible transfer (there's no guarantee that I will be transferred), it will be for the best.

I am not the least bit depressed. Nor am I unhappy with being in the Special Housing Unit, discipline section. I am doing well here and my spirits are quite high. The trouble that I got into was unavoidable. It was inevitable, however, no harm was done.

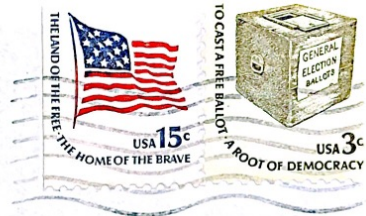
I was surprised to hear that Fran Mills thinks I should stay in Attica. Ask her then, what am I suppose to do here, sit in my cell all day? Since December of 1980 I have been without a program and thus confined to my cell. Idleness means trouble, so its been said.

I will keep alert and will continue to maintain my mature outlook.

Sincerely yours,

David Berkof

David Berkowitz H1-1
#78-A-1976
P.O. Box B
Dannemora, New York 12929



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

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Yesterday I received your letter of 7/2/81. It was sent to Attica and postmarked in Salt Lake City, Utah. Now, as you probably know, I am in Clinton Prison. There were many postage stamps enclosed - thanks.

For the last three months it was difficult to correspond. Being in the box and without a typewriter was hard. I just cannot get into letter writing when I have only a pen as a tool.

On July 2nd I was transfered to Clinton Prison which is in Dannemora, New York. I have been placed into a special program and now (within several weeks) I should be in school, working full-time, going to the gymnasium regularly and just getting fresh air in the yard.

Yes, my long solitary confinement has affected me. It was totally unjustifiable and unnecessary, and the judge agreed with me. He told the Attica officials to get me into a reasonably safe program. Hence my transfer to Clinton.

There is no need to worry about my confinement here. I have been placed into a special program that allows me access to everything that the general population is allowed. The prison is much older than Attica, but it is much better. Once people here get used to me I don't believe that I will have any trouble.

The commissary is much better and I can prepare my own foods. Attica's food made me quite ill. I lost a great deal of weight and had to be given a new clothing issue because nothing would fit me - not even my underwear.

Now, however, I can prepare my own foods. By the way, I am a partial vegetarian. I eat meat only once a week, and I eat no eggs. I now eat more vegetables and I prepare my own white and sweet potatoes as well as other vegetables.

Thus, in general I am quite pleased about being at Clinton. I only hope, however, that the administration here doesn't leave me out in a showcase atmosphere; that they allow me to get lost in the crowd for my own safety and not be left in the limelight. The latter would only serve to entice other inmates by making me look like a big target instead of just an ordinary person.

Dr. Abrahamsen

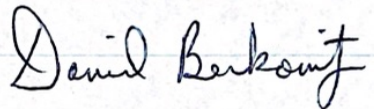
- 2 -

7/12/81

Right now I am typing on this school paper and using small envelopes. Once I settle down and get to the commissary I'll be able to purchase my regular materials.

Also, I have heard that Clinton has many problems with its outgoing mail. It dosen't leave here except on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sometimes the mail takes a week to leave the institution. Many of the inmates express a great deal of bitterness over this, and I suppose that I will have to get used to bad service. Otherwise, I am fine.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Berkowitz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name below it.

David Berkowitz

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David Berkowitz
78-A-1976
P.O. Box B
Dannemora, N.Y. 12929

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

August 30, 1981

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

I have your letter of August 17th. Yes, I have gotten used to my new place. It is better than Attica, even better than Attica when I had the porter/feed up job. I have much more mobility here. I am also able to stay in better physical condition.

Yes, I do dream. But my dreams are too complex, jumbled and distorted for me to attempt to unravel them.

The great news of late is that my father came up for a visit. He was here on August 28 and we had a tearful reunion. We recaptured the past times such as when my mother was alive. We talked of my childhood and reminisced in general. My father promised to return next year and he was very pleased to see me looking so fit and healthy. I've lost over sixty pounds in the last year and I weigh now what I did in the service more than ten years ago (basic training).

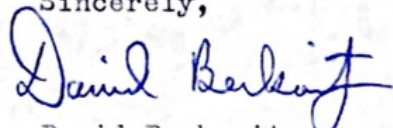
The hardest part to doing time is to master stress, control my temper and learn to live with disappointments. Some people in prison, both inmates and keepers, make me angry at times.

Dannemora is outside of Plattsburgh, New York. This is up by Canada, north of Whiteface Mountain and the Adirondack range. The nearest commercial airport is in Montreal, Canada. It is very far from Buffalo.

I still see Bernice regularly and I also correspond with Betty. Many things remain the same.

There has been no news about Klausner or his book or the movie. As you've probably heard, Bruce Lee, Klausner's editor, was fired from McGraw-Hill. The reasons (specific reasons) were never mentioned, but the incident received heavy coverage in the New York Times. Gladys Carr, however, has retained her position. The bosses are very pleased with her work.

Keep well.

Sincerely,

David Berkowitz