

Dear Mr Clarke

By James McKenzie Watson

Dear Mr Clarke,

~~This letter is~~

~~I don't~~

My name is Melisa Bennett. I don't know how seeing my name makes you feel. Once upon a time ~~I wouldn't have cared~~ would have honestly said I'd never want to know, because what you felt ~~didn't matter~~ meant nothing to me. That's not the case anymore, and I don't have the luxury of ~~being able to dismiss what you feel so easily~~ not caring.

We've only met in person once. I know I wasn't kind to you, but I'm sure you'll agree my reasons for behaving how I did were ~~justified~~ valid. The things I yelled at you ~~across the courtroom~~ were a channelling of my anger and grief ~~and hate~~. Back then, I meant what I was saying as sincerely as anything I've ever said, but now I can see how it ~~obliterated~~ damaged changes for future communication. Something I couldn't have cared less about at the time. I know it's probably that outburst that's ~~made you~~ caused you to be so unresponsive to ~~me~~ my public appeals in the last few months.

You've maintained your innocence for six years now. I ~~acknowledge~~ respect
acknowledge

~~I respect the strength and self-control~~

I respect the strength and self-control required to hold face despite having been convicted ~~beyond a reasonable doubt~~ beyond a reasonable doubt. But surely you can see that now, after so much time, an admission can't worsen your situation. I understand how it might invite anger from your ~~defenders fanatics~~ supporters, given how long they've defended you. ~~I'm scared I'm~~ scared

I'm scared that it's pride stopping you from letting me move on.

I promise you this: your admission and the information it would lead to wouldn't invite scorn from me. It would ~~make me think better of you~~ raise my estimation of you exponentially. It would demonstrate a selflessness that I'd assumed you were incapable of and I know I'm not alone in thinking this. There are thousands of people out there touched directly and indirectly by Isabel's case that would ~~respect you more afford~~ you a new and heightened respect.

~~You can't change what's happened~~ but you can ~~change~~ control what happens next.

~~I'll be frank~~

Let me be honest. I'm only talking to you like this because you have something I need ~~you you~~. I never thought I'd find myself writing to you like this. I once promised myself I'd never ~~disgrace damage~~ insult Isabel's memory by feeling anything but absolute contempt and disgust for you. ~~I promised I'd never let you redeem yourself to me by needing anything from you,~~ but I'm at your mercy.

~~Please please please I'm begging~~ Mr Clarke, I'm begging you. Please ~~please please~~ give us ~~closure~~ the closure we so desperately need. Please ~~please please please~~ take this ~~small chance~~ ~~for chance~~ for redemption, however small. Prove to me that I'm wrong, that you're not the monster I ~~think~~ thought you were. ~~Please please please~~ make a full admission and tell the police

where my daughter's body is. Let us bring her home and bury her and grieve and know she's at peace. We need to lay her to rest.

~~Please please please you monster please please why won't you just do it please please please please please~~

~~From~~

~~Thank~~

~~Yours truly,~~

~~Melisa Bennett~~

~~PS. I don't~~

~~PS.~~