A

NASTY LETTER

From: Ben and Vicky

To: Mum and Dad

23 July 2013

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Introduction

As nasty letters go, this one's a corker!

Dramatis Personae

- Ben (Benjamin) Gold (noted hereafter as "B" has lived with Vicky and her family for some time now, financially contributing thereto)
- Vicky Jones (Ben's partner noted hereafter as "V")
- Pippa Gold (1st child of B and V at this time B and V are not married; however they have a partnership understanding. Pippa's birth certificate reflects the name "Gold")
- Mr and Mrs Gold ("mum and dad", parents of Michael, Ben, and Simon noted hereafter as the "Gs")
- Mr and Mrs Jones (Vicky's parents noted hereafter as the "Js")
- Kim (Mrs Jones Vicky's mother)
- Michael Gold (Ben's older brother noted hereafter as "M")
- Simon (Simon Gold, Ben's younger brother noted hereafter as "S")

Background

The nasty letter, "From Ben and Vicky" was received by the Gs on Tuesday, 23 July 2013.

It is interesting that that from their first encounter with the Js family, the Gs felt a coolness and distance by the Js. It has been speculated that this coolness links to when B and V broke up, way back, and then got back together again. At that time, V developed a strong dislike for the Gs. Unfortunately, V knew that the Gs knew, from B and others involved, what actually transpired at that time, and it is speculated that this is where "it all started". At that time, V's issues and feelings towards the Gs were never resolved, and B implemented a defence mechanism to protect himself from any confrontation reactions. However, irrespective of the past and the causality thereof (perhaps the whole story should not be revealed), the nasty letter is real, it's with us now, and it's an issue that needs to be considered.

Trigger

It appears that a birthday card, with a monetary gift therein, from the Gs to Pippa, sent via M, was the trigger for the letter.

This is both ironic and anomalous, because, initially birthday money, rather than a gift, for Pippa was discussed with B, and it was agreed that the Gs' money would be added to M's monetary gift, and thus B would have no problems with V or her family. In a later communication with B, he suggest that the Gs put the money in a card, as this would be a good thing to do, and would help to appease V and her family. The suggestion was immediately acted upon, a card was chosen, the money enclosed, and the card was given to M for delivery.

B's text of 13 July 2013 suggesting the birthday card:

"Thank you ya it was good we went away for the week did you want to send pippa a card for her birthday or even post it through the letter box it will show them that you guys still care please the address is 105 Downland drive Crawley West Sussex RH11 8OP"

Note the words: "it will show them that you guys <u>still care</u>" [emphasis added]. B knew that the Gs "still" cared and had always done so; but because of "them", B had repeatedly asked the Gs to keep their distance. Oh yes, "them" refers to V and the Js.

In retrospect, the birthday card turned out to be a bad call, but it did reveal the strong feelings of animosity and hate that had been festering for a long time - it is wondered if the primary antagonist/author actually feels any better now (I doubt it).

Justification

From the perspective of B, V, and V's family, everything in the letter is not only true, there was also the need to express their feelings, and particularly to justify their actions and position - and as the letter opens, "not to be nasty or spiteful". However, there is no doubt it, the primary antagonist/author is a master at creating a nasty and spiteful letter.

From the letter's structure and content it suggests that B is the writer. At first there was some speculation as to this (style, expressions, and anomalies in the letter - noted in the analysis below); however, in subsequent communication between B and M (24/07/2013), B claimed that he "wrote" the letter; however, he did not write the address on the envelope (it is not B's handwriting).

Additionally, a text that "mum" received later on 23 July 2013 from B also confirmed B as the "composer":

"If you want to blame anyone blame me it was me that composed the letter and I wanted you guys to be part of my life but you never showed any interest not from day one that's why it's come to this"

Compare the above to a prior text message (23 July 2013) that B sent to "mum" on the day that the letter arrived:

"Hay mom how is everyone how's your week been i just want to let you know we didn't keep pippa's birthday card and money we have posted it back with a letter explaining why and how it has lead to this I'm sorry I know I keep telling you to do things and I keep getting it wrong I truly thought it's what they wanted please read the letter and under stand it's over a years worth of stuff that needed to be said and every time I tried I said the wrong things or didn't tell you so hopefully now this will explain exactly what has happened to get to this point"

Note the contrast between this text, the previous one (somewhat more belligerent), and the actual letter (pure nastiness and spite) - something does not seem quite right.

Consequently, the speculation now is that another person was actually the primary antagonist/author, and to mitigate the fallout, and to protect himself from confrontation, B is claiming authorship.

There is no doubt that the author means business, and there is an urgency to get their ideas and indictments down on paper. This is definitely not a "Dear mom and dad, how are you?" kind of letter.

Presentation

A formal font, Times Roman, 12 pt, left justification, has been used in the letter; however, it is speculated that this is by default rather than by choice. The pages are unnumbered. From markings on the page (especially the 2nd page) and the left hand edge of the text not being parallel to the edge of the paper, it is speculated that the letter received is a copy rather than a printed original.

The letter is written in an Estuary English style, in the vernacular of the day, by a younger adult who appears to be a less worldly-experienced individual. The spelling and grammatical errors in the letter, typical of such a writer, have been preserved.

The letter is unsigned, and its ending is as curt as its beginning - "From Ben and Vicky" (Line 82). Thus the authors are named, and all that remains is to answer the questions: "Are the indictments justified; and of the two named authors, who actually wrote what, and who was the primary antagonist/author?"

Mitigation

B does not deal well with confrontation, and consequently his main strategy is to do nothing and to play both sides of an equation/situation to protect himself (e.g. tell each side what they want to hear while keeping them apart and doing nothing). This has been very evident since the breakup/makeup incident with V, which occurred some time ago. However, in all fairness to Ben, notwithstanding his claim of authorship, it is still speculated that he did not independently "write" the letter, but he found himself in an untenable situation by his love for Vicky and Pippa and the pressure of Vicky and her family's abuse.

The Primary Antagonist/Author

From the analysis is speculated that V is the primary antagonist/author in this drama, and she was ably assisted/encouraged by other family members (mother, etc). This conclusion is

based on the anomalies and questions raised by the text; and B's claim of authorship is but a defence mechanism to protect himself from confrontation reactions internal and external to his current situation (especially V, V's mother, and V's family, etc). From his communications with the Gs, it is evident that B has been harassed, abused, and exploited by the Js.

Yes, B's situation and plight is an unenviable one; however, full responsibility for the letter's content and subsequent consequences rests solely with the author(s). And the sad thing is that Pippa is the one who has lost the most - half of her very roots - and this can never be replaced or compensated.

B loves Pippa, and he will always put Pippa first, and that is as it should be. He once said that "If it was not for Pippa I would have...", and I understand why he hasn't...

A transcription and analysis of the nasty letter follows:



The Nasty Letter (transcript)

To mum and dad

We are sending this back not to be nasty or spiteful but we feel it would be wrong and two faced to accept your money when you have had nothing to do with pippa since she was a week old. Pippa does not want or need your money, instead she would of wanted a nan and grandad, but through no one else's fault but your own you made this impossible.

From the beginning when we told you about the pregnancy you made your feelings clear. When Vicky was pregnant you made no effort to be involved, and any conversation we ever had soon ended and pippa wasn't really ever spoken about. At the baby shower you never said hello to Vicky which everybody that was there including me noticed and thought it was disgusting and rude.

We are defiantly not materialistic people but I don't understand how you thought it was ok to buy charity baby clothes that had bobbles on from being washed over and over and tumbled dried and also had stains all over was ok?? We would of rather you just made an effort to be involved in our time of happiness than buying us anything, but giving us charity is an insult. we are not that poor that we can't afford to buy our baby new clothes of her own from a proper shop. By the way we chucked them in the bin. Then when Vicky had pippa I couldn't wait for you all to meet her, but even that was an effort for you. You knew we came home on the Saturday but you never even bothered to come and meet pippa till the Sunday. I don't even think you realise how that made me feel that you couldn't even make the effort to meet your own granddaughter. My daughter. Then when you did finally come round you all walked in with your shoes and coats still on looking like you were ready to leave within 5 minutes and just stood in the middle of the room. The first time you met your granddaughter and you only stayed 30 minutes if that. If all that wasn't showing you were not bothered then your actions over the following week defiantly did. No one then showed up till the Friday nearly a whole week later again shoes and coats still on and standing in the middle of the room ready to leave and you had only just walked in the door. Vickys cousin then asked you (mum) if you wanted a cuddle as she was holding pippa at the time and you responded with "Errr no" how do you think this made me and Vicky feel you saying errr to our week old baby. Apparently you had a cold or something which I highly doubt you didn't look unwell and if you was that unwell that you couldn't hold her what was you doing coming round? If you was that unwell you shouldn't of even come round. Although that still doesn't excuse you from using the term Err how dare you!! A comment was also passed about pippa not ever having her eyes open when you came round. How could you even make this comment you had been round twice and both times maybe only added up to about 40 minutes if that, you have no right to say that. And so what, she was a week old baby with jaundice if you'd even bothered to pay attention, and that's what they do sleep. Every comment you made was just one spiteful comment after another. Then while Vicky was in hospital very ill you all decided to make more spiteful comments around a dinner table which by the way we know what was said as one of kims friends was sitting at a table by you. How dare you say that Vicky wasn't as ill as we were all making her out to be! And then Simon saying that he doesn't think Vicky's family like you. I would like to know how you even got that impression as they have been nothing but nice to you. You must realise how spiteful you have been to even consider that. The thought guilty conscience comes to mind. And also saying that we could bring pippa round to you was a disgusting comment. Vicky had just had a baby and was sore, pippa was a newborn baby and you expected us to come to you? Im not sure how you could even consider this. I didn't want this letter to sound rude im simply just telling you everything that has happened as no one is at blame but yourselfs but you must of noticed walking into vickys

home how they live compared to your home. I would not bring my newborn baby into a home like yours. It would defiantly not be sanitary for a baby. Take that comment how you like. And apart from a disgusting house (It would take too long to list everything to explain exactly what is disgusting) but nowhere did I read that it was our job as parents to force you to spend time with her by bringing her to you. As the grandparents you have to make the effort. I don't understand how you expected me to take pippa and Vicky to your house when she had only just been born. What would even have happened? we bring her to you so you can look at her for 5 minutes then carry on having rubbish conversations and forget she was there.

I decided that enough was enough and that is why I made the decision to separate myself and my new family from you. Pippa doesn't need family that does nothing but makes no effort and when they do can't even make a nice comment. She needs to grow up in a loving environment and know that she is wanted and loved by everyone around her.

Pippa is now one and there has been no effort to even make an attempt to patch things up. Not that anything can be done now too much time has passed. I believe that you think you have done no wrong which is why I decided to write you this letter, just to pinpoint some of the things that has led to this point. You can now stop blaming others for your own actions.

You made no effort to send a Christmas card so it surprised me when a birthday card came from you to pippa. Putting <u>uncle</u> Daniel on the card was just a further insult we don't even know who he is and he has nothing to do with her. Just because he is Cathy's partner does not give him a automatic right to use the term uncle. Especially when we don't know him. Infact all titles granddad, nan, aunt, uncle have to be earnt by putting in effort, time and love. Just because you are these things by blood does not make a child like or love you. You have to earn a child's love and I realised a long time ago that even if I didn't pull away I don't think you would of still made the effort to be a proper family to pippa and she proberly still wouldn't know you just as well as she doesn't now. I don't even know how you can write on the card that you love her and say that she is a special girl because you don't even know her or know what she is like, they are just empty words.

In that first week there was nothing stopping any of you just popping in when you wanted. Mum you could have come round on your own to spend time with pippa. We did our best in letting you all know you were welcome whenever. We did all we could it's just a shame that you didn't want to be involved in my family and my happiness.

From Ben and Vicky

The Nasty Letter (with line numbers)

In the following text of the nasty letter, pagination has been ignored and line numbers have been prefixed to facilitate easier referencing.

To mum and dad

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pippa round to you was a disgusting comment. Vicky had just had a baby and was sore, pippa was a newborn baby and you expected us to come to you? Im not sure how you could even consider this. I didn't want this letter to sound rude im simply just telling you everything that has happened as no one is at blame but yourselfs but you must of noticed walking into vickys home how they live compared to your home. I would not bring my newborn baby into a home like yours. It would defiantly not be sanitary for a baby. Take that comment how you like. And apart from a disgusting house (It would take too long to list everything to explain exactly what is disgusting) but nowhere did I read that it was our job as parents to force you to spend time with her by bringing her to you. As the grandparents you have to make the effort. I don't understand how you expected me to take pippa and Vicky to your house when she had only just been born. What would even have happened? we bring her to you so you can look at her for 5 minutes then carry on having rubbish conversations and forget she was there.

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From Ben and Vicky

Analysis

On first perusal of the letter everything seems very straight forward, and the various charges made appear to be completely justified - the Gs are just an unsanitary, disgusting, uncaring, lying, spiteful, insulting, and ill-mannered family. However, on closer inspection, there are some interesting anomalies and questions that arise, and possibly some errors - so, it is worth examining the letter a little more closely.

Important Revelation

As the letter's text is analysed it is important to be aware that B has been in regular (right up to the week prior to the letter), though covert, communication with the Gs - specifically with "mum". In those communications, B was friendly, open, and the Gs were kept abreast of B's situation and wishes. Consequently, the arrival of the letter was unexpected and a complete surprise. It is therefore speculated that V and her family were unaware of this regular communication and what was actually said. Therefore, this "ignorance" is reflected in the anomalies in the letter, and hence the question: "Of the two named authors, who actually wrote what, and who was the primary antagonist/author?" Why? Because I don't like assassins who deceitfully hide behind another person - such people should be exposed for what they are, and named and shamed.



The Text

Line 1 - "mum". There is an interesting anomaly here - B always addresses his mother as "mom" and not as "mum". Additionally his use of "mom" is confirmed in the text from B that arrived on the same day as that of the letter: "Hay mom how is everyone how's your week been..." This immediately casts doubt regarding B as the primary antagonist/author.

Line 1 - "To mum and dad" - A curt and cold beginning with no "Dear" or other more personal approach. There is no warmth here, and no indication of family ties. Additionally, there is no formal layout of the letter. Consequently, there is an immediate feeling of animosity which has precluded any of the usual introductory salutations and courtesies.

The letter's style is indicative of a younger adult who is a less schooled correspondent. The anomaly here is that if B was the author he would have typically opened with, "Dear". "Hay"[sic], "Hey", or "Hi", as was his style when covertly texting his mother.

Additionally, it is interesting that in one week, B's attitude had changed from his normal friendly self to one of nasty, hurtful, belligerence. During the previous week's covert communication with B, he gave no indication of the forthcoming bombshell. Consequently, the speculation is that B is not the primary antagonist/author; however, he did endorse the letter (perhaps was even compelled or harassed to endorse it).

Line 3 - "We...". Who are "We", who are the authors of the nasty letter? "From Ben and Vicky" (Line 82).

Line 3 - "We are sending this back..." In their hurry to get on with the attack, the author has not enumerated what was "sent back". In fact, it was Pippa's birthday card and her birthday money, which was "sent back" along with the nasty letter.

The letter has commenced with a confrontary opening, and this sets the tone for what is to follow - pure nastiness.

Line 3 - "not to be nasty or spiteful". In spite of the claim that the letter is "not to be nasty or spiteful", it is carefully crafted to be both "nasty" and "spiteful"; and as the letter is read it becomes very apparent that we are dealing with an author experienced in expressing nastiness, and enjoying it too!

However, there is an anomaly in Line 3, which repeats throughout the letter - the incredible confrontary vehemence and spite, which is continually expressed, is at complete variance with B's passive and non-confrontary character.

It is an interesting aside that the Gs cannot recall a time when B ever used a direct confrontational or spiteful approach - physical or written. Consequently, it is strongly speculated that, right from the start of the letter, B is not the primary author/antagonist; and, consequently, B's claim of authorship is speculated to be a defence mechanism to ward off any direct confrontation with anyone - don't forget that B knows the Gs and M intimately, after all they are his parents and his elder brother, and he knows how they would respond in any given situation. Addition

- Line 3-5 accepting of money. At Christmas 2012, B was pleased to accept both money and a doll (new from M&S) from the Gs. Some of the money and the doll was for Pippa; and the balance of the money was for B & V and to help B to get his car repaired all of the Gs' family had willingly contributed. Why was that money accepted? Did the doll get binned? Did all the other gifts given by the Gs during and after the pregnancy get binned? The anomaly here is that, before Christmas, B requested that the Gs not send/give any Christmas cards or gifts to the Js as this would cause problems for him. Additionally, any gifts from the Gs would not be accepted by V and the Js anyway. Consequently, the Gs met B as his work (Matalan), prior to Christmas, and give him the money and the doll.
- **Line 5** "Pippa does not want or need your money". This is an interesting and particularly nasty barb, especially when, in Line 65, the Gs are censured for not sending a Christmas Card. The letter is indeed designed to cause maximum hurt, and it has been written by an expert. See Line 3-5 and Line 65 for insights into the Christmas anomaly.
- **Line 5** the word "nan". This is an anomaly the word "nan" is not a word or term that is used in the Gs' family vocabulary. The actual terms used by Gs are "grandma" and "grandpa/granddad. Why/how did B come to use this term? Does V use this term? Is it a Js term? Again, "nan" is used in Line 69. Consequently it is speculated that B is not the primary author/antagonist.
- **Line 6** Gs have only themselves to blame. This is an interesting anomaly, because from the time of the breakup/makeup of B and V, B has been in regular (typically weekly with "mum"; sometimes the Gs & M visited B at Matalan) covert, communication with the Gs. During that time, up to and including Pippa's birthday, B has continually asked that the Gs to keep their distance as V and the Js give B a hard time, and are very harassing, when the Gs

are mentioned. Consequently the Gs have explicitly followed B's requests and wishes. Additionally, there has been communication between B and M, with feedback being given to Gs.

Line 7 to 9 - The pregnancy. The anomaly here is that when B told the Gs that he and V they were trying for a baby, he asked the Gs to keep this confidential, which they did. The purpose given, at that time, for trying for a baby was to enable B & V to get benefits and a council home. Following V's conception, a gathering was held at the Gs' home (the guest list was provided by B) where B &V made their announcement. Gifts were given to B & V from the Gs.

A little while later, B told the Gs that V was not happy with them and the Js were giving him a very hard time; consequently, would the Gs please "keep their distance". This was done; however, covert contact was maintained with B throughout the pregnancy, and all of B's requests were explicitly honoured and carried out.

Additionally the Gs are unsure exactly what "feelings", mentioned in Line 7, were made "clear".

Line 9 to 11 - The baby shower. This was an awful experience for the Gs. Because of her dislike of the Gs, V avoided them all evening, and the Gs sat in the far corner of a very cold tent, keeping a low profile as requested by B so he would not suffer the wrath of Js. Actually, the Gs didn't want to go to the baby shower because of the negative experience they had at B & V's engagement party at the Js' home. But B felt it would be a good idea and would help to appease the Js.

The Js are very much into the celeb culture, which is alien to the Gs; and again the baby shower was like the earlier engagement party where V completely shunned the Gs. As commented by one who was there, it was like being with a whole tribe of Brit Bayou Folk or hillbillies. They only spoke about themselves, their holiday exploits, and other rather course things. Additionally, they got increasingly vocally boisterous and animated with their intake of alcohol. However, the Gs were appropriately polite at both events, and wished B & V well. Later, B reported that the Js thought the Gs were snobs and their dislike has increased. Consequently the G's were to maintain a distance.

Line 11 - "disgusting and rude" - this is an interesting choice of words, and a construction that is out of character with B. However, it is in the vernacular of an angry younger adult; and again the speculation is that V wrote this. (It is interesting that the word "disgusting", not one of B's expressions, is used four times in the letter - Line 11, 45, 51, and 52.)

Line 12 to 56 - Feverish outpouring of vindictive hate. The letter now picks up tempo and there is an unbroken feverish tirade for 45 lines. One indictment follows another, charge is heaped upon charge, the author's blood is up, and all the festering rage is directed into the hurtful expressions. The anger and hate is flowing so fast now that there is no time to structure thoughts into paragraphs. However, the author does have knowledge of paragraphing as two have preceded this point - but now blood has been tasted.

Line 12 - materialism. There is an anomaly here, that during the Gs' covert communication with B, he never once alluded to materialism. Why then is it mentioned now in such a defensive tone, as though some imputation had been received, that the Js were not so well

off? In the past the Js had been on benefits and had received regular rent from B (£500/month), which they did not declare - could this be the nerve that was touched? Again, the speculation is that B is not the primary author/antagonist.

Line 12 to 17 - Clothes gift. Goodness, the charity shop items certainly caused a major problem - over 5 lines of tirade, including a double question mark on Line 14, and the word "insult" on Line 16 - in fact, from the tirade, this appears to be a serious insult.

However, this is another anomaly - B is well aware of the Gs charity shop moochings and the interesting items that they find - including what the Gs think as pretty or unusual (they simply thought the items were pretty). Additionally, it is strange that B would have interpreted the gift as an act of "charity" as this is not something that is overt in the Gs' home. Again, the speculation is that B is not the primary author/antagonist.

As a point of interest, a second insult occurs when the title "uncle" was used in Pippa's card (Line 66) - this was another 5 line tirade (Line 66 to 70).

Line 17 - "By the way we chucked them in the bin" - A well-aimed and hurtful final thrust. The anomaly here is that B does not have a vindictive aspect to his character; consequently it is speculated that B is not the primary author/antagonist.

Line 17 to 24 - 1st Pippa visit. The Gs were really excited about their 1st visit to see Pippa, and communication was held with B to discuss the best strategy for the visit. B and the Gs came to the conclusion that Sunday would be the best time, which would give time for V to settle in, and for the Js to have the first home-bonding with Pippa on the Saturday. On arrival, at the appointed time, the Gs were totally ignored by V, and had to stand around as there was nowhere to sit. V did not even open the special gifts that the Gs had brought for Pippa (everything new). The Gs didn't see much of B either; he was running round like some sort of skivvy. V's mother was very clearly in charge, was holding forth about her medical knowledge, and there was really no time for guests. It was a most uncomfortable situation. Consequently, the Gs saw Pippa for a little while and then made a strategic withdrawal. It was a very demeaning experience, and very obvious that V did not like the Gs. Later, when discussing the experience with B, he indicated that this was a normal response to those not in the Js' clan.

Line 22 - "shoes and coats still on looking like you were ready to leave within 5 minutes". The reception, especially by V, was so uncomfortable that the Gs were happy to make a strategic withdrawal. The "30 minutes" (Line 24) seemed a lot longer.

Line 24 to 38 - 2nd Pippa visit. On B's invitation, a second visit was made; however, it was another embarrassing and demeaning experience for the Gs. Again they were received very coldly, especially by V, and again they felt that they were intruding where they were not wanted. This time, on discussing what happened with B, he agreed that the Gs should pull right back until B & V get their own place, and be away from the negative influence and harassment of the Js. This was fully complied with by the Gs. However, regular covert communication was maintained with B, and Pippa's progress was followed.

Line 29, 33 - "Errr". Using the term "errr..." caused incredible offence, and resulted in the incredible censure: "...that still doesn't excuse you from using the term Err how dare you!!" Note the double exclamation marks - really nasty - there is hate and loathing here. Again,

there is an anomaly here - B has never, would never, address his mother in this way. Additionally, B's inability to confront anything makes it very difficult to accept him as the author here. However, it is speculated that V would have very little difficulty expressing her dislike for the Gs.

- **Line 30** the "cold or something". "Mum" did have a sore throat that Friday and was reluctant to go; however, to please B she went. However, because of her throat "mum" had minimal contact with Pippa.
- **Line 30** "I highly doubt" Basically "mum" is being called a liar regarding her "cold or something" and being under the weather. This is a serious anomaly B has never, would never, address his mother in this way. Additionally, B's inability to confront anything makes it difficult to accept him as the author here. However, it is speculated that V would have very little difficulty expressing her ire.
- Line 32 "If you was that unwell you shouldn't of even come round". One minute the Gs are censured for not coming round, the next minute they are criticized for coming round. Did it really matter? When they visited, they were just ignored anyway. No matter what they did, the Gs just couldn't get it right; and no matter what B did, he couldn't get it right either (he is constantly harassed by the Js) no wonder then that B told the Gs to keep a distance.
- Line 32 "...how dare you!!" What a nasty censure again this is completely against B's character, and again it is speculated that the primary antagonist/author is V. Also see comment for Line 29.
- **Line 33-37** Pippa's jaundice There's an interesting reaction here (5 line tirade) to an innocent observation about Pippa. This is definitely not B's style; and consequently it is speculated that this is penned by V, the primary antagonist Additionally, having had 6 children, all with jaundice, the Gs don't need to "pay attention".
- **Line 37-38** Spiteful comments. "Every comment you made was just one spiteful comment after another." (Line 23-38) This is an interesting comment; because, in the covert communications with B, he never alluded to such comments. Additionally, it is interesting how this letter contains only "one spiteful comment after another." Someone here is indeed projecting some very nasty, spiteful, and vengeful energy.
- Line 38-44 V's "serious illness". To this date (23/07/2013), Regarding V's serious illness, the Gs have yet to be told by B or Js what the "serious illness was". On the day of the illness, the Gs heard about it, not from B or the Js, but from M, and they immediately contacted B. He said that there had been a problem (he didn't say what), but everything was under control. Consequently, daily) was maintained with B until V's return home. Consequently, there was speculation regarding V and her condition. Llater, M gave a vague and disjointed report (the source was not specified); but, as yet, the Gs still do not know what happened B has never discussed the issue, and the Gs have never pressed him.

As an aside, on their 1st visit to Pippa's home coming, the Gs was noted that V was excessively bloated.

Line 39-40 - "more spiteful comments around a dinner table". See comments for Line 38-44. Warning - do not fall foul of the Js, their ears are everywhere, and everything you say will be used against you, and I mean EVERYTHING!

The dinner when the Gs were spied upon by "one of kims[sic] friends" (Line 40) is believed to have been held at the Toby Carvery, and was attended by the Gs and family, and by M and his partner.

- **Line 41-42** "Simon saying that he doesn't think Vicky's family like you." S's comment that the Js disliked the Gs is accurate and is fully endorsed and confirmed by the Gs S is very perceptive.
- **Line 43** V defends her family. "I would like to know how you even got that impression as they have been nothing but nice to you." No V, neither you nor they have been "nice" to the Gs. And this letter proves it!
- **Line 44** "The thought guilty conscience comes to mind". For the primary antagonist/author perhaps; but not for anyone else. The interesting thing here is that B knows the truth, but it is doubtful he would ever impart it to V and the Js. If he did, they would destroy him, and take great delight in the process.
- Line 44-45 "saying that we could bring pippa round to you was a disgusting comment". This is a strange anomaly as B had already suggested that the Gs should not suggest that Pippa visit the Gs as this would not be well received by V or the Js. Accordingly, the Gs never made such a suggestion. So, why would this be mentioned by B? It wasn't mentioned by B, again it is speculated that this is written by V notice the word "disgusting" this is not one of B's expressions. (It is interesting that the word "disgusting", not one of B's expressions, is used four times in the letter Line 11, 45, 51, and 52.)
- **Line 47** "I didn't want this letter to sound rude". Oh yes you did, and you wanted it to hurt too and the way the letter is written proves it! The word "rude" is a gross understatement in describing how the letter sounds "offensive", "obnoxious", "vicious", and "malicious" would be betters words to describe how the letter sounds. The primary antagonist/author is indeed a master of confrontation, spite, and invective hence the speculation that B is not the principle composer.
- **Line 48-52** Comparison of V and B's homes Only V would have made the comparison between her and B's home in this 5 line spiteful and unbelievably nasty tirade. Only V had seen B's home; and the comment "...you must of noticed walking into vickys[sic] home how they live compared to your home. I would not bring my newborn baby into a home like yours." is V, and not B talking. Note the term "my newborn" B would never have used this construction (neither would any other man). It was a woman talking it was a "new mother" talking ergo, it was V talking.
- **Line 49-52** "disgusting house". Now here's an interesting anomaly the Gs live in a "flat", and the Js live in a "house". Why would B call the home he lived in for many years a "house"? His expected reference would always be "flat" or "home". However, V does live in a "house". (It is interesting that the word "disgusting", not one of B's expressions, is used four times in the letter Line 11, 45, 51, and 52.)

Lines 49 to 52 - Here we find some really horrible and vindictive comments, reflecting the author's character, which are designed to inflict maximum hurt - this is the outpouring of a very angry, frustrated, spiteful, immature person. Additionally, the "disgusting house" is a precedent - this is the first time that the Gs' home has been called "disgusting" or "unsanitary" by anyone. Someone here really hates the Gs! It's good that the letter was "not to be nasty or spiteful"! (Line 3) Additionally, B has never referred to his old home in this way, and he never would. However, it is speculated that V would. (It is interesting that the word "disgusting", not one of B's expressions, is used four times in the letter - Line 11, 45, 51, and 52)

Line 50 - The barb. Referring to the "disgusting" house and how it "would defiantly not be sanitary for a baby" comments in the sentence, these are very effective and devastating barbs, and they dramatically confirm the author's hatred of the Gs- "Take that comment how you like." Another confrontational barb; however, the anomaly here is B's inability to directly confront issues (especially emotional issues), and which precludes him from such a direct attack (especially against his own family). However, it is speculated that V and her family would have no such qualms.

Line 51-52 - "It would take too long to list everything to explain exactly what is disgusting". My goodness, this comment is so horrible, so nasty, and so vindictive, that it can only reflect the horrible, nasty, and vindictive author who wrote it. B? No...

Line 49 - "vickys[sic] home how they live compared to your home". V's home may not be disgusting and unsanitary, like the Gs' home; however, the Gs wouldn't like to visit there again, and by his own testimony, B would prefer not to live there too (even after all they have done for him).

Line 53-54 - "I don't understand how you expected me to take pippa and Vicky to your house". This is an interesting anomaly, because, knowing the animosity of V and her family towards them, the Gs have never, ever, suggested such a visit - B was well aware of this. Consequently, it is again it is speculated that V is the primary antagonist/author.

Line 55-56 - "rubbish conversations". Now, this is a strange one - what are the rubbish conversations which are alluded to? The experience of the Gs with the Js is that the Js love to talk about themselves, their clan members, and their exploits. Additionally, V and her family love to criticize others - the Gs remember that from their few visits. Consequently, it is speculated, by the Gs, that any conversations that fall outside of that remit are classified as "rubbish".

Additional testimony has emerged, from M, which seems to link the "rubbish conversations" comment to a visit, a long time ago, that B and V made to the Gs to let them view V's foetal scan (this had been made into a presentation by V's father). After the presentation, appropriate congratulations, pleasure, and small talk ensued; and then, as is the case, other divergent conversations developed. However, it appears that because the scan topic was not protracted, the Gs and the others present were seriously criticized for their "lack of interest".

Line 57 - The decision to separate. The Gs didn't see this one coming. Even up to the previous week's covert communication with B, everything was as it usually was. B had even sent the Gs some photos of Pippa at her party - they were great. This was a first and the Gs

thought that things may be easing up! As B often explained, V and the Js would not let him send any photos of Pippa to the Gs.

However, it was obvious in B's accompanying text that he was very nervous about defying V and the Js with sending the photos.

- **Line 57** "I made the decision to separate". Who made the decision? Not "we", but "I". There was no indication of a build-up to this crucial point in the covert communications with B; however, in B's relationship there was always one person who controlled everything, directed, created policy, and made the decisions V. So why would it be different here? Why would there be a departure from the established chain of command? The answer is: theret wasn't B's back was up against the wall and he had no choice.
- **Line 61** No effort to patch things up. Again an anomaly B had continually requested that no contact be made as this would cause problems for him with V and her family. Consequently, it is again speculated that B is not the author, and V is.
- **Line 62** "you think that you have done no wrong". Vicky, we have done nothing other than to follow B's wishes implicitly. All the spite and nastiness is coming from your side of the equation.
- **Line 63** "I decided to write you this letter". From all the anomalies and indications in the letter, the "I" is speculated to be Vicky who is the primary antagonist/author of the nastiness.
- **Line 64** "just to pinpoint some of the things". Oh my goodness, just "SOME OF THE THINGS"! What else is there? How much blood does the author want? Whoever the primary antagonist/author is, they really hate the Gs with a vindictive, limitless, and unrelenting sadistic hate.
- **Line 64** "You can now stop blaming others for your own actions". The anomaly here is that the Gs have never "blamed" anyone in this drama. However, they may have identified the antagonists, and revealed lies and anomalies, in this drama. In any case, to try to minimise the harassment and nastiness of the Js towards B (which has been there since before he moved in with them), the Gs have followed every request, by B, to keep their distance and to not "get involved".
- Line 65 Christmas card. The Christmas card reference is very anomalous. There was several covert communications between B and Gs in the weeks leading up to Christmas, and B requested that no Christmas cards be sent as this would cause him problems with V and her family. In fact, he confirmed that V and her family would not receive any gifts from the Gs. However, B was very happy to accept money and a small gift for Pippa (a doll). He would "sneak" the gift through by saying it was from someone else. Extra money had also been contributed by the members of the Gs' family (including M) to help towards B's car repairs. The Gs and M met with B at his work (Matalan), before Christmas, and the money and doll was given to him there.
- **Line 66** "<u>uncle</u> Daniel". My goodness did "Uncle Daniel" cause a reaction! The Js' family/clan is a very closed organisation and the Gs got the impression that any outsiders are seen as a threat. Especially if an outsider detracts from the clan's group-norm consensus. At the engagement party and the baby shower it was evident that the clan's ego integrity was

maintained by everyone conforming to the established group norms. This required conformity is reflected in the "title" tirade (Line 69-70) where everything has to be "earned", and there is no "automatic right"! According to his own testimony, even B is not well received by Js; however, for V's sake he is "tolerated".

Line 66 - "another insult". Any assumed family title was another "insult" - "Infact[sic] all titles granddad, nan, aunt, uncle have to be earnt[sic]..." Again we see the "nan" anomaly - the word "nan" is not a word or term that is used in the Gs' family vocabulary. The actual terms used by Gs are "grandma" and "grandpa/granddad. Why/how did B come to use this term? Is this a Js term? V uses this term Again, "nan" is used in **Line 5**. Note: The previous insult was the "charity" indictment (**Line 15-16**).

Line 66-67 - "we don't even know who he is". The strange thing here is that in the next sentence "he" is identified: "Just because he is Cathy's partner..." Ergo they knew who he was!

Line 77-78 - welcome? In every contact with V and the Js, the Gs felt they were intruding and imposing. Additionally, in the covert communications, B constantly requested that the Gs keep their distance to minimise the "hard time" that the Js gave him, and to avoid the constant criticism of the Gs by V and the Js.

Line 78-79 - Final Blow - The final sentence is the coup de grace: "We did all we could it's just a shame that you didn't want to be involved in my family and my happiness." The anomaly here is that B was aware that the Gs wanted to be involved with him and Pippa. This was alluded to in the covert communications and when the Gs met him at his work (Matalan). This was also confirmed to B by M in their communications.

Line 79 - "it's just a shame that you didn't want to be involved in my family". One thing is for certain - the Gs don't want to be involved with "your family" now. However, Ben is a different matter...

Conclusion

Was B the primary author/antagonist? I believe that the anomalies and questions raised in the letter create a reasonable doubt that B was, in fact, the primary author/antagonist; however, he will swear that he is such, and this he will do for reasons that are good and acceptable to him. I understand those reasons, and I understand why and how the letter came to be written and who the primary author/antagonist is; however I cannot condone what was written, the tone of the writing, and the hatred of the actual author towards the Gs. But why? In the letter writer's own words, The thought: "guilty conscience", comes to mind. (Line 44)

So, after all the analysis and consideration, who is speculated as the primary antagonist and author? Vicky Jones, ably assisted by her mother.

Afterword

As an overall critique, I can say without exception, that this is the most horrible, nasty, and spiteful letter that I have ever encountered; and it beggars belief that it could actually be a son's letter to his parents. The presentation of hatred, hurtfulness, vengefulness, and

confrontary vehemence was certainly that of one with experience and enjoyment in such things.



Basic Grammatical and Spelling Errors

In the following text of the nasty letter, the basic errors have been highlighted.

To mum and dad

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We are sending this back not to be nasty or spiteful but we feel it would be wrong and two faced to accept your money when you have had nothing to do with pippa since she was a week old. Pippa does not want or need your money, instead she would of wanted a nan and grandad, but through no one else's fault but your own you made this impossible.

From the beginning when we told you about the pregnancy you made your feelings clear. When Vicky was pregnant you made no effort to be involved, and any conversation we ever had soon ended and pippa wasn't really ever spoken about. At the baby shower you never said hello to Vicky which everybody that was there including me noticed and thought it was disgusting and rude.

We are defiantly not materialistic people but I don't understand how you thought it was ok to buy charity baby clothes that had bobbles on from being washed over and over and tumbled dried and also had stains all over was ok? We would of rather you just made an effort to be involved in our time of happiness than buying us anything, but giving us charity is an insult. we are not that poor that we can't afford to buy our baby new clothes of her own from a proper shop. By the way we chucked them in the bin. Then when Vicky had pippa I couldn't wait for you all to meet her, but even that was an effort for you. You knew we came home on the Saturday but you never even bothered to come and meet pippa till the Sunday. I don't even think you realise how that made me feel that you couldn't even make the effort to meet your own granddaughter. My daughter. Then when you did finally come round you all walked in with your shoes and coats still on looking like you were ready to leave within 5 minutes and just stood in the middle of the room. The first time you met your granddaughter and you only stayed 30 minutes if that. If all that wasn't showing you were not bothered then your actions over the following week defiantly did. No one then showed up till the Friday nearly a whole week later again shoes and coats still on and standing in the middle of the room ready to leave and you had only just walked in the door. Vickys cousin then asked you (mum) if you wanted a cuddle as she was holding pippa at the time and you responded with "Errr no" how do you think this made me and Vicky feel you saying errr to our week old baby. Apparently you had a cold or something which I highly doubt you didn't look unwell and if you was that unwell that you couldn't hold her what was you doing coming round? If you was that unwell you shouldn't of even come round. Although that still doesn't excuse you from using the term Err how dare you!! A comment was also passed about pippa not ever having her eyes open when you came round. How could you even make this comment you had been round twice and both times maybe only added up to about 40 minutes if that, you have no right to say that. And so what, she was a week old baby with jaundice if you'd even bothered to pay attention, and that's what they do sleep. Every comment you made was just one spiteful comment after another. Then while Vicky was in hospital very ill you all decided to make more spiteful comments around a dinner table which by the way we know what was said as one of kims friends was sitting at a table by you. How dare you say that Vicky wasn't as ill as we were all making her out to be! And then Simon saying that he doesn't think Vicky's family like you. I would like to know how you even got that impression as they have been nothing but nice to you. You must realise how spiteful you have been to even consider that. The thought guilty conscience comes to mind. And also saying that we could bring pippa round to you was a disgusting comment. Vicky had just had a baby and was sore, pippa

was a newborn baby and you expected us to come to you? Im not sure how you could even consider this. I didn't want this letter to sound rude im simply just telling you everything that has happened as no one is at blame but yourselfs but you must of noticed walking into vickys home how they live compared to your home. I would not bring my newborn baby into a home like yours. It would defiantly not be sanitary for a baby. Take that comment how you like. And apart from a disgusting house (It would take too long to list everything to explain exactly what is disgusting) but nowhere did I read that it was our job as parents to force you to spend time with her by bringing her to you. As the grandparents you have to make the effort. I don't understand how you expected me to take pippa and Vicky to your house when she had only just been born. What would even have happened? we bring her to you so you can look at her for 5 minutes then carry on having rubbish conversations and forget she was there.

I decided that enough was enough and that is why I made the decision to separate myself and my new family from you. Pippa doesn't need family that does nothing but makes no effort and when they do can't even make a nice comment. She needs to grow up in a loving environment and know that she is wanted and loved by everyone around her.

Pippa is now one and there has been no effort to even make an attempt to patch things up. Not that anything can be done now too much time has passed. I believe that you think you have done no wrong which is why I decided to write you this letter, just to pinpoint some of the things that has led to this point. You can now stop blaming others for your own actions.

You made no effort to send a Christmas card so it surprised me when a birthday card came from you to pippa. Putting <u>uncle</u> Daniel on the card was just a further insult we don't even know who he is and he has nothing to do with her. Just because he is Cathy's partner does not give him a automatic right to use the term uncle. Especially when we don't know him. Infact all titles granddad, nan, aunt, uncle have to be <u>earnt</u> by putting in effort, time and love. Just because you are these things by blood does not make a child like or love you. You have to earn a child's love and I realised a long time ago that even if I didn't pull away I don't think you would of still made the effort to be a proper family to pippa and she proberly still wouldn't know you just as well as she doesn't now. I don't even know how you can write on the card that you love her and say that she is a special girl because you don't even know her or know what she is like, they are just empty words.

In that first week there was nothing stopping any of you just popping in when you wanted. Mum you could have come round on your own to spend time with pippa. We did our best in letting you all know you were welcome whenever. We did all we could it's just a shame that you didn't want to be involved in my family and my happiness.

From Ben and Vicky

Basic Indictments

In the following text of the nasty letter, the various major indictments (highlighted) and their duration/lines (alternating background) are indicated.

To mum and dad

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pippa round to you was a disgusting comment. Vicky had just had a baby and was sore, pippa was a newborn baby and you expected us to come to you? Im not sure how you could even consider this. I didn't want this letter to sound rude im simply just telling you everything that has happened as no one is at blame but yourselfs but you must of noticed walking into vickys home how they live compared to your home. I would not bring my newborn baby into a home like yours. It would defiantly not be sanitary for a baby. Take that comment how you like. And apart from a disgusting house (It would take too long to list everything to explain exactly what is disgusting) but nowhere did I read that it was our job as parents to force you to spend time with her by bringing her to you. As the grandparents you have to make the effort. I don't understand how you expected me to take pippa and Vicky to your house when she had only just been born. What would even have happened? we bring her to you so you can look at her for 5 minutes then carry on having rubbish conversations and forget she was there.

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From Ben and Vicky

Appendix

Texts from Ben

The following are relevant text messages from Ben to his mother:

13/07/2013

Thank you ya it was good we went away for the week did you want to send pippa a card for her birthday or even post it through the letter box it will show them that you guys still care please the address is 105 Downland drive Crawley West Sussex RH11 8QP

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23/07/2013

Hay mom how is everyone how's your week been i just want to let you know we didn't keep pippa's birthday card and money we have posted it back with a letter explaining why and how it has lead to this I'm sorry I know I keep telling you to do things and I keep getting it wrong I truly thought it's what they wanted please read the letter and under stand it's over a years worth of stuff that needed to be said and every time I tried I said the wrong things or didn't tell you so hopefully now this will explain exactly what has happened to get to this point

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23/07/2013

If you want to blame anyone blame me it was me that composed the letter and I wanted you guys to be part of my life but you never showed any interest not from day one that's why it's come to this

End

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