


WILLIAM THOMAS ROSS

SWORN BEFORE ME THIS 20th DAY

OF JUNE 1994



A Commissioner, atss

(519) 449-5203

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I, John Garnet Ross, of Burford, Ont. am the father of Bill Ross. I am acquainted with his wife, Catherine Lois Eleanore Ross. This statement was prepared by Bill Ross based on interviews with me. I worked together on this statement with Bill until I felt my views were accurately reflected.

Catherine was not liked by our entire family due to her contemptuous treatment of Bill, which started right after they were married. We tried extremely hard not to show Catherine this and accept her into our family. She made it very difficult for us by not communicating in an open manner or being a real person. We thought Catherine was an opportunist, come to take advantage of Bill. This view was reinforced by Bill's complaints to me that Catherine would not manage money and that the only thing that seemed to make her happy was for him to spend money on her. He must have loved her a lot, to put up with her expensive demands, abuse and character assaults for so long.

In early 1993, I spent a three day weekend visiting Bill, Catherine and the children at their home. I was very disturbed by what I saw. Each evening, Catherine began drinking rum and by 9:00 PM was intoxicated to the point of incoherency. Bill looked after the children most of the time, except when Catherine fed them. He played with them, bathed them, read them stories and put them to bed. Catherine gave them a quick goodnight kiss.

Catherine was verbally abusive and demeaning of Bill all weekend (exceptionally so at times) and I was shocked at her language. She accused Bill of not earning enough money for her, being a cheapskate and that he should earn three times what he did. I tried to point out to her that Bill earns twice as much as the average person and that their lifestyle seemed adequate to me. I don't know how Bill could remain so calm and reasonable under the circumstances. He appeared to be used to Catherine's abuse. At the time, he told me he was trying to win her over with kindness and understanding. I tried to tell him that Catherine would not treat him with such contempt and abuse if she loved him.

That weekend, Catherine and Bill had a big argument in which Catherine wanted to quit work and go to university, with Bill paying for it all. Bill replied that they could not afford it, especially with all the money that Catherine owed with nothing to show for it. Catherine said that half of Bill's pay was hers and it was unfair that Bill had an education while she did not. She became infuriated when Bill tried to go over the budget with her to prove they could not afford it. She would not listen. They ended up with Catherine sitting in the kitchen drinking rum and Bill visiting with me in the living room. I have met a few very unreasonable people in my life. Catherine is one of them. I

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Statement, Bill + Catherine

can understand her wanting an education. I don't understand why she did not get an education before she married Bill or took on the responsibilities of children and home ownership. It also seemed unfair of Catherine to demand that Bill give her achievement. It's the sort of thing a person must do for themself.

In one of Catherine's calmer moments (Bill was out with the kids somewhere), I tried to explain to Catherine that Bill had a demanding job, one which requires a lot of thought, planning and stability. I pointed out that it would be in her and the children's best interests to try to provide a stable and happy home environment so Bill could have some relaxation at home and do well at work. Catherine agreed with me in this, but was as abusive as ever when Bill and the kids got home. It appeared to me that Catherine was deliberately trying to get Bill so stressed that he would fail in his efforts to provide for his family. At another time that weekend (I'm not sure how we got on the topic), Catherine said to me "I pretend to be what men want enough to keep them happy and take what I want from them and that is how it is and should be". I was shocked. She was under the influence of alcohol at the time (as she was in all of our meaningful conversations).

My personal opinion is that Catherine is not a decent human being and is unfit to have custody or moral guidance over my two Granddaughters. She has badly used my son Bill and shamelessly admitted it to me. She gave him just enough to keep him off balance to make him believe that she loves him. From what I've seen, Bill does everything for the children except the cooking and cleaning. He can probably hire help cheaper than it costs to support Catherine with her deceit, vices, demands and lack of support.

Bill and Catherine's home is a very bad environment for the children due to Catherine's abuse of Bill, alcohol and neglect of the children's emotional and personal attention needs. I can attest to Catherine's unwillingness to compromise and unreasonableness. I cannot see how she could possibly compromise with Bill to raise the children properly in a joint custody situation. I don't think Catherine knows what it means to be a real, open person with her children or anyone else.

When I got back home, I told my wife and son Brian and his wife Cindy of my experience. I swore to myself that I would never set foot in Catherine and Bill's house again, the experience was that disturbing. How will this affect the children and their personal relationships, seeing this abuse throughout their childhood?

I am very sorry to have to put this down on paper, since I normally try to mind my own business.

May 30 - 94

Statement, Bill + Catherine

J. Garnet Ross