

WILLIAM THOMAS ROSS

SWORN BEFORE ME THIS 20th DAY
OF JUNE 1994


A Commissioner, etc.

(613) 256-2907

1

Al + Marion

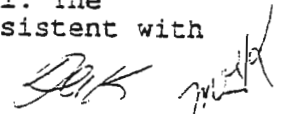
I, Allan Thomas Kidd of Almonte, Ont., am the father of Catherine Lois Eleanore Ross. Although she is not my natural child, I raised her from birth until the age of seven and treated her as my own. I still love her and think of her as my own child. This statement was prepared by Bill Ross based on interviews with me and my wife Marion G. We worked together on this statement with Bill until we felt our views were accurately reflected.

Al: This statement is only to be used as a last resort, in a situation where it appears that Catherine may otherwise be granted legal custody of her and Bill's children. It has been very difficult for me to take this action, which Catherine will see as a clear sign of betrayal. I am only willing to risk the rift my views may cause in my family in order to serve the best interests of the children. I feel very strongly that the children will be much better off with their father. Marion: I don't know for sure. I do know that no matter how much child support she manages to get from Bill, she will fritter it away on herself and the children will not see it. Alcohol may be a problem.

When we first heard of Bill, Catherine was on her way to England and had changed her mind. She had met a rich university graduate with a corvette and intended to marry him. The wedding was a most lavish and extravagant affair. At the time we thought Bill must be rich. We still think that such an expense was a waste and a bad start to a lifetime partnership. Later we found that Bill wanted something more modest. We always thought that Catherine may have married Bill for his money and status.

As a person, Bill was initially hard to get to know, but later we discovered he has a good sense of humor (which sometimes infuriated Catherine, who has none), shows common sense and is in touch with life and himself. Bill appears to think of the children before himself. Marion: Bill is a good provider, knows how to accomplish things and is not abusive. He may have worked too hard in the past.

Al: I have watched Catherine grow up into the person she is now and the forces that have shaped her. She has not changed since she was a teenager. I saw Catherine raised as a princess who could do no wrong in her mother's eyes. I saw her treated special at the expense of the other children. I saw no evidence of rules and expectations (on Catherine's mother's part) during the children's childhood. This was yet another nail in the coffin of my marriage to Catherine's mother. Catherine has adopted her mother's misguided child rearing methods. I saw her raised with the dream that she is special and was deserving of rewards without effort. We have read and initialed Bill's "Postmortem of my Marriage". We fully agree with the conclusions reached by Bill. The behavior attributed to Catherine by Bill is consistent with



the Catherine we know. Bill has hit the nail on the head with his description of Catherine.

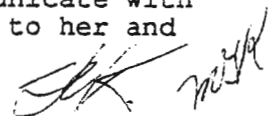
Al: The risk of Catherine passing on her bad values and preventing the development of the children into real, productive people is the root of my objection to Catherine having custody of the children. Catherine is selfish, self absorbed, uses people and has no interest in other people's lives. Catherine is also very unreasonable and immature, she is unable to see both sides of a story. She has no common sense at all. Marion: Catherine is also too unrealistic in her expectations, she demands the best for herself at the expense of others. She wishes for things but is not willing to put in any effort towards achieving her wishes. For example, she procrastinated (and still does) about getting her university education when there was no reason for her not to (government funding was freely available). She failed first year arts when she did try. Catherine is artistic and has good tastes. She seems to think she is better than other people, with no basis in reality.

In matters financial, Catherine has always spent lavishly. We always thought Bill had lots of money and Catherine was spending it as fast as she could. We wondered why Bill and Catherine did not seem to be getting ahead, since their combined income is great. They should have been living in a mansion by now. Al: Catherine has always had a cash flow problem and was always broke, despite usually having a job. Whenever she got into trouble, she went home to her mother and did not take the trouble to learn life survival skills. Nobody could keep up with Catherine's spending. She has had Bill to rely on and learn from for all these years and still does not understand the need for future planning, co-operation, budgeting and frugality. Whatever settlement she manages to get from Bill will quickly be wasted. Marion: It is a shame that she will probably get half of Bill's pension. If Catherine really owes what Bill says she does, she has worked against Bill's efforts all these years.

Regarding the children, during their early years, we felt really sorry for them. Bill and Catherine were too busy bickering. They were lousy parents and did not provide a stimulating environment for the children. When we were together, both appeared not interested in the children, letting them run loose in our house which was not childproofed and contained dangerous medicines and cleaning chemicals. They seemed to expect someone else to care for their children. This improved somewhat as the children got older. Al: I saw Catherine smoking and drinking alcohol during pregnancy (with both girls).

Al: Catherine does not meaningfully communicate with the children, they seem like an inconvenience to her and

Statement, Bill + Catherine



interfere with her life. She has no patience for them. It really strikes me as cruel how she makes the children eat by themselves in front of the TV every night, rather than having a family meal together and helping them to become socialised. Catherine has never treated the children as people or held them. We have never seen her show affection to the children. She is very cold with them and shows no tender loving care. She shows much more affection to her pets. I strongly believe that Catherine is not mother material. Both: She may just want the children for the child care money and the house. Marion: I'm also not so sure whether Bill wants the children to avoid paying child care. Catherine could be a good influence and enjoy the children if she tried, but she seems to be too busy cooking, cleaning and making work for herself. We never saw any discipline or rules. In talking to Catherine's sisters, it is obvious that they are dedicated mothers in tune with their children's lives. When I try to talk to Catherine about her children, our conversation is a big blank. Catherine only speaks in terms of their progress at school, what programs they are in and other superficial things. There is no evidence that she is in tune with the children's lives and participating in their development. Catherine has a history of taking stress leave from work as a secretary. We do not think that she can handle the challenges of single parenthood, full time work and managing family finances. Given that responsibility, she may end up on social assistance, with major alcohol problems. If Catherine is given custody, she may manage to drive Bill out of their lives (just like her mother) and undo the positive influence Bill can have on the children's lives.

Al: Bill has improved very much in the last few years, he seems to have woken up to his parental responsibilities. He shows patience for the children and takes the time to explain things properly to them. He spends time with the children and built a beautiful tree house for them. He does bath (Marion: this might have been a chore to Bill) and story times every night. He treats the children like people and has fun with them. He pays attention to their needs. Bill can show the children how to learn and accomplish things, be down to earth and how to thrive and survive in the difficult future we all face. We doubt that they will end up on social assistance with Bill.

We have not seen Bill or Catherine being abusive to each other or the Children.

We have strongly suspected Catherine of having an alcohol problem for years, we have never seen her without a drink in her hand. When she visits, she always helps herself to the alcohol without asking (it's the first thing she does). Often, she goes away from everyone and drinks alone. At these times she appears antisocial. Al: the few times we

Statement, Bill + Catherine

visited unexpectedly, Catherine usually had a drink on the go. Marion: I don't notice such things at other peoples homes. We have never seen Bill drink more than two beers (he always has to drive, since Catherine always refuses to).

We can see history repeat itself here, since Catherine has driven Bill away and made life intolerable for him by her spending and lack of communication and compromise, just like her mother did to Al.

If Catherine really owes \$18,500 + \$6,500 to her mother, she has been very irresponsible and selfish. We strongly suspect that the \$6500 may be something that her and her mother cooked up, since Marg is just as hopeless as Catherine with money. We can see that failure of the marriage is clearly Catherine's fault due to her alcohol problems, frivolous spending and general lack of partnership and family survival goals. Al: She does not seem to have anything to show for all her debt, could there also be a drug problem?

May 17/94
JL K...
MS Kidd