

I, Dianna Drynan, of Almonte, Ont. am a friend of Catherine Lois Eleanore Ross and her family. I am also the Godmother of Hilary Lynne Ross. The following are my observations and conclusions of Bill and Catherine's relationship from before they were married in 1985 until the present.

If at all possible, I do not want Kathy to know that I have given this statement. I like Kathy and am deeply concerned for her. As far as I know, I am her closest friend and wish to spare her the hurt of thinking that I have betrayed her. I do not believe that this statement is betrayal and would really like to be able to help Kathy through this as her friend. Bill has promised me to do his best to spare Kathy from any further hurt.

I have not, am not and do not intend to have any relationship with Bill that is more than friendship.

I visited with Bill and Kathy at least once a month since they were first married. Often I stayed overnight.

Ever since I first met Kathy, I have tried to be her friend but she has been unwilling to communicate openly. When the marriage finally broke down, I lent her the money to buy her car (May 1994).

I still want to be there for Kathy, since I feel she doesn't really have anyone close to her. Kathy is unable to be honest or open with herself, Bill or me and is unable to deal with the reality of her life and family. She has no one to talk with. I kept hoping she would talk honestly with me, and knew that my giving a statement (and her seeing it) would leave her all alone.

It has now become clear that Catherine will never talk openly with me, since I know too much of the truth she is trying desperately to avoid. It took Bill a long time to convince me that establishing the best thing for the children requires the truth and that it cannot be betrayal to tell the truth. I now believe that Catherine's best interest will also be served by her having to deal with the facts, truth and reality of her life, marriage and family. Another factor contributing to my giving this statement is because of Catherine's lies and accusations of abuse and control that she is claiming against Bill. This is the exact opposite of what I have observed. Bill is a very reasonable person. He and the children have done nothing to deserve the hell that the family is now experiencing.

I first met Catherine at the party where she met Bill in spring 1985. We didn't socialise regularly until just after the marriage.

### **Social + Relationship**

From what I have seen, Bill and Kathy's relationship was characterised by verbal abuse, hostility on Kathy's part (especially when she drank alcohol) and blind love, giving in and reasonableness on Bill's part. In general, Bill was dominated, used and abused by Kathy.

Statement, Bill + Catherine



Kathy refused to contribute and consistently worked against all of Bill's goals and efforts on behalf of his family. I have never seen Kathy make a compromise or attempt to work on the relationship or her problems. It was always Bill giving in to her demands, verbal and non verbal hostility, withdrawal and coldness.

Early in the marriage, Kathy confided to me that she could get Bill to do anything, just by using sex.

Kathy went out of her way to be mean and selfish to Bill, for instance; if Bill ran out of cigarettes Kathy wouldn't give Bill one of hers, although Bill would give her one if she ran out.

In March 1989, my spouse and Bill surprised me and Kathy with a limousine and a night on the town. They did their best to make it one of those romantic memories that last a lifetime. We went to an expensive French restaurant in Quebec and later out dancing. Kathy drank many double rums, at home, in the limo, at the restaurant and the dance. She ignored and was cold to Bill all evening. At the dance, she would dance with anyone who asked. She refused to dance with Bill, despite his hurt at her refusal and his asking many times. When Bill asked why not, Kathy said she was too embarrassed to dance with him. Kathy passed out in the limo on the way home. I have never seen a meaner, more ungrateful display from anyone in my life.

In 1990 we went to see the Phantom of the Opera and met Bill and Kathy in the market at Hurley's for drinks and snacks. Kathy was wearing a borrowed fur coat - it was beautiful. Hurley's was not good enough for Kathy and she insisted we leave (everyone else was comfortable). Kathy insisted on taking a cab, although no one else wanted to (short distance, nice night). All night, Kathy nagged Bill about buying her a fur coat. She was very insistent. Bill replied that they were broke and couldn't afford it. Kathy got very angry with Bill and the topic wouldn't disappear all evening. At the opera (Bill had a cold), he asked Kathy many times for a kleenex (she had some). Kathy refused to give him one (it was a small scene, very embarrassing) and Bill had to get up and go to the washroom for one. Kathy was deliberately being mean to Bill. All Kathy would talk about was the coat. At intermission, the men went for drinks. Bill got Kathy got a double rum. After, we went for dinner in the market. Kathy had many double rums, was feeling no pain and was extremely verbally abusive towards Bill, who just took it. I was embarrassed for him and us. It was not a pleasant evening at all, due to Kathy's abuse of Bill. That night, Kathy and I had a falling out over her treatment of Bill - she saw nothing wrong with it and said the coat was yet another indication that Bill doesn't love her. I have seen Kathy abuse Bill this way over many things she wanted but they couldn't afford. It was also like this until Bill agreed to the renovations. Kathy just makes people miserable until she gets what she demands.

Sometimes, it was embarrassing for us to be with Bill and Kathy (including at their home), due to her abuse of Bill.

Statement, Bill + Catherine



At Christmas 1992, Bill asked me to help him with gift shopping for Kathy. He was very particular, and it took us two evenings to get exactly what he thought Kathy wanted. At Christmas, Kathy didn't like most of it and insisted we take it back and get something better. She was very ungrateful. We took the stuff back and got what Kathy instructed us to get. Bill was always generous to Kathy at Christmas and her birthday.

During the relationship, Bill always gave Kathy what she asked for (if he could).

Whenever we visited, Kathy was always verbally abusive Bill whether the children were near or not, especially after her first drink. She would often call Bill a no good, cheap, stupid asshole.

Up until two years ago, Kathy always insisted on going to an expensive, fancy restaurant every week. Bill always paid. They often asked us to come, but we couldn't always afford it and had to decline. Finally, Bill refused to take her out as much since they couldn't afford it and stuck to his position.

In September 1994 Kathy told me that she has never loved Bill. I did not ask her why she stayed with Bill since I had confronted Kathy on some other issues that day and she didn't want to discuss anything or see things from a different perspective than her own. I can never seem to get through to Kathy when dealing with reality.

### Children + Parenthood

From what I have seen, Kathy is not the principal caregiver (Bill is) and is not deeply concerned about the well-being of the kids (unless it doesn't cost her anything). Kathy uses housework and cooking as an excuse not to have to deal with the children. She pretends to be working, but does something slowly for a few minutes and then sits down for a ten minute rum and smoke break. She is not a good housekeeper but is a good cook. She uses the illusion that she is always involved in cooking and cleaning to shift total responsibility for the children to Bill. Kathy's only involvement with the children is when she feeds them. Bill did everything else. Kathy also refused to participate in any children's activities such as bike rides, games, stories, tobogganing, Halloween, swimming lessons, out to Macdonald's for birthdays, etc. Bill did all of the above and more. Kathy doesn't even talk to the children except to tell them to eat or to stay out of her space. I never saw Kathy show affection for the children, give them a goodnight kiss or have them on her lap, although Bill does. Kathy did do some of the organising and shopping for the children but usually it was up to Bill to do all the work. Kathy called herself the "wicked witch of the west". I could never get Kathy to go anywhere with the kids, it was always Bill who took them out with me. Kathy always used the kids nap, mealtime or bedtime as an excuse not to go anywhere with them. She would not let them stay up later on special occasions (Jason there to play ...). If Bill took them somewhere (without Kathy), the kids schedule did not seem to matter to Kathy.

My son Jason (age 7) doesn't like the way Kathy treats him. She fed him spicy foods that kids don't like. Whenever we were going to visit Bill and Kathy, Jason asked to eat at home first. Kathy always put the children to eat by themselves in front of the TV while we stayed in the other room and ate later. Jason really hated this, since he is used to eating with us. Kathy was always rapping the kids on their heads and telling them to eat.

Kathy was always shooing Jason away (and her own kids if they dared come near), if they were in her or my space. Kathy was always demanding space.

I didn't want Khierstyn and Hilary at my home due to their unruliness, lack of discipline, respect and destructiveness. My son Jason (age 7) didn't want the kids in his room due to their destruction of his neatness and possessions.

Kathy locked the kids (daycare + her own) in the bedroom when they misbehaved or it was nap time.

When Khierstyn's psychological evaluation came out at school, Kathy was relieved that Khierstyn did not have ADS. Kathy said that Khierstyn was fine and had no problem. Bill was devastated about Khierstyn's social and attention problems and begged me to talk to Kathy about how her and him could cooperate for Khierstyn's sake. I talked to Khierstyn's teacher and then to Kathy who still saw no problem and refused to talk to Bill. It was me who convinced Kathy how bad her refusal to meet with Bill and their psychologist regarding how to help the children would look. Kathy finally agreed to go but nothing came of it.

Recently, I tried to talk to Kathy about the necessity of cooperating with Bill for the children's best interest. Kathy said it was a good idea to inform Bill about what is happening with the children.

During the first few years of having kids, both Bill and Kathy argued over who changed the diapers, etc. Both appeared to want to get out of dealing with the kids. When I visited, it seemed that I was expected to bath the kids, after which Bill read them a story. Whenever I was there, Bill would have total responsibility for the children and would share his time with us and the children. Over the years, Bill has vastly improved, he treats the children as people and cares for their needs. Kathy has stayed the same as always in terms of her selfishness, laziness and neglect of the children's non-physical needs. I have never seen Kathy exhibit patience or tolerance for her children (Bill does).

When Kathy decided to have Hilary, I was shocked. It was obvious that she has no patience for children and I told her so at the time. Why would she want another?

I was just as shocked when Kathy decided to start the daycare. I told her at the time that I thought it was because she didn't want to work and gave her a maximum of three months before she gave up. She said the daycare was a way not to work. Kathy is lazy and doesn't want to work. During the daycare she did nothing with the kids. There were no walks,

activities or any other involvement (except feeding and safety) on Kathy's part with the children. When I visited Kathy on some weekends, I took her children to the park. Kathy always didn't want to come, she said that she had to prepare dinner and drank rum while doing so.

Kathy never once mentioned Hilary's leg pains to me (we talked about the kids - it was a safe topic).

I have never seen Kathy discipline or have any expectations of the children except to eat and stay out of her space.

### **Bill as a Person**

I have never seen (or until recently, heard of) Bill threatening or trying to control Kathy, although I witnessed many arguments about Kathy's debt, spending and lack of partnership. Bill is a reasonable, person. I view him as a take it easy person, nothing usually seems to bother him. I have never seen him abusive to Kathy, although Kathy certainly gave him good reason to be so with her unreasonableness and lack of compromise.

Bill is firm, gentle and kind with the children. He has more expectations from the children than Kathy, who has none.

### **Kathy as a Person**

Kathy has said to me many times that she hates her job and considers it to be beneath her.

Kathy has been taking correspondence courses but I have never seen any results or understood what sort of job it would lead to (they didn't seem to apply to anything).

Kathy would rarely go out with me or anyone else. The only times she willingly went out was with Bill to restaurants to be pampered. Bill always encouraged her to go out to make friends and encouraged me to go out with Kathy so she could have some fun, make friends and get a life.

Kathy was always saying "I need my space". Often, she is very antisocial. When we were at her house or she at my house, quite often Kathy would sit off by herself, drinking rum and avoiding everyone. She would not even let the kids in the same room as her.

Kathy is very lazy, she never wants to do any work. When we came over to help Bill and Kathy with their renovations, Kathy insisted that we bring a sitter so that we all could work. All the time, Kathy sat on her ass, pretending to be making dinner while we worked. She sat outside having cigarette and rum breaks every few minutes. It was the same for housework in general (except cooking and cleaning). Bill contributed much more around the house, especially with the kids (except the first few years - they were both negligent).

Bill did most of the work and Kathy would appear near the end for some minor finishing touch and then claim she did it all. She does one small thing and then pretends that she did it all. If she is challenged on this, she becomes very unwilling to communicate. During our renovations, Bill reciprocated for our help but Kathy did not.

Whenever I try to talk realistically with Kathy, she always tries to change the subject or evade the issue. If she is not successful (in changing the topic) she appears to be about to cry, her voice cracks and she starts to shake. As soon as the topic is changed, Kathy recovers immediately. This issue evading response appears fake to me. Kathy will not talk with anyone on topics where there is disagreement. Kathy has a blind spot for anyone's views but her own.

I have never seen Kathy go out of her way for anybody (including her children), she is very self centered and selfish. Most times, when we were going out, she insisted we meet at their place, which is very out of the way for us. We were always late leaving, due to Kathy being slow getting ready and taking frequent rum and smoke breaks.

When Kathy drank (always), she went out of her way to be mean to Bill who loved her very much and did his best to treat her that way. I have never seen Bill get emotionally angry with Kathy. He did sometimes get angry, but presented his point of view in a quiet, reasonable, lets work it out manner. Kathy's arguments were emotional, in terms of character assaults on Bill.

I have never seen Kathy treat Bill (or her children) with love. Kathy had two ways of dealing with Bill, she was either demanding or demeaning of Bill as a person. Whenever I talked to Kathy about Bill, she always spoke of Bill in terms of her needing things and how it was up to Bill to provide them.

Kathy does not seem to care whether the children witness her verbal abuse and character assaults of Bill. When drinking, she would fly off the handle with no apparent provocation whether the kids were in the room or not. It was usually not clear to me what Kathy's problem or complaint was.

Kathy was definitely well looked after, but not with Bill's approval. She just refused to contribute and made Bill pay her half of his overtime money whenever he had to work. Her debt with nothing to show for it makes it even worse.

### Alcohol

I didn't know how much Kathy drank at first (until 1986), I couldn't understand how anyone could drink so much coke (as Kathy) and why she made so many trips to the kitchen. I finally followed her to the kitchen and each time she poured a double rum. As long as I have known her, Kathy drank double rum and cokes. At mealtimes, she would not drink her wine but stuck to rum. I only saw her drink wine once and that was when she was out of rum. Kathy always bought large bottles of rum. She holds her alcohol really



well. When we went to restaurants with Bill and Kathy, we never wanted to split the bill due to Kathy's excessive alcohol purchases (4-5 doubles, sometimes more). More often than not, Kathy would be feeling no pain when we left the restaurant. It annoyed me that we could never do anything after dinner since Kathy always said she was tired and insisted that Bill take her home early.

I visited the daycare unexpectedly three times. Each time when I arrived (late morning, lunch), Kathy already had a rum and coke on the go. She would finish her drink and get another.

When we stayed at her house for dinner, sometimes Kathy would serve dinner, be unable to eat any and go right up to bed intoxicated. Kathy ate like a bird - she drank rum instead. She would sometimes fall asleep in her chair, right in the middle of dinner. Bill would have to help her up to bed. This happened the first time we were over at Bill and Kathy's home for dinner (shortly after the wedding, before the children came). At first, we felt awkward and felt we should leave, but Bill said it was OK. We would stay up later socialising with Bill and sometimes stay overnight. Some mornings, we would not see Kathy before we left, except briefly when she came down to get a coffee to take back to bed.

In January 1991 (it was near Kathy's birthday), while Kathy was operating the daycare, Kathy called me up one morning and said "that bastard dumped all my rum down the sink". She asked me to go to the liquor store and buy her a bottle of wine and wrap it up for her birthday (Bill was at work and she had no car). I thought this was rather presumptuous of Kathy to order her birthday present from me and ask me to pay for it and deliver it to her twenty miles away. She was clearly upset, so I did. She asked me to say that it was my wine if Bill should show up unexpectedly. I arrived about 3:30 in the afternoon and we opened the bottle of wine. At 4:00 we put all the ashtrays away in preparation for the daycare parents arrival. After the daycare children were gone, Kathy wanted to go into town for a bottle of rum. So, we bundled all of our kids into my car and went to get some rum for Kathy. We also got a few groceries. I drank the wine, while Kathy continuously drank rum. Later, Bill came home, Kathy's verbal abuse of him started right away (in front of the children) and I left.

On Friday, October 7, 1994, I talked to Kathy in the morning. She said she was really ill and was not going to work. The reason I mention this is that allegedly Bill's nephew dropped in on Kathy unexpectedly the night before and found her intoxicated. This may have something to do with her appointment with the psychological evaluator that Thursday.

### **Money**

Bill has asked me to talk to Kathy many times about money problems, since Kathy would not communicate or work with him to solve her problems in this area. I was just as unsuccessful as Bill, Kathy did not see her demands, spending and debt as a problem and expected Bill to handle it.

Kathy does not know how to handle money and refuses to learn. She never pays with cash. She always used credit cards or cheques, even for the smallest things. Kathy was always worried about bounced cheques and declined credit cards.

In my opinion, Kathy is very wasteful in whatever she buys ( groceries, picture frames, jewelry, clothes ...), she always liked to buy the most expensive thing as opposed to being practical.

The restaurants that Kathy got Bill to take her to and pay for had to be the most expensive. Hurley's and other middle class places were not good enough for Kathy.

Bill + Kathy's financial relationship was very unfair, in Kathy's favor. Bill paid for all the big things, Kathy just paid for groceries, daycare and the kids clothing. Bill was always sacrificing, not buying things (clothes ...) for himself. Kathy was living high, no personal sacrifice there.

I didn't think it right that Bill had to pay Kathy half of his overtime pay so she would care for her own kids (which Bill usually does) when Bill had to work. Bill used the money for joint things and to pay off debt, Kathy discussed this arrangement with me as far back as 1989. Kathy spent the money on herself. Kathy was not contributing near as much as she should have.

In early 1991, Bill asked me to talk to Kathy about money management when he found out that she owed \$9,000 and had nothing to show for it, since she refused to communicate with him on the topic. In our discussions, Kathy did not see being in debt as a problem. Her position was that Bill made enough to take care of her and she refused to discuss it. When I pursued the topic, she became very cold with me and started shaking. I found it difficult to understand how Kathy was always in so much debt with nothing much to show for it. Whenever I asked her, she just said that things cost a lot and that Bill expected too much from her and was cheap.

I was amazed at the extent of the renovations and could not understand where the money came from. Prior to the renovations, I witnessed many heated arguments between Bill and Kathy on this topic before Bill finally broke down and agreed to do the renovations. Bill insisted that they couldn't afford it. Kathy insisted the house was a dump and not fit for her to live in. Kathy made Bill miserable with verbal abuse until he agreed (her usual method of getting her way). Just doing their side of the duplex was not good enough for Kathy, once Bill agreed to the renovations, Kathy insisted on doing both sides. During the renovations, Kathy never helped - she just pretended to be busy doing housework and cooking. Bill did all the work while Kathy sat around drinking rum. Bill even had to upgrade to a gas furnace, since they had expensive electric heat and Kathy was always leaving windows open (and Bill and I were always closing them) in the middle of the winter. The house was always cold as a result and the kids usually had runny noses and colds.

Statement, Bill + Catherine





### **Kathy Handling Marriage Breakdown**

From what I have seen, Kathy is not buying the quality or quantity of food that she used to buy for the children, now it is just perogies, hot dogs, Kraft dinner and other simple to prepare food. She has really cut back on groceries and cooking. It appears that Kathy is not eating.

Kathy is no different now with the kids than she has been always (no rules, expectations or attention). The only difference is that now the kids don't have to finish their meals to get desert and they have unlimited access to candy and treats. The kids are just the same when Kathy is around (unruly, undisciplined, don't listen, climb on counters, tables, grabbing my drink etc.). They are much calmer and better behaved when Kathy is not around.

In mid September 1994, I baby-sat the kids for Kathy while she was teaching her Tarot or Astrology class (I forget which). I tried to put some structure in the kids lives for an evening, by insisting they finish their supper, clean up their room and not climb on the counters. Khierstyn said to me "You're just like my dad - a slave driver". I explained and my son Jason (age 7) confirmed that all kids should have responsibilities, since it is their home too.

In late September 1994, I gave Kathy my opinions in the following areas:

- I asked her why she wanted the kids and why does she think Bill wants them. She said that she loves the children and that Bill wants to control them.
- that Bill loves the children and will never give in and is prepared to lose everything
- that she is not going to be on easy street with her settlement from Bill
- that her and Bill are saying completely opposite things and I have caught her not always being honest with me
- that the abuse and control she is claiming of Bill is the exact opposite to what I have observed over the years
- that eventually she will have to deal with the reality of the situation
- that the way they are going now, the house will be lost to the lawyers and then what happens to the children and their friends and school.
- that her current financial demands of Bill are unfair. That she cannot expect Bill to pay all of his historical expenses (which by themselves are unfair), an extra \$700 a month to her and for Bill to somehow find rent and food money to live on.

Kathy's response to this was to become very defensive and to get her back right up. She became very cold with me and refused to discuss it. Kathy is blind to the facts and is not facing reality.

A few days later, while we were discussing the chiropractor and psychological evaluation appointment conflict (Kathy insisted that she had a statement from her doctor stating that

Statement, Bill + Catherine

the chiropractor was necessary - later proven false), Kathy said that she was going to pay me back for the car loan and used this many times to try to change the topic.

Kathy is accusing Bill of being a slave driver with the kids and making them clean up, etc. At the same time, she is accusing Bill of trashing the house every night that he is there. Both of these cannot be true.

Kathy is accusing Bill of stealing groceries, the china and other small items. I checked with Bill's roommate (my ex spouse) and my opinion is that Bill has not taken the above stuff.

The house is a mess, I am there every few weeks and it always looks the same - there is no evidence of housework being done.

Kathy appears to be trying to take the kids to more activities and seems to have done a turnaround from during the marriage.

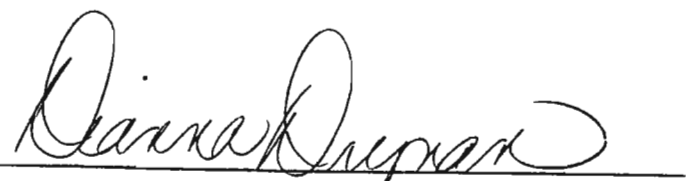
Kathy confided to me that she is wearing her magic crystal (for luck) and reading her Tarot cards every night for guidance and to figure out what to do.

Kathy's allegations of abuse and control on Bill's part seem untrue to me, since if Bill was abusing and controlling Kathy, she would have been afraid to abuse Bill or behave contrary to Bill's stated wishes and the family interest as I have witnessed and stated herein.

Dianna Before me on the  
Town of Alton  
in the County of  
Huron this  
21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 1994



Michael MAULS  
Solicitor & Notary  
Huron, ONTARIO

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Dianna Dryden