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The Ransom Note Probability

The key to understanding the JonBenét Ramsey murder case

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Who Murdered JonBenét Ramsey?

To answer that question, perhaps it's best to listen to John and Patsy Ramsey, the parents of the victim:

LARRY KING: "So you agree that whoever authored the ransom note probably killed the child?"

JOHN RAMSEY: "I agree."

PATSY RAMSEY: "I would agree with that."

(Source: the Larry King Live show - May 31, 2000 - CNN cable channel)

Who Wrote The Ransom Note?

You are about to figure that out on your own.

About This Web Page

What you are about to read, is a different type of ransom note analysis than has previously appeared on the Internet. To our knowledge this type of analysis has never been performed by any amateur or expert. Until now, all previous analysis of the ransom note has been by handwriting experts who can only offer their professional "opinion" as an end product. This web page was not written to offer any "opinion". It is not a "handwriting analysis". Nor does the author claim to have the least bit of background or interest in "handwriting analysis". This web page presents only solid visual evidence and calculations that can be easily witnessed and verified by the reader. If you have the concentration to read through this entire web page, and the intelligence to comprehend it, by the time you are finished reading there should be no doubt in your mind who wrote the famous Ramsey ransom note.

Weighing The Competition

To date, there have probably been a dozen or more experts in the field of handwriting analysis who have examined the ransom note and compared it to the handwriting of Patsy Ramsey, the mother of JonBenét. The conclusions of those experts has been split between Patsy Ramsey definitely being the author of the note, and Patsy not having a thing to do with it. However, no handwriting analysis expert, including those hired by the Ramsey team of lawyers, has been unable to completely rule out Patsy as the author.

Here is a typical statement by one of the experts who reviewed the ransom note and compared it to the handwritten exemplars of Patsy Ramsey:

Leonard Speckin, (private forensic document analyst): "When I compare the handwriting habits of Patsy Ramsey with those in the note, there exists agreement to the extent that some of her individual letter formations and letter combinations do appear in the ransom note. When this agreement is weighed against the number, type and consistency of the differences present, I am unable to identify Patsy Ramsey as the author of the note with any degree of certainty. I am, however, unable to eliminate her as the author."

Note the underlined areas in the quote above. Mr. Speckin notes that everybody sees some characteristic match between Patsy's handwriting and the ransom note, but it is not enough to positively identify Patsy as the author. Mr. Speckin, like all the other experts in his field of handwriting analysis, has a keen eye for spotting very specific traits in personal writing styles. Even Lin Wood, the Ramsey's lawyer, knows there are consistencies between the ransom note and Patsy Ramsey's handwriting. Here is Wood's attempt to brush off those consistencies with the same type of rhetoric Leonard Speckin used:

"It is very difficult for one to be eliminated as the author of an individual writing because we all tend to learn how to write in similar ways. But the dissimilarities are so great that I believe any legitimate examiner would conclude that there's little or no chance that Patsy Ramsey wrote the note".

(NBC Today Show - Katie Couric interview - 12/27/01)

The problem Speckin and his peers have, is the note was written by someone trying to *disguise* their writing. Simply put, both Wood and Speckin know that an agreement exists that some of Patsy Ramsey's letter formations do match the ransom note, but no "legitimate examiner" in the field of handwriting analysis knows what to do with that information--so they discard it in favor of the *bigger picture*. However, if Speckin and his peers had stronger backgrounds in statistical mathematics, they wouldn't be so quick to wave off a common consensus which on the surface appears to be only a *minor* detail. As you are about to see, the key to unlocking the mystery of the ransom note doesn't lie in any expert's opinion of handwriting analysis, it begins and ends with mathematics.

Heads or Tails?

Not very many people are familiar with statistical mathematics, or the mathematical ratio of odds. You can witness this any day of the year by the

