

My Personal Statement: By Jennifer New  
June 23, 2023

Good day! I am standing up here today because I am representing my mom, Rita. I am her daughter Jennifer. First and foremost, my gratitude and thankfulness need to be addressed to all those who worked diligently and thoroughly on solving my mom's case. Big applause goes to Kari, Dawn, and McKenna. I thank you, the jury for making a righteous decision. It has been a long 29 years of brokenness, emptiness, unanswered questions, and no justice.

Today I stand before you Mr. Cumberbatch you took a beautiful soul from my brother and me. My mother Rita may not have had the perfect life, may not have had it together but you took her from us when I was just 10-years-old and my brother was only seven. She had to have a closed casket funeral because her body was in bad shape. I remember only being 10-years-old my mother called me just a day or so before you took her life. That was the last time I heard her voice. I didn't get to say goodbye, I didn't get my last hug or last kiss from her. She was gone, just like that. I know she was trying to put her life back together. She loved her son and daughter. In the end I knew she fought for her life to stay alive. You preyed on this innocent victim, took advantage of her weakness, so you can succumb to your evil and horrible desire to seek, kill, and destroy.

Mr. Cumberbatch, I pray that one day you will search and find God to repent of your sin. I will quote verses from the Bible. In Exodus 20:13 you shall not murder. In Exodus 23:7 "Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked. In Revelations 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." In Romans 12:19, Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. I hold fast to this last verse because you get the judgment here on earth and one day you will have to face our almighty God for all your deeds and actions.

It is not mine to judge but Him alone. One of the most difficult things I have to face is forgiving you. I forgive you of your horrendous act you bestowed upon my mother but I will never, ever forget what you have done and taken away from me. Praise God you are put away behind four walls where you can never hurt an innocent victim again. I pray that these four walls will be a time of reflection you can look back upon your life and wonder why you are here now. This should be a time to seek God for repentance and salvation through Jesus Christ. In Luke 5:32 "I 'Jesus' have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Mr. Cumberbatch even though this was 29 years ago I will always carry my momma in my heart. I miss her dearly. She was not here to see me graduate, get married, see the birth of my children, watch my children graduate and graduate college. I know she would have loved to see her four precious grandchildren. And all that is beautiful here on earth. One day my mom and I will see each other again in the new heaven and new earth. Now finally after 29 years I can rest in peace knowing justice has been served here on earth, and finally have closure. I love you mom!!

Thank you. May God bless you all and bring you all everlasting peace!!