

Victim Impact Letter

My name is [REDACTED] and I was a very close friend and business colleague to Sue Trott. We had been friends and business partners for nearly 20 years before she was murdered. Sue wasn't close to her immediate family, so I became her surrogate family.

I started to write this letter on April 15 before realizing what the actual date was. April 15 was Sue's birthday. So I stopped writing it because I wanted to only have fond memories of her on that day.

Sue was a born and raised NYCer and it showed through in everything she did. Though she would never admit she had an NYC accent. Underneath her tough exterior, Sue was probably the most generous person I knew. She would give you the shirt off her back and then go and buy you a new outfit to match. And she did even more for animals, especially dogs. She loved all animals and once even rescued a rat from the subway platform. She wouldn't even kill flies or spiders. Sue started a pit bull rescue charity and would go into crackhouses in Harlem to rescue them. We even did work for a bird rescue organization. And learning from the trial of Anya, this is why Sue was murdered. Anya, in a time of need, sought out Sue's caring nature and fellow lover of animals. Then she chose to murder Sue when she offered her comfort and help.

Sue Trott was murdered in her long-time home on Wednesday, October 17, 2018. And no one knew until Sunday the 20th after I called the police. At the time, I was living in London and either emailed or spoke to her almost every day. I talked to Sue the night before and she knew I had friends in town and wouldn't be able to talk as much. She called me that evening of the 17th but I was out with my friends. The next day I sent her an email because it was too early to call. She never replied but it wasn't an urgent message, so I didn't think twice about it.

That Friday morning Sue was due to have a meeting and tell me about it afterwards. I once again never heard from her so I checked her emails and they were still unread since Wednesday. I just figured she lost internet and cable power again. So I called and left a message. On Saturday, I started to worry and called a friend who spoke to her on Wednesday. Sue never carried her cell phone so if anything did happen she wouldn't have been able to reach me. I called again and checked emails...still unread. I woke up early that Sunday morning and telephoned local hospitals before calling the precinct. I told them my concerns and they immediately went to her apartment. She was then found murdered in her bedroom after being there for 4 days undiscovered. And the police soon discovered that it was Anya Johnston who committed the heinous murder.

I have asked myself many times if things would have been different if I had been able to answer her phone call that fateful evening. Would our call have altered the course of events and she would still be alive? But I cannot dwell on something unknown. I just know that my life, personally and professionally, hasn't been the same since that evening.

Sue and I worked together for almost 20 years and had 3 businesses together...so my career and finances depended on our businesses.

Not only were Sue and I close friends. We were also close business partners. We started working together in 1999 and went on to build 3 businesses together, in addition to her existing animal rescue charities. We both worked in advertising and met while working at Saatchi & Saatchi and we immediately meshed. Sue was much older than me and quickly took me under her wing and taught me everything she knew. She was a mentor as well as a friend and business partner.

In 2005, we opened an advertising agency together and went on to work with our clients for many years until we decided to try something new. Sue had so so so many ideas and just wanted to create

things. One of our clients was a beverage company and they wanted to expand their products. So we formed a new company together to develop products targeting the restaurant/bar industry. At the time, Sue had an elderly dog and wanted to invent products to cater to that market. We also started a company for all the pet innovations. In the years leading up to Sue's murder, we had been developing a line of beverages, and products for sick/deceased pets', as well as writing books for pet owners. This is in addition to our advertising agency.

Needless to say, my personal and professional life was very intertwined with Sue. And a majority of my income was linked to our partnership. The day Anya murdered Sue was the day she also murdered my livelihood. I talked to Sue almost every day and now that was gone.

Sue left me in charge of her estate because she was estranged from her family. That left me with the responsibility of getting her cremated and having a memorial service for her. Because she was murdered in her house I wasn't able to access the apartment until my lawyers settled the estate and police cleared me to enter. This took about 9 months and a lot of money was spent on probate and estate lawyers, in addition to the real estate lawyers. I then had to pay to get it industrially cleaned to remove any human residue and trace of the murder. Once I was able to access her apartment I had to go through all her belongings. This wasn't long after I had to do the same for my mother. I spent weeks doing this and had to have friends help because it was too overwhelming physically and emotionally. You learn a lot about someone when you have to clear out all of their possessions. During this, I was living in London so I had to go back and forth to take care of everything.

Once everything was cleared I had the task of having to sell her apartment of about 30 years. While handling this the world was shut down due to covid. So not only was I dealing with losing my friend and my livelihood. I was also coordinating an apartment sale during a pandemic while living in another country. Fortunately, I had great lawyers and friends in NYC to help me out.

I was not the only one to be impacted by Sue's death. Our business partners also lost their businesses with us. Sue was also active with pet rescues and feeding the local birds. The animals lost a true friend as well. The birds knew where she lived and would wait for her outside and followed her to the park where she would feed them. Not to mention all the rescue animals she could no longer support.

It has been about 5 and a half years since Sue was murdered by Anya. And not one day goes by that I don't think of Sue. Fortunately, this crime hasn't impacted me physically. But the emotional impact is inconceivable. I have to live with the memory of Sue being brutally murdered and left to die alone for 4 days in her beloved apartment. Everywhere I turn I see something Sue would love and want to show her or talk her about it. I have some of her belongings in my apartment so she is with me in spirit. She taught me a lot about advertising, art, fashion, and life in general. Her impact on my life will remain with me forever.

One of the hardest things I have done was sitting in the courtroom for the trial of Anya. I have never been face-to-face with a murderer. Let alone one who needlessly and viciously murdered a loved one. She should never see the outside world again. She shows no remorse for her actions and devoid of humanity. I am extremely grateful Anya was found guilty of 2nd-degree murder. I feel the maximum penalty should be imposed. No person should have to be exposed to her in life outside a prison.