

Your Honour;

First and foremost, I would like to express my deep and heartfelt apologies to Isabella's family. I know that they have been through unimaginable pain as a result of my actions and for that I am truly sorry. I know that my words cannot heal them, but I apologize to them from the bottom of my heart and hope that one day their pain will ease.

I am before you today separated from everything I hold dear. I have made poor decisions which compounded a tragedy of such magnitude that I pray no one else would ever have to experience it. For these reasons, I am very contrite.

Sometimes in life, one must submit to a greater order. I ask God why, why would he show me love so true only to take it away and the only answer I can surmise is the gift of our daughter Emelia. She is everything to me. She is my light and my only reason to go on.

And for her sake, Your Honour, I beg humbly for mercy. Please allow me to get back to Emelia in the most timely manner possible.

I am merely a human whose only desire is to raise my child. She has lost so much, so quickly. She will need guidance and fortitude so she may grow to be as courageous, compassionate and caring as her mother.

I only pray that I may be there soon to offer my love, support and knowledge.

Losing my soulmate was the greatest loss I have ever endured. Only the constant, unflagging support of my mother, father, sister, family and friends and my love for my daughter enables me to persevere. I cannot put into words the gratitude I feel towards those whose support has never wavered.

Thank you for your consideration and God bless us all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LB' followed by a stylized, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.

Lewis Bennett