

Poetic Justice

The True Story Behind “The Dash” Poem and One Victim’s Mission to End Copyright Extortion and Bullying

(“The Dash” Extortion Scheme)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Copyright trolling has reared its ugly head in the past five years¹ to painfully bite into the wallets of well-intended and innocent cyberspace users. Mere posting of inspiring words meant to encourage others becomes a treasure trove for the copyright holder (extortioner?). Funny images to share become traps for the innocent unwary who then are pounced on by image trolls demanding exorbitant settlements. Pam Ellis (poet) and Getty Images are two such trolls. In the poet’s case, ample evidence points to her intentional cyberspace seeding of her poem to set copyright infringement traps.

“Copyright Troll” has been variously defined, including:

- Rightsholders who threaten or bring infringement lawsuits in order to induce users to pay to settle weak claims. *Pamela Samuelson. Is Copyright Reform Possible? 126 Harv. L. Rev. 740, 759 (2013)*
- A person or entity that acquires a (usually narrow) license from an original copyright holder for the sole purpose of suing and obtaining settlements from alleged infringers in mass lawsuits against thousands of defendants. *Personal Jurisdiction and Joinder in Mass Copyright Troll Litigation. 77 MD L. Rev. Endnotes 51, 51 (2012)*
- A copyright owner who: (a) acquires a copyright—either through purchase or act of authorship—for the primary purpose of pursuing past, present, or future infringement actions; (b) compensates authors or creates works with an eye to the litigation value of a work, not the commercial value; (c) lacks a good faith licensing program, and (d) uses the prospect of statutory damages and litigation expenses to extract quick settlements of often weak claims. *Brad A. Greenberg. Copyright Trolls and Presumptively Fair Uses. University of Colorado Law Review (2014)*

Linda Ellis defines the last definition. I offer this seven page Executive Summary² (with five pages of attachments) as an introduction to **Poetic Justice: The True Story Behind “The Dash” Poem and One Victim’s Mission to End Copyright Extortion and Bullying**, by April Brown (self-published, 2015), a victim who fought back against Ellis. This Amazon-available chronicle is a treasure trove of evidence compiled by April Brown who has been a target of slander, harassment, stalking and intimidation since October of 2011 when she chose to expose the scheme. Brown memorialized the evidence with screen captures, emails from victims and dozens from the poem’s author including documents steeped in legal-like language meant to frighten targets into a settlement. Her evidence would kick-start prosecution for any attorney general to take down this simple copyright trolling scheme conducted by *two individuals* that has affected Michiganders, among others *globally*.

¹ See Footnote 6, University of Colorado Law Review article by Brad A. Greenberg who sites copyright trolling genesis in 2010. **Greenberg’s article at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2229931 is an extremely useful starting point for those seeking an excellent legal overview of copyright trolling.**

² Parenthetical numbers reflect pages from Poetic Justice where content was cited.

Brown tells her victim and fight-back story when she refused to cave on the ostensible extortion demands of poet **Linda Ellis** (author of “The Dash”) and her henchman **John Jolin** who alleged copyright infringement for innocent and likely Fair Use. This devious duo has sadly joined the ranks of *Copyright Trolls*, cashing in on this lucrative “business”, demanding exorbitant payoffs for what is at most a *de minimus* damage (\$200 is not an unusual *de minimus* award), if any damage at all can be proved. Included is a **Chronology (Ex A)** to help you follow this sordid saga, a **Known Jurisdictions Affected List (Ex B)** reciting affected countries and US states where victims are known to occur, and a **Victims Include List (Ex C)** by category and by name (where the victim was courageous enough to share) or generic description (e.g. pastor). One of this duo’s copyright extortion victims, for instance, is also a 9-11 victim³. April has been contacted some 250 of victims—those *willing to talk*, to date. But likely tens of 1,000s of victims occur.

A Few of Many Details

Many are familiar with the poem, “The Dash” (see p. 8). Beautiful sentiments transmitted from its words that play deeply on heartstrings. One is to examine their life deeds, harkens its words, so that one’s life is not devolved to merely a date of birth and date of death, separated by The Dash. Grieving families often recite it at eulogies. Pastors preach Sunday sermons on the poem. Schools, charities, newspapers and teachers often post it in BLOGS, lesson plans and inspirational communications.

Its popularity grew due to its (alleged) author’s (Linda Ellis) claims to have written this poem in 1994, and copyrighted it in 1998. For those four years, she freely disseminated this poem (193) to media outlets including radio, magazines and newspapers, often by FAX. Importantly, she launched the poem’s notoriety without any warning of copyright infringement.

Of this time, Ellis herself BLOGs (147):

I’ve also recently realized, that although I own the copyright to The Dash, it’s as though I no longer own the poem...in a way, the world does. I compare it to a seed I’d planted many years ago, which quickly sprouted and continues to grow exponentially being constantly cultivated by the millions of souls inspired by its message.”

But poetic prosperity is rare. Like the starving artist phenomenon, this was apparently dawning on Ellis’ overblown expectations after several years at post-launch monetization attempts. The Dash might have been gaining notoriety⁴, but it was not delivering the anticipating manna from heaven.

³ Robert & Patricia Zampieri lost their son, Robert in 9/11 terrorist attack. Eleven years later, on September 11th, daughter Jeannie’s father-in-law died, her father was diagnosed with cancer, Hurricane Sandy wiped out the Zampieri family vacation home and fire burned down her mother-in-law’s and brother-in-law’s vacation homes, and the mother-in-law fell and broke her wrist. The last worry this family needed was LE’s demand letter for \$7,500.

⁴ One important case has come out of Ellis’ harassment barrage, (Ellis v Chan) in Georgia. The Georgia Supreme Court ultimately ruled that Chan’s web-forum open to give Ellis’s victims a communal outlet was not stalking by Chan against Ellis. Attesting to “The Dash” popularity, and in penultimate irony, the morning of the hearing day where oral arguments were presented in *Chan v Ellis*, [A14A0014, Court of Appeals of Georgia, July 02, 2014; *Chan v. Ellis*, 2015 WL 1393410 (Ga. Supreme Ct. Mar. 27, 2015)], Chief Justice High Thompson referenced “The Dash” at the start of a ceremony for newly-admitted attorneys that began the court day. Little did he know that within hours, he would hear the contrived charges by the poem’s poet. (245)

Brown explains that before 2005, Ellis began charging 52¢ per copy, a one-time licensing fee of \$150 to \$250, and \$7.99 for a digitally signed copy. Further, she offered a one time annual subscription program for \$7.99 for “read only” access to 60 of her poems (no longer available). She goes on (197):

She combined her favorite poems into a book she titled Write From the Heart (\$19.99), and that book is no longer available. She wrote a book called Cute Newt and removed that book from the market after about a year...She charged \$75 for 10 paragraphs and 40 lines [for personalized poems] and that service is no longer available. She has sold a collection of her poems several times under varying titles—none of those books have ISBN numbers and appear to no longer be available...On Linda Ellis’ Facebook “About” page she describes to us how many people bought her books: “Her first few inspirational books sold hundreds of thousands of copies.” Although I can’t prove Linda Ellis didn’t sell hundreds of thousands of copies of Cute Newt and A Bouquet for Mother, it makes sense that if she has, the books would still be in print...

Apparently these numbers weren’t sufficiently adding up for Ellis.

At this time, Ellis presumably noticed the advent and growth of the world-wide-web (opened to the public in Brown of 1993 and by 1998 there were 750,000 commercial sites). She sent out “Tell-a-Friend” e-notices along with poem and a link to her website. Nowhere displayed was any warning about copyright infringement. The traps were presumably being deployed where innocent infringers would then be sent outrageous demand letters by John Jolin—Ellis’ enforcer.

April does the number crunching on the far more lucrative Demand Letter scheme (189):

If she were to collect her \$7,500 demand on just one letter a month, she would glean \$90,000 a year; two letters a month would be \$180,000 a year; three letters a month would be \$270,000 a year.

The demand letters remained unknown to the general public before 2011 because victims are required to sign a confidentiality agreement. Through research, Brown discovered the victims were also required to write a public apology to Linda Ellis and post it on the online source of the post! Brown found more than forty such posts and interviewed many of the victims. Many were afraid to speak believing they would get sued for violating the confidentiality clause.

April became the target when Ellis e-mailed The Dash poem to Brown’s in-box. The poem did not include a copyright warning. Brown shared The Dash on her blog with a link to Ellis’ website and online store. Within a couple of weeks (in October of 2011) Brown received the first on many e-mails from both Jolin⁵ and Ellis demanding settlement for copyright infringement or face a federal lawsuit and damages of more than \$250,000. April was only one of two targets who attempted to stop the scheme. Prior to Brown’s efforts, there was no mention of Linda’s Lyrics LLC extortion scheme until Brown announced the **Beware Don’t Share Public Service Campaign** in January of 2012 (page 110). By 2012 Jolin’s and Ellis’ trolling operations were in full swing.

Rather than pay an exorbitant penalty for her well-intended sharing, Brown began exposing The Dash operation as an extortion scheme to bilk innocent users out of millions of dollars, if you consider the above numbers crunching and Ellis’ self-report that “99.9%” of all her targets pay the settlement.

⁵ Jolin, a friend of Ellis who also lives in Marietta, Georgia, had hired on to Linda’s Lyrics LLC at some point in 2011.

Indeed, Brown's self-produced *Live Your Cash iMovie BLOG* posting reached **42,000** hits! (25, 91) within a few weeks, evincing these extortioners' far and widely set snare.

In January of 2012, Brown prepared a press release outlining the scheme and Ellis retaliated with a furious and frightening intimidation campaign against Brown that continues to this day. Ellis contacted Brown's husband (37-38, 86), and her husband's place of work and co-workers (59), even suggesting to Mike's boss that Mike was engaged in ethics violations (88). As if not sufficiently vile, Ellis was able to contact a disgruntled neighbor of Brown's by reading Facebook posts of an animal shelter (Whisker City) that Brown operates. The rescue is located next to a low-income rental house. A disgruntled renter with a lengthy criminal history of violent assaults filed a false claim against the shelter alleging being bit by one of its domestic cats. The renter and his family began posting derogatory comments on the shelter's Facebook page. Shortly after these posts, the renter's aunt charged Brown with stalking and harassment purportedly on advice of Ellis (65). This connection came to light when a family member of the renter gave a videotaped deposition about Ellis' involvement and provided a file with notes from the renter's aunt, including phone numbers and email exchanges between the renters and Ellis. All collected evidence points to Ellis conspiring with this renter to spy on Brown and harass her. The charges were eventually dismissed but only after extensive and costly litigation.

During this time, this renter/neighbor (the Haines) threatened the lives of her rescue cats at Whisker City. After one of the Haines walked into Brown's driveway carrying a gun, one of her cats was never to be seen again (83). Still, Brown stood steadfast, enduring this frightening harassment, expending over \$20,000 for privacy fences, legal costs, survey fees and security systems. Brown sustained further damage when Ellis or Jolin (being computer savvy) filed false DMCA notices on Brown's business website and all her social media (93-97). Brown's YouTube business channels were offline for weeks while she navigated the DMCA process. (Brown learned that Ellis regularly files false DMCA Notices to intimidate her targets). Ellis also launched several other sites that contained untrue and defamatory material about Brown (45) and continues to host false claims against Brown (<http://www.linda-ellis.com/copyright.html>).

Ellis and her strongman Jolin continue to lurk under cover of little being reported on mainstream media about copyright trolling (179). They scour the internet for *anyone* posting this poem. Once targeted and vetted⁶, rather than warn the innocent and well-intended infringer with a customary and initial "cease and desist" letter, victims are immediately threatened by Jolin's frightful demand letter warning of damages up to \$150,000 and costly litigation if they don't settle for what looks like relative chump change: \$7,500.

Learning of Ellis' bone-chilling intimidation tactics, her targets are panicked by the demand letters and only feel relieved when they discover Brown's story, advice and on-line warnings. Few will publicly speak, fearing the same assault. They silently lie in wait as e-mail after e-mail arrives in their in-boxes, each demand more threatening than the last. They don't want to get into Ellis' or Jolin's crosshairs by calling them out (22, 182). *A bright light needs to be shed on this practice so more targets and victims can speak out without fear of retribution.*

⁶ Another fight-back victim, Matthew Chan, notes that Ellis knows that dead people, non-profits and businesses (like churches and schools) have insurance (23). Parenthetical added.

While this duo continues to entrap her fans, Ellis boasts on her Facebook and website when celebrities make unauthorized use of The Dash. On May 23, 2008, Senator Robert Dole read The Dash without permission during a meeting in Washington D.C. (161) Ellis exploited the CSPAN video as an endorsement. More recently, when Celene Dion's husband Rene Angelil died on January 14, 2016, Robin Leach read The Dash without Ellis' knowledge or consent. Ellis exploited Leach's reading of her poem without acknowledging Leach did not have her permission to share it. By Ellis' own actions, she not only approves of unauthorized sharing of her poem, but impliedly acknowledges its fair use under public domain.

As bad as this on-again / off-again extortion scheme is, dependent on its user, Ellis' very authorship of The Dash is questionable. Brown writes that Ellis admitted to a reporter (145) that she'd found a cache of her grandmother's poetry and wanted the world to know about this work. Further, Brown presents evidence that a preacher was using The Dash in his sermons for decades, and long before Ellis affixed its copyright in 1998. Noteworthy is that this preacher (still alive and age 90) lead his congregation not more than 40 miles from Ellis' home. Certainly possible is that her grandmother heard one of these sermons then wrote it down (149-151). Then there is the question of exactly when Ellis wrote it. Is it 1994 when she claims to have found her grandmother's stash, 1996 next to the copyright sign, or 1998 when she registered the copyright? (169-170) She doesn't clarify.

Prior to Brown's woes, in the Summer of 1999, Ellis spun her web on two musicians, Robin Krasny and Eddy Fischer. They were contracted by Ellis to put music to her lyrics (153). Krasny and Fischer worked tirelessly for several years on promoting the song. Ellis loved their song so much that in July of 2004 when her father died, she asked the musicians to both recite and sing The Dash at her father's funeral. However, Ellis was seeing greener pastures in having hooked up with a successful brander, Mac Anderson months before her father's funeral, in October of 2003 (155). He wanted Ellis to cut ties to Krasny and Fischer (page 155). By October of 2004, Ellis demanded that the musicians sign an acknowledgment that they did not own The Dash lyrics (155). By now the musicians had paid thousands to cut 5,000 CDs when the song began catching on (157). Anderson gave Ellis acces to his attorney and the duo did not have the money to contest the charge of copyright infringement! They were ordered to destroy or give away all the copies ending their personal and professional association with Ellis (158-160).

Brown, Krasny and Fischer were not Ellis' only aggressively pursued victims. Greg Troy entered her sights when he publicly supported April's book, Poetic Justice (208). He developed CABA Law (acronym for what Greg lobbies for: Copyright Anti Bullying Act). Ellis has made attacks on his reputation (208).

Then there's another fight-back victim, Matthew Chan, whom Brown contacted in April of 2012. He developed ExtortionLetterInfo.com (ELI) for victims and targets of the notorious and well-documented Getty Images copyright trolling scheme. In an effort to flush out other targets and victims, he began a Linda's Lyrics Forum on his ELI website (19). The ELI community challenged Ellis with angry comments. Ellis created an alias and "moled" herself in the exchanges. Then she hired Getty Images attorney Timothy McCormack in 2006 and charged Chan with stalking and harassment merely due to opening up the Forum. The lower court, giving only glancing review of the evidence, issued a Lifetime Protection Order against Chan and he was ordered to take down the Forum. Alarmed at the ruling, *peers of the judge hearing the case* asked the Georgia Supreme Court to hear the case (S14A1652; Chan v Ellis, Georgia Supreme Court, March 15, 2015). Chan won and the lower court ruling was later expunged.

A question leaps off the page...How could she have known that Getty Images was engaged in copyright trolling, or that such a phenomenon even existed (most people never heard of it) if she wasn't herself setting such traps for the unwary?

Ellis' prime ammunition for her extortion scheme, as mentioned, is the demand letter. It's knock-out punch is a favorable verdict in yet another case she initiated (Ellis v Aronson, Northern District of Georgia), where she was awarded \$150,000 (\$269,000 when attorney fees are added) *by default*, as Aronson failed to appear (119). This nose-bleed award compels people to feel lucky to settle for "only" a few thousand. What Ellis and Jolin cleverly omit is that the award is based on a *breach of contract* claim, NOT copyright infringement. Yet, the reader is lead down the path to infer that this was a copyright infringement award. In fact, Ellis sued Aaron Ellison who never paid her the agreed upon \$500 for use of The Dash in his workbook, "D.A.S.H." (128). The reader is also clueless to the fact that the defendant currently sits in federal prison in Queens New York on other charges (operating a \$26 million dollar ponzi scheme) and has never paid Ellis a dime on the award(129).

Brown's thorough investigation has not uncovered any other cases where has sued anyone since for haring The Dash in any form. It makes sense. It is thought that Ellis knows she would spend hundreds per hour in legal fees plus court costs and expenses to go after at best, a *de minimus* \$200 copyright infringement award for the non-commercial use by best-intentioned innocent infringers⁷ By staying out of the courtroom, she can freely operate unchecked by the legal system and astronomically gain from her trolling scheme--The Dash extortion scheme continues to this day. As April pithily states: *Do you think it should be legal to harass, stalk, malign, and emotionally torture people because they simply shared a poem?* (212).

CONCLUSION

Impossible it is to calculate how many intimidating and threatening letters have been sent since 1998 or since 2011, when April Brown, the first known victim-target began to call out Ellis. If Ellis settles for even a fraction of the \$2,500 to \$7,500 demand per internet victim *and* 99.9% of victims pay, her fortune

⁷ In one known case to deal with innocent sharing of copyrighted material and the *de minimus* doctrine, *Davis v The Gap*, 246 F.3d 152 (2d Cir. 2001), the judge ruled:

The *de minimus doctrine* is rarely discussed in copyright opinions because suits are rarely brought over trivial instances of copying. Nonetheless, it is an important aspect of the law of copyright. Trivial copying is a significant part of modern life. Most honest citizens in the modern world frequently engage, without hesitation, in trivial copying that, but for the *de minimus doctrine*, would technically constitute a violation of law. We do not hesitate to make a photocopy of a letter from a friend to show to another friend, or of a favorite cartoon to post on the refrigerator. Parents in Central Park photograph their children perched on Jose de Creeft's Alice in wonderland sculpture. We record television programs aired while we are out, so as to watch them at a more convenient hour. Waiters at a restaurant sing "Happy Birthday" at a patron's table. When we do such things, it is not that we are breaking the law but unlikely to be sued given the high cost of litigation. Because of the *de minimus* doctrine, in trivial instances of copying, we are in fact not breaking the law. If a copyright owner were to sue the makers of trivial copies, judgment would be for the defendants. The case would be dismissed because trivial copying is not an infringement.

quickly adds up. Further, Brown has recorded another victim from which Ellis demanded \$150,000. Brown believes victims number in the thousands as the poem has been circulated freely by the author and shared for twenty years by her (unwitting) fans. The potential for web victims is endless and Brown has collected extortion letters from at least nine countries, including many if not most states in our homeland. Michigan has known victims.

The most innocent of alleged copyright infringers are most probably engaged in Fair Use under Title 17 of the US Code (federal copyright law), have sustained unnecessary and unbearable emotional and economic damage. One woman paid a settlement (extortion) demand (\$7,500) that equaled funeral fees for her baby. A church had to take up a special collection to pay the demand. Partnerships have dissolved, professional reputations maligned and profferers of The Dash have felt un-ending guilt over their posting-the-poem suggestions to the bereaved. Courageous victims that stood tall against the extorters became prey to vicious slander, business-threatening assaults and physical harm. Ellis target churches, charities, schools, funeral related businesses, grieving families, school children, teachers, elected officials and even attorneys. Even acclaimed copyright attorneys recommend settlement!

Most victims believe they have to comply with the demand letter's confidentiality agreement that threatens even more (untrue) penalties if violated. So they do not share their stories with Brown or law enforcement, being silenced by a barrage of ever-threat-escalating emails by Jolin's letters. Like the Bill Cosby case, we believe that if more victims speak, more will quickly surface if an attorney general takes on this scheme.

Sadly, Linda's Lyrics LLC is but one of the copyright trolling industry. Legal response is just beginning to occur since about 2013^{8,9} but as of yet, sporadic jurisdictional rulings are insufficient to grind these schemes to a complete halt.

Many legal issues surface in copyright trolling where potential claims occur:

- Extortion
- Federal mail and wire fraud
- Conspiracy to commit fraud
- Copyright misuse

Further, there may be violations under:

- Computer Fraud Abuse Act
- Federal and state consumer protection statutes

⁸ ***Shirokov v Dunlap, Grubb & Weaver PLLC***, US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Civil Action No. 10-12-043-GAO (May 27, 2014). Shirokov sued "the father of copyright trolling in the US," Dunlap, Grubb & Weaver, who initiated the first round of mass copyright trolling in the US for alleged extortion and fraud. Firm settled. ***"Copyright Trolls and Presumptively Fair Uses, University of Colorado Law Review (2014)*** author Brad A. Greenberg (Intellectual Property Fellow) states: *"The 'troll' label, long a staple of the patent system, had little connotation and even less application in the copyright context until 2010. That is when the so-called copyright troll emerged to acquire unenforced copyrights being infringed in the digital marketplace...[D]espite the copyright troll's conspicuous arrival, little scholarship has discussed how trolls undermine copyright policy goals or potential measures for mitigating the harms they impose."*

⁹ See also Ex D, **Internet Search of Copyright Trolling Law Review Articles:**

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?q=law+review+articles+on+copyright+trolling&hl=en&as_sdt=0&as_vis=1&oi=scholar&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewibnKvV5_3KAhXitIMKHadGARwQgQMIGjAA

Vermont has passed critical anti patent troll legislation on the basis of its state consumer protection laws. Timothy B. Lee writes in The Washington Post, (August 1, 2013), that Vermont’s Attorney General William Sorrell spearheaded this initiative after being contacted by grass-roots activists. Lee quotes attorney Peter Kunin who was retained by a well-resourced businessman/activist:

We came up with a legal theory under Vermont’s Consumer Protection Act...The legal theory basically goes like this: If a troll makes a threat in bad faith, that is a violation of state consumer protection laws...The patent system is federal, but it works hand in glove with state law.

Under that legislation, certain case elements trigger invocation of this law, excessively high licensing fees being demanded, short deadlines on the alleged infringer, and non-specific accusations. Lee continues to cite legal scholars that opine this law will survive federal pre-emption attacks. He concludes from Yale legal scholar, Camilla Hrdy’s remarks:

Federal courts have generally allowed the states to police bad-faith patent assertions, but only if the state courts apply the same legal standards that would apply in federal courts/

Beyond these potential claims of state and federal law, there is the question of:

- the validity of a confidentiality clause in a demand letter deemed to be extortion

Most victims feel muzzled by each settlement demand letter’s confidentiality clause that threatens to exact penalties beyond the exorbitant demands for innocent posting of The Dash. April Brown cannot get countless victims to talk. They sit in silence, much like Bill Cosby’s victims, fearing this intensity of intimidation Jolin exhibits in the demand letter, and incurring Jolin’s and Ellis’ retributive wrath if they fight. No one wants to expose themselves to being severely hardshipped by their tactics.

The Michigan Attorney General’s Office needs to enter this investigation in protection of and redress for likely scores of victims state-wide, and initiate the appropriate civil and criminal charges in their collective behalf to stop this copyright trolling/extortion scheme.

As a parting shot, The Dash is relayed (shared without permission under the Fair Use exception and for law enforcement reasons) so you can best appreciate the subsequent rebuttal poem:

The Dash (Linda Ellis © 1996)

*I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend.
Her referred to the dates on the tombstone
From the beginning...to the end.*

*For it matters not, how much we own,
The cars...the house...the cash.
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.*

*If we treat each other with respect
And more often wear a smile,
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.*

*He noted that first came the date of birth
And spoke of the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years*

*So, think about this long and hard.
Are there things you’d like to change?
For you never know how much time is left.
That can still be re-arranged.*

*So, when your eulogy is being read
With your life’s actions to rehash...
Would you be proud of the
Things they say
About how you spent your dash?*

*For that dash represents all the time
That they spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved them*

*And be less quick to anger
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives*

Know what that little line is worth.

Like we've never loved before.

Countless victims of Ellis' extortion scheme are so angered that they have expressed themselves in the only way they can now (after having paid the extortion demand) by poetry. Here's one of the best:

Poet's Report

*A certain poet died,
after many years on earth
and reported to her maker,
to determine her life's worth.*

*She left her worldly treasures.
Her cars, big house, and cash,
and with much pride and confidence
went to report her dash.*

*She stood before the Lord
to tell of her life's story,
with great anticipation
of receiving praise and glory.*

*She began, "My Lord and God,
I'm certain that you know,
a poem I wrote touched the hearts
of those on earth below."*

*"Yes, I know," replied the Lord,
"it touched the hearts of many.
Then you touched their pocketbooks
to obtain their every penny."*

*"But Lord, they stole my work.
How would that make You feel?
Besides, I think you wrote
somewhere
the words... 'thou shall not steal.'"*

*"My child, they did not steal.
In innocence they shared.
You would understand that
If in your heart you cared."*

*"Speaking of commandments,
there are many you ignored.
I doubt you'll ever understand
so this is your reward."*

*"There's no further need
for your life to now rehash.
I know you very well.
Go to Hell, and take your
Dash."*

--Dash Victim

CHRONOLOGY

DATE	EVENT	BOOK PG
1990	The earliest known date that “The Dash” (TD) was publicly known, being preached by Dr. Truitt Gannon of the Smokerise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain GA. Linda Ellis (LE) lives 34 miles away. It is possible her grandmother visited this church, may have heard TD and wrote it down	149
1994	Linda Ellis (LE) claims she found a stash of her grandmother’s poetry.	145
1994	Year that LE claims she wrote TD	
1994	LE sends TD to James Carney’s Atlanta radio show. She credits this w/launching TD’s popularity	145
1994-1998	LE freely shares TD to Carney’s requesting listeners, and sends it to newspapers, radio programs, magazines and perhaps other outlets w/o copyright warning.	146
1996	Year that LE adds her name to TD.	
xx-xx-1996	Radio program reads TD	
1998	Year that LE copyrights TD	
07-29-1999	LE and musicians Robin Krasny and Eddy Fischer reach written agreement for TD to be lyrics of a song.	153
Oct 2003	LE begins business negotiations with product brander Mac Anderson . Before Anderson would agree to a contract, he wanted LE to clean up or otherwise end the long-standing partnership she created w/ Krasny and Fischer .	157
07-05-2004	LE’s father dies. She asks Krasny and Fischer to sing TD song at the funeral.	154
10-14-2004	LE wants Krasny and Fischer to sign agreement that “they had no rights to The Dash poem or right to use it in another song or musical composition.” They refused. They lost thousands, having just printed 5,000 copies of the CD including TD song.	155, 157
09-12-2006	Atty Joseph M. Vanek files Breach of Contract and Copyright Infringement case against Krasny and Fischer and their corporation, Light Show Entertainment, Inc. The business subsequently dissolved.	158, 159
04-09-2007	Atty Joseph M. Vanek files another infringement case vs Singapore resident.	158
05-23-2008	Sen. Robert Dole recites TD w/o permission on C-Span for the National Press Club. LE emails a friend, “I was honored beyond words, “ and welcomed Dole’s infringement as free advertising.	161
October 2011	April Brown receives The Dash from a friend. She posted it on her BLOG.	1
	LE sends April Brown TD by web through “Tell-A-Friend” form w/o copyright warning.	7
2011	John Jolin starts Linda’s Lyrics, LLC	105
Jan 2012	Almost no mention of trolling scheme before this time.	110
05-07-2012	LE purchases two versions of April Brown’s company name and added key words, “Auctioneer Used Copyrighted Wk.”	45
05-10-2012	LE calls Mike Brown , April’s husband, as his work and followed up with 2 emails.	86
05-23-2012	LE writes letters to Mike Brown’s boss accusing April Brown and Mike Brown of “misappropriating” her work.	88
? 2012	April Brown creates iMovie: <i>The Dash Poem Warning Video</i> . Views climb to nearly 42,000	91
~1 wk later	April Brown learns that her iMovie was taken down by copyright strikes by LE.	
	Brown also discovers that her business (Charity Auction World) account was also stricken	93
	This created almost 6 weeks of inability to advertise her business on the web	97
June 2012	April Brown first contacts Greg Troy , Founder of Copyright Anti-Bullying Act (CABA Law)	ix
June 2012	April Brown stops responding to LE emails	44
June 2012	King County Animal Control investigates PETA complaint about her cat rescue	67
	Case ultimately dismissed, but not before April Brown had spent \$20,000+ on privacy fences	
	Surveys, legal fees and security systems.	71
Nov 2012	Neighbor’s teenage grandson moves in, gang member	64
Jan 2013	April Brown makes Facebook post re anonymous PETA complaint about her cat rescue	65
March 2013	Trial court hearing in Columbus GA w/ Judge Frank Jordan re Matthew Chan . Permanent PPO issued against Chan.	
Spring 2013	Victims communicate with April Brown behind the scenes.	
06-13-2013	April Brown finds evidence of her cats being threatened by neighbor. One cat disappears, never to be found.	83

Nov 2013	Neighbor from gang member's grandparent's house confides in April Brown , saying to April, "They're never going to leave you alone." He was leaving as he was being threatened with his life.	75
Summer 2014	LE begins exchanging emails w/ April Brown's neighbor	63
07-02-2014	Chan's appeal transferred to Georgia Supreme Court. Atty Timothy McCormack files appearance on behalf of LE.	
10-07-2014	Georgia Supreme Court hearing.	
01-07-2015	LE launches 2 websites to discredit April Brown .	40
01-08-2015	LE emails Mike Brown —April Brown's husband.	37

KNOWN JURISDICTIONS AFFECTED LIST

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Poetic Justice page</u>	<u>Other Material</u>
Australia		
Canada	107	
China (Singapore)	158	
England		
Israel		
New Zealand	107	
Puerto Rico	107	
South Africa		"The Dash author Linda Ellis targets South Africa" by Jack Carlson
United Kingdom	107	
United States		
Florida	133	
Georgia	27	
Michigan		known victim
New York , including NYC and at least one 9/11 victim (137-141)		
Utah	133	

VICTIMS INCLUDE LIST...

General Categories

Attorneys
Boards of Education/ schools
Charities
Churches
Families of the deceased
Funeral directors and homes
Minors
Pastors
Teachers

Individuals

<u>Victim Description</u>	<u>Alleged Infringement</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Demand</u>	<u>Page</u>
Elderly writer for small Midwest newspaper for seniors	posted TD in paper			
Pastor			7,500	134
Pastor Byron George	posted in BLOG	TX	7,000	214
Small business owner. Demand letter ruins his business				140
Unidentified family gets demand letter same day their house was foreclosed				140
Young mother who just lost her baby	posting TD in funeral program		7,500 ¹⁰	132
Zampieri family (9/11 victim)	posted TD in Zampieri Dental Care Newsletter		7,500	137

POTENTIAL VICTIMS NEVER SENT DEMAND LETTER

Robin Leach	per my Feb 2016 phone call to April Brown
Senator Robert Dole	161
"Several celebrities"	161

¹⁰ This is equal to the cost of burying her child. (132)