

Dear Strandbergs,

I hope I'm not opening any wounds that may have healed over the years but I thought I should let you know how sorry I am for taking your son's life 14 years ago. When I came to your house that night I really had no intention of killing him. The shooting was an accident.

I came to your house that night over a disagreement with some money. I know the police ruled out robbery as a motive but that was the reason I came that night.

Once I was inside the house, I was very nervous and scared. I had never broke into someone's house before. I quietly looked around Mark's room and finally realized what I was doing and decided to leave. As my back was turned from Mark, I heard some movement on Mark's bed and as I turned toward him I heard a pop. At that point I wasn't even sure if the gun had fired but I was pretty sure that it had. I just saw him laying there facing the wall. His back was to me and I didn't see any movement or any blood. I didn't think that he was even hit. I was just so scared that I ran out of the house.

When I heard the next day that he had died I just couldn't believe it. I really did plan on turning myself in after things had cooled down a little but then I wondered if anyone would believe me. I really didn't mean for the gun to fire when it did. I really had no intention of using it, I only brought it along for security.

I guess what I'm trying to tell you is how sorry I am for taking your son away from you and your family. I had no right to do that. I know that it's not fair that I was never brought to justice for it and punished. At this point, I guess living with it will be my punishment. It was a long time ago and I was just a scared and confused kid. My life seemed to take a good turn after that and that made me think that the Lord had forgiven me and wanted me to get on with my life.

I don't know how else to apologize for something like that. I just wanted you to know I'm very sorry and hope that somewhere in your hearts you can forgive me. I hope your lives are back to normal. I really didn't mean for him to die.

Sincerely yours,

Anonymous