

# Experts: Entwistle a controlling ‘charmer’

By Marie Szaniszlo | Sunday, June 29, 2008 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | Local Coverage

Handwriting analysts say the jailhouse letters Neil Entwistle wrote after murdering his wife and child reveal the personality of a “charmer” with a penchant for secrecy and a compulsion to control others.

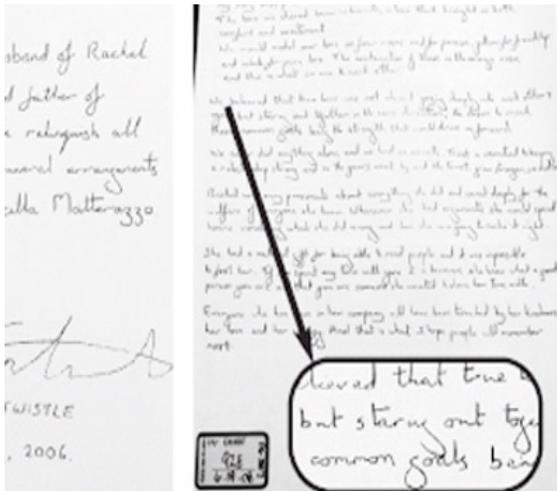
Three nationally recognized handwriting experts were asked by the Herald to review the three notes, which were among pieces of evidence made available to the media after the 29-year-old Brit was sentenced to life in prison on Thursday for killing his wife, Rachel, and their 9-month-old daughter, Lillian Rose.

“He may be quite a charmer in public but inside is tense and finds it hard to relax,” wrote Sheila Lowe, a Ventura, Calif., graphologist and author of “Handwriting of the Famous and Infamous,” in an analysis of the three notes for the Herald. “He would . . . likely want to create a set of rules and regulations for his family to follow.”

She noted that most of the handwriting in Entwistle’s three notes is “cramped and rigid, suggesting someone who is perfectionistic and demanding, both of himself and others.”

The “lower-loop letters,” such as g and y, Lowe wrote, “pull to the right, which is symbolic of pushing against authority.”

“There’s a conflict here: needing to please authority figures (his father) and rebelling against them,” she wrote. “Feeling weak inside, he tries to control other people who are weaker than he is in order to make himself feel stronger.”



Ruth Holmes, who has served as an expert witness in federal, state and local courts and heads the Michigan-based forensic consulting company Pentac, noted Entwistle’s handwriting is often small and indicative of an introvert.

His signature on a letter relinquishing all responsibility for the funeral arrangements of his wife and daughter, in contrast, is “only what he presents to others: bold, aggressive and illegible,” Holmes said. “He does not want you to know who he really is.”

In another note - a draft letter to the media in which he pretends to be a “close friend and confident (sic) of Neil Entwistle” seeking to sell his story to the highest bidder - the individual letters are very tall, indicating a “sense of superiority covering up a sense of inferiority,” Holmes said. “This is a troubled individual who feels frustrated and neglected.”

Much of the note is also illegible, indicating a “desire to conceal oneself,” said Arlyn J. Imberman, a court-certified graphologist based in New York.

Even in a note describing his dead wife as his “soulmate,” Imberman noted, Entwistle did not use his own words, but plagiarized the French author Antoine de Saint-Exupery, paraphrasing, “We believed that true love was not about gazing deeply into each other’s eyes, but staring out together in the same direction.”