

Elizabeth (Female, middle aged)

Elizabeth Great idea, John. Screw us up, then have a go at the children. You spineless, selfish bastard. You kill your mistress then whinge to me about guilt. How will it protect them? Do you imagine David's life at university will be enhanced by having a murderer for a father? Luckily Clare isn't back from Italy for another eight months. As you'll probably be "banged up" by then she may miss the press picking over the carcass.

Whatever else we've done with our lives, up to now we can claim to have been decent parents. Give that some thought first. It's not your job to tell the police you did it; it's their job to find out.

Elizabeth Did you have sex *with* her?

John When?

Elizabeth Christ, John!

John On Friday night? No. Of course I didn't. I was only there five minutes.

Elizabeth Three would have been enough, of course.

John (*after a beat*) You never told me you had any complaints. (*Beat*) Did you?

Elizabeth No, you bastard! I didn't. You just stopped wanting me.

John I didn't. Not ever.

Elizabeth Yes. After I had my scare.

John I moved into David's room to let you be more comfortable.

Elizabeth And never moved back in again.

John You didn't invite me.

Elizabeth Because if anyone had sex *with* her the police may be able to prove it. So if you didn't and he did ...

John But he *didn't* kill her.

Elizabeth Is there any evidence to prove you did either? You said she looked as if she was expecting someone. Maybe he came back. You saw him. You can describe him and match his description to that of the cleaner.

John We don't know what she said.

Elizabeth It doesn't matter. You tell the truth. You tell them exactly what you saw - omitting the part about them kissing. Write this down.

Bus stop. Coat. Number 19. BMW. Ticket. Do you understand?

John Yes.

Elizabeth Now call the police.

John Why are you doing this, Beth?

Elizabeth Because I'm angry. With you for being so stupid. And with myself for not doing anything earlier to prevent this. We need to buy some time to work out the future.
