



The 1978 Letter

The Zodiac's Return After Prison

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After four years of silence, a letter arrives in April 1978. The writer says **"I am back with you."** Eight months earlier, Arthur Leigh Allen had been released from Atascadero State Hospital.

He was not speaking metaphorically. He was literally announcing his return.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The last confirmed Zodiac communication before the silence was the 1974 "Exorcist" letter. After that -- nothing. No letters. No ciphers. No taunts. For the first time since 1969, the Zodiac went completely quiet.

The silence lasted from 1974 to 1978. Three and a half years of nothing.

Then, in April 1978, a letter arrived. And the first words were: **"I am back with you."**

THE INCARCERATION TIMELINE

The silence lines up precisely with one man's imprisonment:

DATE	EVENT
1974	Arthur Leigh Allen arrested for child molestation
January 1975	Allen committed to Atascadero State Hospital
1975-1977	Allen incarcerated at Atascadero. Zodiac: total silence
August 31, 1977	Allen released from Atascadero
April 1978	Letter arrives -- 8 months after Allen's release

The timeline is exact. The Zodiac could not write letters because the Zodiac was in a locked institution.

"I AM BACK WITH YOU"

The opening line of the 1978 letter:

"I am back with you"

This is not the phrasing of someone who simply stopped writing for a while. "Back" implies absence. "Back with you" implies return from somewhere. The Zodiac is telling the recipients that he was gone -- physically gone -- and has now returned.

Arthur Leigh Allen was physically gone. He was in Atascadero State Hospital from January 1975 through August 31, 1977. Eight months after his release, the Zodiac announced his return.

THE TOSCHI REFERENCE

The 1978 letter contains a line that no other Zodiac communication includes:

"That city pig toschi is good but I am smarter and better he will get tired then leave me alone."

This is the **only** Zodiac letter to name a specific detective.

Why This Matters

Inspector David Toschi of the San Francisco Police Department interviewed Arthur Leigh Allen at his workplace on **August 4, 1971**. During that interview:

- Toschi noticed Allen wearing a **Zodiac-brand watch**
- Allen made suspicious statements
- Toschi became convinced Allen was the Zodiac

Only someone who had been personally investigated by Toschi would know his specific role in the case and have reason to taunt him by name. The general public knew the Zodiac case existed. They did not know which specific inspector was leading the investigation of which specific suspect.

Allen knew Toschi. Toschi had sat across from him and asked him questions. The 1978 letter names Toschi because Allen had a personal grievance against the man who was trying to catch him.

WHY THE 1978 LETTER WAS DISMISSED

The 1978 letter was largely dismissed on the basis of **handwriting analysis alone**. Analysts compared the handwriting to previous Zodiac letters and found inconsistencies.

However, this dismissal ignores several critical factors:

1. **The Zodiac explicitly stated he disguised his writing.** In his own letters, he told recipients he would alter his handwriting.
2. **Allen had been institutionalized for nearly three years.** Handwriting can change after prolonged periods of altered routine, medication, and aging.
3. **Connie Seawater confirmed Allen could write with both hands** and deliberately varied his style.
4. **Allen knew he was a suspect.** After being interviewed by Toschi and investigated for years, he had every reason to further disguise his writing.

Handwriting analysis, when used as the sole basis for inclusion or exclusion, is insufficient -- particularly when the writer has announced his intention to disguise it.

THE PERFECT CORRELATION

ALLEN'S STATUS	ZODIAC ACTIVITY	MATCH
Free (1968-1974)	Active -- murders, ciphers, letters	Allen free = Zodiac active
Imprisoned (1975-1977)	Complete silence	Allen locked up = Zodiac silent
Released (August 1977)	"I am back with you" (April 1978)	Allen released = Zodiac returns

There is no period where Allen was free and the Zodiac was silent. There is no period where Allen was imprisoned and the Zodiac was active. The correlation is perfect.

CONTENT ANALYSIS

The 1978 letter continues themes from previous Zodiac communications:

- **Taunting law enforcement** -- consistent with all Zodiac letters
- **Claiming superiority** ("I am smarter and better") -- consistent with the Zodiac's grandiose self-image
- **Referencing the investigation** -- the writer knows he is being hunted
- **The signature return** -- "I am back with you" mirrors the Zodiac's pattern of announcing himself

The voice is the same. The attitude is the same. The only thing that changed was three years of silence -- the exact three years Allen spent behind walls.

READ THE COMPLETE PROOF

This analysis is part of a comprehensive mathematical proof. For the full evidence chain -- including all four ciphers, the checksum 6 system, and the complete case:

[The Zodiac Solved: Complete Mathematical Proof](#)

RELATED ARTICLES

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