

Stalking A Diva



The Leandra Ramm Story
As told to D. Rocca

Stalking A Diva
the Leandra Ramm Story
MEDIA PACKET



In her book, 'Stalking a Diva' and upcoming hour-long feature on Investigation Discovery's 'Obsession Dark Desires,' Leandra Ramm shares her inspirational story of triumph over a vicious cyberstalker leading to a landmark international prosecution, conviction and sentencing.

Leandra Ramm, renowned singer and performer, has experienced her share of heartache over the past few years, as she battled an international cyberstalker, who could not be prosecuted under U.S. or international law. Wracked with fear and hesitant on how to move forward, Leandra began an eight-year ordeal to rid her life of the cyberstalker. Following the December, 2013 first-ever successful international cyberstalker prosecution against her stalker in Singapore, and to celebrate the Presidential Proclamation marking January as National Stalking Awareness Month, Leandra continues to fight for victims of cybercrimes.

It all began when she was featured on CNN's Anderson Cooper in 2005 to discuss her unique origin from the Repository of Germinal Choice, otherwise known as the Genius Sperm Bank. After the show, a man posing as the director of the prestigious Singapore Music Festival contacted the New Jersey Opera Theater about Leandra. Gradually, he revealed his true intentions and expressed a romantic interest in Leandra via email. When he found out she had a boyfriend, the rejection prompted him to begin cyberstalking Leandra and her boyfriend. He sent cryptic love letters which eventually turned to death threats, stole her identity, used other people to harass her, contacted employers pretending to be her, created slanderous blogs against her, and even sent a personal friend to deliver flowers to her home. He was a cyberstalker willing to invest countless hours, which turned into days, months, and years, attempting to ruin Leandra's reputation, shatter her self worth, destroy her credibility; threatening not only her but her family and friends. He did all of this from behind a laptop on the other side of the world.

At first, Leandra understandably thought the conniving Mr. Colin Mak was a legitimate businessman who wanted to foster her international opera career. The correspondence continued for several months before Leandra realized she'd become the victim of a clever cyberstalker, who would soon turn her life into a nightmare. (See attached emails.)

He began emailing her several times a day, demanding a response. It was at this point Leandra discovered Mr. Mak was a conman and, more alarmingly, a convicted international arms dealer. He hammered Ramm with unwanted, vicious, disgusting emails, demanding apologies and swearing graphically detailed ways to exact vengeance. By the time Leandra learned Mak was a fraud, with no ties to the Singapore Music Festival, it was too late—he was obsessed with her.

Once the death threats began to pour in, Leandra methodically contacted authorities including the NYPD, FBI, U.N. and the Singapore Police Force, certain that someone would help her fight these terrorist threats. It was crushing to learn that no one would help because her cyberstalker was located in Singapore, and she was in America. Instead of fighting back, law enforcement agencies instructed her to ignore the threats and try to go on with her life. Believing there was more she could do, Leandra exhausted all legal avenues, in the process learning there were no Mutual Law Assurance Treaties to protect her. She was devastated to learn that the advice given to her by police was wrong—ignoring Colin

“We have got to provide Law Enforcement with Tools, Training and Treaties so they can effectively protect US citizens from International Cyber-Criminals”

- A. J. Fardella

was exacerbating his behavior, not stopping it. Taking matters into her own hands, Leandra began communicating with Mak, desperate to stop the threats of violence against her and her family. The stress and anxiety became unbearable for Leandra; her stalker continued to make threats to harm and kill her and her family, relentlessly tormenting her any time she refused to communicate with him.



A. J. Fardella & Leandra Ramm

Vowing not to allow the lack of laws force her to remain a victim, Leandra decided to find a solution. In 2010 she ceased all communications with her cyberstalker and was determined to fight for her life and win.

At this crucial point, one connection led to another, resulting in the right people and resources entering her life, including the right media contacts, a wonderful New York attorney, and Mr. A.J. Fardella, prominent digital forensics examiner and cybercrime expert. Leandra had made the decision to put everything else aside to focus on the case against her stalker until she won. With the help of a team of experts, the threats eventually stopped, and the stalker was arrested.

“I got my freedom back. I feel like I was living in a virtual prison for almost a decade... Now, I want to help victims of cyberstalking, by bringing awareness of their needs while helping them to become survivors, not victims anymore.”

-Leandra Ramm

“A.J. worked tirelessly on my case and was immediately in contact with the Singapore Police who worked with us to collect evidence, which Singapore used to prosecute Colin in a landmark international case of first impression.” Just this past December 2013, A Singapore district court convicted Colin Mak of stalking and criminal intimidation against Leandra and other victims; he is now serving a three-year sentence in a Singapore jail. The judge called Mak’s cyberstalking devious and “tantamount to an aggravated and perverse form of mental assault.”

“Because of A.J. and the help of the Secret Service and FBI, I got Singapore’s attention and am grateful that they sentenced Colin to prison time.” Looking back on her experience, Leandra says, “I’m incredibly happy and grateful to get [the cyberstalker] out of my life. I got my freedom back.

I feel like I was living in a virtual prison for almost a decade. I feel like I couldn’t be myself, and it took a great toll on me, physically and emotionally.

I woke up petrified in the morning, scared to look at my phone and see the emails that I would get. Every single day, I lived in fear. Now, I want to help victims of cyberstalking, by bringing awareness of their needs while helping them to become survivors, not victims anymore.”

That’s why Ramm, A.J. Fardella and attorney Lisa Della Rocca, co-author of *Stalking a Diva*, founded the non profit Alliance Against Cybercrime (AAC) <https://allianceagainstcybercrime.org>, an interdisciplinary group of professionals working to provide education, applications, research and advocacy for victims of and professionals combating cybercrime. The AAC is currently focusing on the Ramm Initiative, to reform international treaties to address cyberharassment and strengthen existing provisions.



New York Diva Triumphs over International Stalker in book “Stalking A Diva” & in episode of “Obsession: Dark Desires” airing March 4th on Investigation Discovery

Stalking A Diva

Leandra Ramm is available for interviews, either live or for print media about her book, 'Stalking A Diva' her role in 'Obsession: Dark Desires' airing on Investigation Discovery, March 4, 2014, and as an activist against cyberstalking. Mr. Fardella is also available as an expert in cybercrime and the 'Stalking a Diva' case.



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TV Personality

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STALKING A DIVA™

the Leandra Ramm Story
as told to D Rocca



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For Media Interview Requests of the author(s)
please call (925) 457-0770



OBSESSION: DARK DESIRES -

Leandra's Episode Airs March 4, 2014.

Website: <http://investigation.discovery.com/tv-shows/obsession-dark-desires>

A clip of Leandra's Episode can be provided for live interview



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Stalking A Diva

The Leandra Ramm Story as told to D. Rocca



Leandra Ramm



D. Rocca

"plays out like a Clint Eastwood movie, cybercrime, international government relations, beautiful opera singer, facebook friends, bureaucracy, cyber wizard, and one freaky dude."

-Naked Eye

Kindle Certified Reviews

"This is a story about fear, humiliation, anger, and jealousy, all brought together because cyberspace made it possible. But most of all, this is a tale of revenge.."

-Mark Albertson

San Francisco Examiner

<https://stalkingadiva.com>

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STALKING A DIVA Ramm & Rocca



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The Leandra Ramm Story
as told to D. Rocca

STALKING A DIVA

*The Leandra Ramm Story
as told to D. Rocca*

D. Rocca Reporting

A Story Told By
Leandra Ramm

STALKING A DIVA[™]

SAMPLE CHAPTERS

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ABOUT STALKING A DIVA

After first seeing Leandra Ramm on CNN's *Anderson Cooper*, a mentally unbalanced but seasoned cyberstalker from Singapore relentlessly pursues her, without ever having met her in the flesh. This true story follows Ramm's physical and virtual journey to free herself from an abusive predator in a climate of law enforcement inertia and apathy.

This story is a news report conducted by the author D Rocca, a lawyer from California. It is written in the first person of the heroine of the story, Leandra Ramm.

For accuracy much of this report derives from intangible communications (e.g., emails, blogs, phone recordings, chat logs). Except as otherwise interpreted, in the interest of the best representation of the facts, we let such communications speak for themselves.

We welcome comments from anyone who wishes to contribute insight into this story. You may do so at <https://stalkingadiva.info>

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PROLOGUE

According to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics Supplemental Victimization Survey (SVS), individuals are classified as stalking victims if they experienced sending unsolicited or unwanted e-mails on at least two separate occasions. In addition, the individuals must have feared for their safety or that of a family member as a result of the course of conduct, or have experienced additional threatening behaviors that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. This makes me a stalking victim somewhere between 3000 and 4000 times over what's required.

Although I am joined by many victims, my situation is unique in its severity, its intensity, and the sheer volume and relentlessness of the attacks. If this story were fiction, the reader would have to suspend disbelief over the course of reading it. In truth, it is all too real, beginning with my donor origins from a controversial genius sperm bank to the twisted mind of a recidivist predator, whose violence, I was certain, would infiltrate every waking moment of the rest of my natural life.

I fervently hope that *Stalking a Diva* brings a much needed awareness to cyberstalking and its destructive effects. My chilling experience offers a detailed education on this horrendous crime—it is my goal to put an end to it and to continue my journey free of it.

I also hope this book will convince the silent victims of cyberstalking, bullying, and cyberterrorism to find their voice, to lobby their representatives, and to shed light on a problem that our society, lawmakers, and law enforcers have, up to now, failed to validate.

PART ONE
THE PREY: LEANDRA RAMM

The Fortune Cookie

March 31, 1977 would be my mother's 27th birthday. She and David had made plans to celebrate. Meanwhile, Mom's grandmother, Leah Bauman Kerner, had a stroke in Brooklyn, undiscovered until 24 hours later. By the time of Mom's birthday, Great-grandmother Leah was at NYU Hospital, where she slipped in and out of consciousness. Mom lived on 34th Street and Park Avenue, near the hospital. Given the touch-and-go circumstances of Leah's survival, Adrienne and David planned a hospital visit before their birthday dinner date.

Although I never knew her, I'm pretty sure that I inherited aspects of Leah's personality—her perseverance, her love of theater (in her case, it was early 20th century Yiddish Theater) her work ethic, and her beautiful voice. Sasha Leah (her Hebrew name) immigrated to the United States via Ellis Island when she was only 15 years old. Her mission was to earn enough money to bring the rest of her family to America from Austria. Leah came to America on a cattle boat, where a wealthy gentleman offered her a job as a tailor on the Lower East Side. Although my great-grandmother didn't even know how to use a sewing machine, she taught herself how to sew and eventually earned enough money to bring her mother and four siblings to America. Considering their prospects in Austria under the ensuing Nazi reign, that fifteen-year-old girl arguably saved six lives and their progeny.

When David and Adrienne walked into the NYU hospital room, my great grandmother opened her eyes and saw David, whom she had only seen once before, at a Passover Seder. She opened her eyes, looked right at him, and said, "You're going to marry Adrienne." Then she slipped into semi-consciousness, during which she spoke in an odd mixture of numbers and letters. Suddenly, Leah opened her eyes again and said, "You will have a daughter. She will be beautiful and wise." Again, she drifted off, woke up, and made her third and last pronouncement, "You will name your daughter after me."

Mom felt wonderful about her grandmother's declarations and after leaving the hospital, she went to a Chinese restaurant with David, her mother (my Grandma Ruth), and father (Grandpa Sol), where they celebrated her birthday. At the end of the meal, everyone was served the traditional fortune cookie. Mom's was impossibly clairvoyant; it was as if the words had spilled from Great-grandma Leah's lips onto the thin slip of paper inside the fortune cookie: "Your daughter will be beautiful and wise." At that moment, Mom turned to my dad, who presented her with an engagement ring as a birthday present. They were engaged that night.

The next day, Adrienne bought a baby name book. Under the name "Leah" was my name, Leandra. Ultimately, I would be born under the sign of Leo, the name was also a universal tribute to Leah, who died shortly after her fall.

PART TEN
STALKING ESCALATION 2010

Sex-calation

As the war between the Hunter and the Stalker waged, Colin continued to threaten and sexually abuse me—even more. The sex emails from Colin disgusted and embarrassed me. I felt ashamed. Rationalizing alone couldn't stanch those feelings.

Later that day, he writes:

"I wanted sex with you the whole day—I feel better now that I am much happier—Really---I felt I could soak your clothes in my ejaculations. It's getting uncontrollable. I think about you all the time—and looking at the photo of you in the red dress today did nothing to help the situation—I needed sex even more with you. I need you Leandra. I need to be very very very deep in you."¹

I had plenty of these deviant communications from Colin, a self-proclaimed virgin, who explained his celibacy more than once.

"Sex to me is special and only in a marriage. I nearly felt God saying to me he would strike me there and then. I was afraid. It was also because I love God and you."²

His chastity and church talk (a self-proclaimed Christian, spouting the Bible, Colin often mentioned his church attendance) didn't stop him from writing smut.

I am driven into a sexual frenzy thinking about you Leandra-- I think we need to meet in NYC-- or never mind-- I will turn up at your house.

I have the condoms which I got from getting FHM Deutschland magazine...³

These emails still make me feel physically ill—there were thousands of them, sometimes several in one day.

I want to cum in you. I need to have children by you. I want to cum all over your face and hair and right into your sexy green eyes. I am a wildman now. Colin M.⁴

Several hours later, he wrote:

"I am getting you a pair of nude colored and another pair of black colored thigh highs Leandra...!"⁵

A cyber-rapist, Colin confused sex, love, violence, and power. He was as awkward sexually as he was violent in his threats to mutilate, disfigure and kill me. He was inexperienced sexually, asking me about whether he was right to abstain from sex when he entered and left college in the U.S., referring to his virginity in emails where he posed as Fritz Tan.

The sex emails from Colin were viscerally disgusting to me, causing me shame, fear, and embarrassment. Colin was now not only a stalker but also a pervert. They increased as my Internet contact with him decreased.

¹ Email from Stormo Rochalie to Leandra Ramm, July 23, 2010, 10:48 AM.

² Email from Colin M warbird5k to Leandra Ramm, October 19, 2010, 7:41 AM. Subject—sex.

³ Email from Colin M warbird5k, November 9, 2010.

⁴ Email from Colin M warbird5k, June 30, 2010, 6:05 AM.

⁵ Email from Colin M warbird5k, June 30, 2010, 11:24 PM.

"...everyday I think about sex with you. I can no longer control myself anymore. I need to f**k and procreate. And I know how to get what I do want from you.

Colin M.⁶

"...I feel both sexy and sexual. I want to make love to you over and over again before you go on stage to sing on Friday...."⁷

"...my sexual desires are only for you. I need to be f**ked and f**ked by you Leandra."⁸

⁶ Email from Colin M warbird5k, April 28, 2009, 9:59 AM.

⁷ Email from Stormo Rochalie to Leandra Ramm, July 23, 2010, 2:26 AM.

⁸ Email from Stormo Rochalie to Leandra Ramm, July 23, 2010, 3:58 AM.

PART FOURTEEN
THE WAITING IS THE HARDEST PART

Bag and Tag

In 2011, I fedexed a package of hard evidence to Fardella, a veritable trousseau of gifts from Colin over the years—silk clothes, underwear, some cheap silver-plated jewelry and a letter, never opened with a return address to and postmark from Singapore.

When A.J. got the package, he followed acceptable scientific methods to “bag and tag” evidence. Before touching the package contents, he donned latex gloves, then videotaped opening the package-- so that the chain of evidentiary custody was transparent and unbroken. Fardella carefully placed the evidence on a pre-designated surface in his Pittsburg forensics lab. Then, following protocol, he photographed each item, electronically “tagging” it, by memorializing the image with metadata, including time and date stamping.

Fardella suspected certain items contained fingerprints and DNA, which would appear under black light after spraying the surface with Luminol. But he was interested less in DNA on the lingerie and more in the unopened letter. A.J. recalled an admonition by his retired Secret Service buddy, Al, the one who had introduced Fardella into the Electronic Crimes Task Force.

“Never ignore the low hanging fruit, A.J.”

Hidden in plain sight among the glitter and smut of Colin’s mementos was this simple letter and envelope. Fardella was counting on the fact that Mak, ever the elusive predator online, would not be so careful to cover his traces on a three dimensional document. That he most likely handled and licked the envelope. Fardella hoped that Mak’s letter would be the low hanging fruit connecting Colin to every one of the emails, texts and blog entries he sent to me or wrote about me.

We crossed our fingers, hoping for a fingerprint.

EMAIL EXAMPLE THREE:

Subject: Jim Schaeffer----- I am going to beat up Leandra Ramm with a nightstick-----

Date: Monday, June 25, 2007 11:17:42 AM Pacific Daylight Time

From: MiGGY II Pell

To: js...

CC: leandraramm...

Dear Jim Schaeffer I am going to beat up Leandra Ramm on your premises with a nightstick she is attending Jake Heggie's masterclass. she has cheated people of money and is on the FBI's wanted list now. Leandra----- I am out to smash your f****ng head.

EMAIL EXAMPLE FOUR:

Subject: I regret I have to CC you guys about Leandra----- but I am right in doing so. beatings coming soon. proposal for reconciliation and imminent combat

Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 11:10:45 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Stormo Rochalie

To: Leandra Ramm

CC: Adrienne and David Ramm, Courtney Ramm, Leandra Ramm, Rebecca Marks, David Plotz, info..., Carina Scott, Deborah Karpel Leandra (and to her family----- Adrienne, David, Courtney and Logan)

I am on the same ship as you now. You owe me a meeting on this ship because you asked me to buy tickets for it, yet I am treated harshly and unjustly. Why you choose to act like this I do not know. You promised there would be no incidents on this ship and you would meet me and we would have a good time on the ship. I have been here for 2 weeks and nothing of that sort has happened.

I have spent 17 000 USD already on this ship trip which I did not need to have in the first place. Add this to the fact that I have sponsored you before and did you plenty of financial favors and made contacts for you.

In fact you have been ignoring my emails. I am beginning to lose complete trust in you and as you can imagine I am boiling with rage. Why is this? Are you such an ingrate, a b***h, a complete c**t and a degenerate punk or a beautiful, kind pleasant girl that I have always thought you were up till now?

-CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-

But you have to send me an email within 24 hours to invite me to meet you at the Murano restaurant. You are allowed to bring up to 3 friends along if you don't trust me (It should be the other way round) If I were to find you there would definitely be a confrontation with weapons classes not seen before. It will be disastrous for both of us given this . I can really damage you and your career. I can even damage your family. I will damage your friend Michael Wade Lee who is croaking up an opera in Birmingham, England right now. Eryn Pola is getting married soon to her boyfriend and since she was unjust and rude to me before that makes a lucrative high value target too. You are attempting to ruin my happiness, so let me ruin those of you, your family, your friends and in exchange. You will live through to release your single and music video on the internet----- at a huge cost to yourself and personal well being.

Your family lives at

531 Main Street, #213 New York, NY 10044

do they?

HOWEVER if you were to send me an invitation to meet with you without incident I will forget the last 2 weeks since I boarded and we can reconcile I promise. All I need is Don't f**k around with destiny Leandra. You are still a great girl with a lot going for you.

I will never forgive you for this slight Leandra. We will be at war with plenty of hurt on your side because you have hurt me enough already.

----- Colin M! ~~~~~

~~~ "There Is Always Some Madness In Love. But There Is Also Always Some Reason In Madness." Friedrich Nietzsche ~~~

**Selected Emails featured in 'Stalking A Diva'**  
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**EMAIL EXAMPLE FIVE:**

Subject: video of Leandra Ramm's beating.

Date: Friday, September 3, 2010 9:44:12 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: MiGGY MIGGY

To: scott...

CC: leandraramm..., leandraramm..., rammda..., courtneyramm..., info..., bearsax...

HI Scott

I see no reasons why I should not contact you ever again-- because this mezzo soprano is going to be harassed till I get an apology and taht redneck child molesterDustin Bear the same as well or when she gets injured-- pictures and a youtube video will be sent to you. no one --friend or foe gets involved with Leandra Ramm gets involved with her. All I need is an apology from her-- she can then fuck off and not be friends with me. I don't give a damn.

Let this be known.. I come from the military-- whatever I say I will do. This CUNT will be dealt with.

> From: scott...

> To: spitzers50...

> Subject: Re: HI Toledo Opera

> Date: Fri, 3 Sep 2010 15:49:19 -0400 >

> Do not contact me ever again. > > >

> On Sep 3, 2010, at 12:00 AM, MiGGY MIGGY <spitzers50...> wrote: >

> > HI Toledo Opera and NJ opera Theatre >> > I do have a major disagreement with your former employee and Young ArtistLeandra Ramm right now. >>

> I believe 3 years ago you were contacted with regards to my éngaging of Leandra Ramm ---

>>

> > she had taken huge sums of money from me and right now she has refused to apologize after posting pictures of me and endangering my life as a security consultant. This is a violation of federal law.

> > She had collaborated with a saxophonist to create a fake webpage about me

>> > please see DivasGoneWild.blogspot.com >>

> all the facts listed on Leandra including her financial fraud are true. She is not to be trusted with any contract or money and should be dropped from any paid opera roles.

>> >>

-CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-

> I wish to ask publicly for a reconciliation-- because if I do not have a reconciliation-- I will have to do whatever I see fit as in my warnings 3 years ago with you.

>>

> > Leandra I know I promised you never to contact your employers again-- but this are a special set of circumstances-- you are harassing me and endangering people's lives.

> > I want a reconciliation. >>



Singaporean Colin Mak was yesterday jailed for three years on 14 counts of criminal intimidation. He had cyberstalked and threatened to harm US singer Leandra Ramm and her loved ones

## THE **VICTIM**

# I was just trapped

US singer says cyberstalker terrorised her and loved ones for six years

Reports by **RENNIE WHANG** and **RONALD LOH**  
tnp@sph.com.sg

### He threatened to kill her and rape or kill her sister.

He called her autistic brother the runt of the family and a disgrace. He said that she, too, was autistic because she was "stupid like him".

Even when the US singer went to work on a ship, thinking she would be safe from him, he found out where she was and threatened to confront her backstage or show up at its various ports of call.

Ms Leandra Ramm, 29, was terrorised by Singaporean Colin Mak, 38, for six years, during which he cyberstalked her and threatened to harm her and her loved ones.

Mak, who also harassed other women, was yesterday jailed three years on 14 counts of criminal intimidation.

Ten were against Ms Ramm, three against the boyfriend of a Hungarian music teacher, and another was against a Singaporean businesswoman.

He was also fined \$5,000 for harassing a Ukrainian musician, trespassing and theft.

Speaking to The New Paper on Internet communication service Skype from San Francisco two weeks ago, Ms Ramm marvelled at how obsessed Mak was with her, given they had never actually met.

His obsession began after he watched a short feature on Ms Ramm on CNN.

She said that Mak sent her more than 5,000 e-mails, mostly death threats, between 2005 and 2011.

"It was so coincidental he saw that (CNN) clip. The moment he saw me, I was doomed," Ms Ramm said.

"He latched on like a bee latches on to a flower. I could tell he wouldn't stop the harassment. It didn't matter that he didn't meet me in person.

"It would have continued until he died or I died."



PHOTOS: FACEBOOK.COM/LEANDRARAMM, ST FILE





## FIRST CONTACT

**Mak first contacted her in 2005, claiming to be the director of the Singapore Music Festival and promising to be her patron, she said.**

When his offers to pay for a summer opera programme and for her to perform in Singapore did not materialise, she decided to ignore him.

She remembered receiving his first nasty e-mail in December 2006 while she was in a taxi and saw that he had sent copies to all the opera companies she was working with.

"He was saying I had severely insulted an important government officer and the opera was dealing with a criminal. He also said he would use nightsticks to make sure I was dead."

She said she was shocked, but such threats from him became all too familiar.

"It was incredibly scary, the feeling that it was going to be reality," she said.

The harassment got worse as he left threatening voice messages from December 2006 to July 2007. He also threatened her friends, who told her to take care of the situation.

Ms Ramm said her breaking point came when he sent an e-mail to her opera company threatening to jeopardise the performance if she was not fired.

"The role was important to me. I remember I was on my lunch break when I rang him and said, 'What do you want? You're ruining my life.'"

"He said he wanted to talk to me. A light bulb went off in my head. I would just have to talk to him once in a while and he would leave my friends and family alone."

So, for about 2½ years, Ms Ramm tried to placate Mak by speaking to him on Google Chat, chat service AIM and through the phone.

"I had as minimal contact as I could. We talked about once every 10 days. If I didn't contact him for too long, he would go back to stalking mode."

She also agreed to his request for pictures of her, but said: "I never sent him anything sexual, just pictures from my shows. He often tried to make the conversation sexual, but I'd just change the subject."



**Your cyberstalking was tantamount to an aggravated and perverse form of mental assault.**

— District Judge Mathew Joseph

The Forensic Expert & The Lawyer  
**NEXTPAGE**

## HE WENT BERSERK WHEN REJECTED

**In 2010, Ms Ramm decided she could not maintain the charade. Mak kept wanting to increase their contact online and on the phone.**

"He kept telling people I was his fiancée, he was going to move to New York and we were going to have three children," she said.

She sent Mak a final e-mail to tell him to leave her alone.

He replied to say he was sorry, then went "ballistic" two weeks later.

"He created blogs in which he pretended to be a music critic and criticised my voice. He created Facebook, Twitter hate groups. He would mail physical letters to my parents' house: One would be a love letter, another a hate letter."

Mak e-mailed her sister, a dance and fitness instructor, and her sister's associates.

"He would send pictures of guns, saying he would show up at my sister's yoga studio at this time, on this day, and rape her."

"I felt I couldn't escape. I was just trapped. He would always find a way to weasel in. I always had to do damage control."

Ms Ramm said she approached the Singapore Embassy, the United Nations, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Internet safety programme CyberAngels, but to no avail.

It was only when she engaged lawyer Monroe Mann and computer forensic expert A. J. Fardella that she started to see a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. (See reports on Page 4.)

The Singapore police arrested Mak in July 2011.

"I've forgiven him, otherwise I wouldn't have been able to move on," Ms Ramm said.

"I've become a stronger person. If I could overcome that, I can overcome anything."

## THE JUDGE

# Vile, vicious threats reveal Mak's dark side

**Wicked, repugnant, perverse, offensive, a persistent and obnoxious offender.**

These were just some of the words District Judge Mathew Joseph used yesterday to describe Colin Mak and his reign of terror before jailing him for three years.

Mak faced 42 charges of intentional harassment, criminal intimidation, trespass and theft. He pleaded guilty to 17 of them, with 25 others taken into consideration, on Dec 4.

The district judge called it an abhorrent case that had vicious threats of violence with extremely vulgar rants against Ms Leandra Ramm.

He said: "She was not known to you. But you contacted her and deviously promised to further her music career."

"Your cyberstalking was tantamount to an aggravated and perverse form of mental assault."

The district judge berated Mak for having a malevolent streak in him by deviously targeting foreign musicians.

He said: "His actions were all deliberate and planned and involved sinister sophistication."

An Institute of Mental Health report said Mak did not suffer from any mental disorder and was not of unsound mind. However, the doctor indicated he had a probable anti-social personality disorder and probable narcissistic personality traits.

The district judge was not impressed with Mak's mitigation that he could not control his temper, calling it hardly exceptional.

He said Mak's vile and vicious threats against his victims revealed a dark side to him that was repugnant and offensive.

According to Ms Ramm's victim impact statement, parts of which was read out in court, she has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

"The constant state of stress, anxiety, fear and depression caused me, many times, to contemplate ending my own life. I could not see there ever being a solution until death did us part," she said.

The district judge called the case a timely reminder that harassment laws must keep up with changes in technology and the widespread use of Internet and social media.

He said it is often difficult for the victim to prove harassment in the virtual world as there may be little physical evidence.

Several countries, including the UK and the US, had passed recent new laws to deal with harassment and cyberstalking, he said.

"Singapore is one of the most wired societies in the world today. Technology advances and widespread use of the Internet have, unfortunately, provided easy opportunities for people like (Mak) to exploit and prey on others, in a way that is instantaneous and with minimal risk of detection."





**There is a severe lack of collaborative law enforcement treaties between countries regarding the exchange of electronic data. But Singapore's judicial system has blazed the trail with the successful indictment of Mak.**

— US forensic expert A.J. Fardella



## THE FORENSIC EXPERT

# He compiled database of 5,000 e-mails, letters

Report by WEE JING LONG  
weejl@sph.com.sg

**When US data forensic expert A.J. Fardella heard about Ms Leandra Ramm's six years of being stalked by Colin Mak, he felt it was more serious than cyberstalking.**

Mr Fardella, who met the US singer in March 2011, told The New Paper in a phone interview: "It wasn't even cyber-

stalking, it was cyberterrorism.

"He threatened to rape and kill her. He even sent faxes and threats to her potential employers, to her family, to people who she was performing with and portrayed her as a prostitute, a criminal. The living hell she was put through — I knew I could and had to help."

That same month, he contacted the Singapore police investigators, who briefed him on the procedures to sub-

mit evidence.

He then compiled a massive database of evidence against Mak and sent them to the authorities here.

It contained more than 5,000 e-mail exchanges, voicemail, letters and faxes.

He also tapped on his connections in the US Secret Service, which he had worked with before.

Three months later in July 2011, Mak was arrested by the Singapore police.

## OVERWHELMING

Mr Fardella said he found the case overwhelming.

"Leandra paid me, but with the number of hours I spent on this case, I doubt I even made minimum wage."

Although Ms Ramm managed to get justice, victims of foreign cyberstalkers are still very much helpless, Mr Fardella said.

"There is a severe lack of collaborative law enforcement treaties between countries regarding the exchange of electronic data.

"But Singapore's judicial system has blazed the trail with the successful indictment of Mak."

Mr Fardella and Ms Ramm recently started The Ramm Initiative, which advocates greater cybercrime enforcement across borders.

"We still meet up regularly — either she flies to California or I fly to New York," he said.

**HELP:** Mr A.J. Fardella and Ms Leandra Ramm at the premiere of US TV series *My Life Is A Lifetime Movie* in New York last November. Ms Ramm's cyberstalking ordeal was featured in an episode of the series.

PHOTO: A.J. FARDELLA



**AID:** Lawyer Monroe Mann helped Ms Leandra Ramm.

PHOTO: MONROE MANN

## THE LAWYER

# He helped her when no one else would

**When Ms Leandra Ramm enlisted the help of entertainment and criminal lawyer Monroe Mann in early 2011, no country or organisation wanted to take on the responsibility of dealing with Colin Mak.**

The singer approached Mr Mann after a talk he gave on networking and he agreed to help her.

"I knew there were thousands of people out there suffering from (harassment by cyberstalkers) but nobody knew of them. Fortunately, Leandra showed up that day," Mr Mann told TNP two weeks ago.

Mr Mann said they first tried to deal with the hate posts put up by Mak on various social media platforms.

"We asked Google (which owns blogging portal Blogspot) and YouTube to take down Colin's offending posts about Leandra, but none of them wanted to help us at first."

It took several months of persuasion before they agreed.

Mr Mann said he was also initially told by US and Singapore police that they could not do anything because Mak and Ms Ramm were not in their jurisdictions, respectively.

"We were getting told 'no' back and forth," he said.

"There is no international law that governs such cases, even though cyberstalking is a serious problem. But it shouldn't matter which city the perpetrator is in because this causes serious harm to people's lives."

In a last-ditch effort to save Ms Ramm from her tormentor, he compiled a five-page brief of all Singapore laws that Mak had broken and sent it to the Singapore police in March 2011, almost three months after he picked up her case.

He said: "We included laws such as criminal intimidation and harassment, and it was clear that Mak had broken them. I knew this was make or break. It was the last roll of the dice."

His efforts paid off when police e-mailed him in July 2011 to say they had arrested Mak and were investigating the case.



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LITTLE INDIA RIOT

## Four more Indian nationals deported

By LIM YAN LIANG

FOUR more Indian nationals involved in the Little India riot were sent home last night, taking the total number of workers deported over the Dec 8 incident to 57.

The men added to the list yesterday had initially been charged in court with rioting. Those charges were dropped on Tuesday but their involvement in the mayhem was deemed serious enough for repatriation, said the police.

The other 53, whose actions ranged from obstructing the po-

given to those who have not committed offences, and face no further action.

Mr Ng said those set to receive the police advisories had played "a passive and incidental" role during the riot, compared with the ones who have been deported.

Three other Indian nationals, who had charges against them dropped as well, will be issued with advisories together with the 200-odd other workers. All of them will be allowed to stay and work in Singapore, said Mr Ng.

Their employers, who will be



# Singaporean jailed for stalking US singer online

Victim left with post-traumatic stress disorder after six years of threats

By IAN POH

AFTER watching American opera singer Leandra Ramm perform on television in 2005, Colin Mak Yew Loong (left) contacted the 20-year-old and promised to help further her music career.



When she stopped replying, the Singaporean responded by sending her threatening e-mail and voice messages for the next six years.

These were often vulgar and included threats of violence using weapons such as an AK-47 rifle and a lead pipe. It left her facing a post-traumatic stress disorder and financial difficulties.

Yesterday, the 38-year-old Mak was sentenced to three years in prison for "cyber-stalking" the 29-year-old Ms Ramm, whom he had never met, and two other victims. The 38-year-old jobless man was also fined \$5,000 for three unrelated offences.

District Judge Mathew Joseph called the matter an "abhorrent" case of cyber-stalking.

as a weapon of massive personal destruction in the real world of your hapless victims."

He said Mak's actions were a perverse form of "mental assault" and "emotional terrorism" as he repeatedly and aggressively intruded into the singer's personal and professional life.

His virtual threats, noted the judge, were deliberate and involved "sinister sophistication".

Mak, who ran a photography business, also sent threatening e-mail messages to German national Siegfried Geyer - the boyfriend of a Hungarian musician he became obsessed with after seeing her perform in Singapore - and local businesswoman Liew Hwei Ken, an employee of a firm he believed had stolen business from him.

Judge Joseph considered a medical report by the Institute of Mental Health which indicated that Mak probably had an anti-social personality disorder and "narcissistic personality traits".

Yet, the man's threats against his victims were "vile and vicious" and revealed a "dark side" which was "repugnant and offensive", said the judge.

Prosecutors had called for a

By KHUSHWANT SINGH

AMERICAN opera singer Leandra Ramm endured a six-year ordeal, during which Colin Mak Yew Loong not only cyber-stalked her, but also threatened her life.

Her story, documented in her book entitled *Stalking A Diva*, and in an episode of the television show *My Life Is A Lifetime Movie* broadcast in November last year, was retold in court by District Judge Mathew Joseph when he read out a statement from her.

Ms Ramm, 29, said she now suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and had considered suicide as a result of what the 38-year-old Singaporean inflicted on her.

"For six years, Mak kept me in a virtual prison, causing me to lose my freedom, self-worth, self-respect, ability to work, and ruining my personal relationships," she said. "Mak stole not only the best years of my youth, but my innocence and hopes."

Ms Ramm even worked on a cruise ship from 2009 to 2011 to prevent Mak from contacting her but to no avail. "Even in the middle of the ocean, I could not escape the living nightmare," she said. "His daily stalking and harassment consisted of not only threats to the life, health and safety of myself, colleagues, friends and family, but (were) also of an extremely damaging and

and three of harassment, criminal trespass and theft in dwelling. Another 25 charges were taken into consideration.

Noting that steps to bring culprits of online harassment and cyber-stalking to justice may be "too little too late", Judge Joseph also highlighted the need for better protection of potential victims. "This case is a timely re-



Ms Ramm had considered suicide as a result of Mak's harassment.  
PHOTO: COURTESY OF LEANDRA RAMM

explicit sexual nature."

Mak's harassment also caused her financial ruin. Her earnings dwindled as she was afraid to perform in public. She also spent an "exorbitant" sum to engage lawyers, private investigators and crime experts. Her ordeal led her to set up her own non-profit organisation, The Alliance Against Cybercrime, to reform laws on international cyber harassment.

She also told The Straits Times that she had a tough time bringing her harasser to justice. She hired the Mainguard private investigation agency here in 2009 to locate

the Internet and social media," he said. "There is a clear need to have adequate and effective protection for victims who are vulnerable."

The judge also cited a recent survey by government feedback arm Reach. This showed that more than 80 per cent of 1,000 Singaporean residents surveyed viewed online harassment as a serious problem.

## 'He kept me in a virtual prison'

Mak, a process that took two years. Mainguard managing director Ponso Kalastree said: "Police can easily access the national database or find out who owns an IP address."

However, it is impossible for individuals or private companies to have access to this database because of confidentiality concerns, he explained.

When Mak was finally identified in April 2011, the police advised Mr Kalastree that it was an intentional harassment case, which was a "non-arrestable offence", and suggested that Ms Ramm file a magistrate's complaint instead.

She was too afraid to come here to file the complaint and approached Mr A.J. Fardella, a certified data forensic examiner in the US, for help, and he got the Federal Bureau of Investigation to seek the assistance of the police here. Singapore police arrested and charged Mak later that year.

In an e-mail yesterday, a spokesman for the Attorney-General's Chambers said that a thorough investigation by the police revealed "there was sufficient evidence to prove that Mak had committed various offences that are triable in Singapore".

Three senior lawyers in Britain told Ms Ramm that this case was the world's first successful prosecution of a transnational cyber harasser.

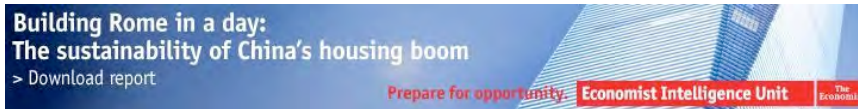
✉ khush@sph.com.sg

harassment, whether it takes place online or offline.

Last month, Law Minister K. Shanmugam said his ministry is preparing legislation to better protect people against online harassment that will be tabled by early next year.

The maximum penalty for criminal intimidation where the threat is to cause death or grievous hurt





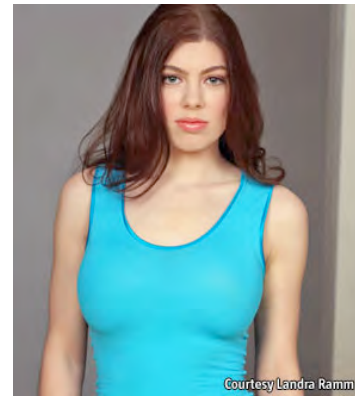
## Cyber-stalking Creepy crawlies

**The internet allows the malicious to menace their victims**

Apr 20th 2011 | from the print edition

0 Like 30

LEANDRA RAMM (pictured) is a mezzo-soprano with more on her mind than music. Someone—a deranged Singaporean cyber-stalker, she claims—has posted around 4,000 internet messages in the past five years, depicting her as a talentless, sex-crazed swindler. He has also created a blog under her name and has left obscene messages on her own website.



Ms Ramm, who lives in New York, has had scant help from the American police, who say the offence is committed in Singapore. But she says the police in Singapore have shown no interest. Ms Ramm says her career, social life and emotional well-being have all suffered. Not only does she get daily death threats, but so do all those associated with her: friends, family, colleagues and boss. She says she feels “humiliated, helpless and abused”.

Police and prosecutors say that cyber-stalking—the persistent use of the internet, e-mail, social networks, instant messaging or related digital devices to annoy, harass or threaten—is growing, and that they lack the legal tools to combat it.

A study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in America estimates that cyber-stalking afflicted around a quarter of the 3.4m stalking victims it has tallied over the age of 18 in the United States in 2006. Mike Proctor, a detective based in California with over 20 years of experience in dealing with stalking cases, says that more and more include internet harassment. He describes the crime as “woefully underprosecuted”. Barack Obama highlighted the issue in a Presidential Proclamation in December to mark Stalking Awareness Month. “Increasingly, stalkers use modern technology to monitor and torment their victims, and one in four victims reports some form of cyber-stalking—such as threatening e-mails or instant messaging—as part of their harassment,” it said.

Rachel MacKenzie, a psychologist who runs a behaviour programme for stalkers in the Australian state of Victoria, says that many now harass their victims through the internet. For some stalkers, the internet is just a tool of the trade. Others deploy it exclusively. But the victims of both kinds of stalker may be as frightened as those threatened physically. “There is always the fear that the stalking will enter the real world,” she says. In Germany a senior detective specialising in cybercrime in Frankfurt am Main, Birgit Roth, says that internet harassment is present in some 40% of stalking cases that her force investigates. She says that victims are as traumatised as the survivors of a plane crash.

The misery they inflict seems to motivate cyber-stalkers. A pregnant victim says she barricades herself in her home and has “morbid thoughts” every day: whether her child will be born or grow up without one of its parents. Her stalker, an ex-colleague with a military background, harasses her through social-networking sites, threatening physical attack on her family.

As with many internet crimes, the law is struggling to keep up. As Ms Ramm's case demonstrates, many stalkers threaten their victims from abroad, often from countries without stalking laws. American-based internet service providers (ISPs) and firms such as Google, Yahoo! and Facebook, require court orders for information about stalkers to be served in the country of their headquarters. That can be costly and time-consuming.

Nazir Afzal, an expert on stalking at Britain's Crown Prosecution Service, says such requests can mean delays of up to three months. A real-world stalker can be arrested within hours. Mr Afzal adds that ISPs often delete e-mail data after 30 days. If the victim has also deleted the distressing e-mail, the evidence may be gone for good. Other ISPs insist on notifying their customers that the police are investigating.

Technical dodges give stalkers more flexibility. Special software allows them to send untraceable e-mails from concealed internet addresses. And investigators say that they are unable to monitor instant messaging. Valerie Caproni, General Counsel for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, complained to the House Judiciary Committee in February that her agency lacked powers to gather evidence on stalkers using peer-to-peer and social networks.

No wonder, then, that victims have little confidence in the criminal-justice system to protect them. Emma Short, a British psychologist who is setting up the world's first outfit dedicated to researching cyber-stalking, says that few victims think the police can help them and many do not report the crime. Nearly one-third say they suffered at least one symptom of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Alexis Bowater, the chief executive of a British charity, the Network for Surviving Stalking, is campaigning for European Union countries to adopt a common approach to stalking: only 12 out of 27 member states have specific laws against it. She wants others to follow Britain's lead. Police there assess every stalking case for the risk of violence; prosecutors have issued guidance on how to handle cases, and schemes are afoot to make perpetrators receive treatment when convicted. Mr Afzal is also seeking greater use of voluntary disclosure of information about suspected stalkers by agreement with mobile-phone companies and ISPs. This already happens with suspected child abusers.

Without cross-border progress on all these fronts, the deranged or vengeful will continue to enjoy virtual impunity. Ms Ramm says, "One day we will all look back, shocked that people were allowed to get away with stalking on the internet."

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# CONTRA COSTA TIMES

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## COMPUTER FORENSICS

# Tech-savvy sleuth fights for cybercrime victims

### Specialist helps singer regain Internet identity

**By Robert Salonga**

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PITTSBURG — In a realm where international boundaries create barriers that help Internet criminals avoid prosecution, there's a fight going on to close these loopholes.

One of the battlefields, it turns out, is a nondescript three-room back office in Old Town Pittsburg.

It's nearly impossible to tell that there is a computer-laden nerve cen-

ter nestled within, run by A.J. Fardella of Black Diamond Data.

The computer forensics expert specializes in mining systems for data and auditing their security, but his job has also taken on a crime-fighting component.

"I can tell if someone's lying through their computers," Fardella said.

That's where Leandra Ramm, an accomplished opera singer, enters the story. Ramm has spent the past six years in a virtual prison built by a stalker living in another hemisphere.

See **FARDELLA**, Page 11



SUSAN TRIPP POLLARD/STAFF

A.J. Fardella runs Black Diamond Data, a computer forensics firm in Pittsburg.

## Fardella

*Continued from Page 1*

In the United States, a quarter of the 3.4 million stalking victims recorded in 2006 — the most recent year for which statistics were available — were the targets of cyberstalking, according to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Harassing emails are involved in 83 percent of those cases. In Ramm's case, she received 4,917.

According to affidavits filed with authorities in Singapore, Ramm has been the victim of an online smear campaign by a man who became obsessed with her since watching a 2005 CNN appearance.

The man gained her trust, purporting to be a director for a Singapore music theater offering work for Ramm. But when his false promises were exposed by friends and colleagues, they along with Ramm saw an ugly side of the Internet they felt powerless to stop.

A series of websites tarnishing Ramm's reputation began popping up in Internet searches. The virtual assailant harassed Ramm, her friends and potential employers, who decided that signing her on was not worth the baggage that he had created for her.

"I was a liability," Ramm said. "They didn't want to deal with the stress and drama."

Ramm turned to authorities in New York — where she was living — and the FBI, all of whom considered themselves hamstrung by the suspected culprit being on the other side of the world. Earlier this year, *The Economist*, an international newsmagazine, wrote an item about her plight. But the man remained at large and untouched.

"The whole thing was a living nightmare," Ramm said. "Nothing could be done for years. These were dark times."

"I felt trapped in my own life, and everybody in my life was affected."

Through a chance connection, a mutual friend of

Ramm and Fardella introduced the two this year and suggested he might be able to help her. Fardella, who has contracted work with the federal government including the Secret Service, immediately saw a lot he could do where others had failed by either lack of aptitude or thoroughness.

Fardella's office is a clash of high-end computer hardware and forensic tools — think "CSI" but swap laptops and desktops for dead bodies and shooting scenes — and a scattered collection of pop culture knickknacks, San Francisco Giants memorabilia, training certificates and photos of him with people ranging from Vice President Joseph Biden to rapper and actor Ice-T.

Then there are the piles and piles of backstage concert passes from his work as a stage manager and band technician, a calling from a previous life that included stints working for Journey and which he continues as a side pursuit.

Fardella is a known political figure in segments of the county, where he is a Pittsburg planning commissioner and has been active in school politics in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District, where his children attend school. Both roles, he says, attest to his passion for both his adopted home — he hails from San Francisco — and his children.

When he took on Ramm's case, he scanned the websites created to embarrass her. He pored through the nearly 5,000 emails and additional chat messages, creating a program that would meticulously examine and document his findings to preserve a chain of evidence.

What resulted was a massive packet of information Fardella shipped to the same Singapore investigators who had not responded to Ramm. It didn't hurt that Fardella tapped a Secret Service connection, which happens to have a training center in the strictly ruled city-state.

On July 21, Singapore police arrested Colin Mak Yew Loong and later released him while they continued their investigation, warning

**"We need to nail down a structure because people can rip people off from the comfort of their computer."**

— A.J. Fardella,  
*Black Diamond Data*

him to not make any contact with Ramm and at least four other people he's accused of terrorizing via the Internet.

Fardella took on the task of getting Loong prosecuted for two reasons: to free Ramm from his wrath and to call attention to the lack of mutual law-enforcement treaties between countries that he believes will become vital as crime migrates from the streets to the Web, which blurs international lines that bind existing police agencies.

"The lack of them is what took six years for action," he said.

Fardella also advocates that comprehensive computer training should become standard down to the beat officer level, to ensure consistency in tasks like preserving computer evidence.

"People have no idea. There has been a 900 percent increase in cyber-crime," he said, citing a figure from the 2009 Global Security Conference. "We need to nail down a structure because people can rip people off from the comfort of their computer."

Ramm, who for the past two years has performed on a cruise ship to keep working and regain her privacy, feels her life slowly falling back into place after finally getting some movement on her case.

The day she got word of Loong's arrest remains vivid in her mind.

"I'll never forget that day in a coffee shop in Greece. I've been waiting for that email for six years," she said. "And I haven't heard from him since. I have my life back."

*Robert Salonga covers public safety. Contact him at 925-943-8013. Follow him at Twitter.com/robertsalonga.*