

# RAPE COPS HELD TEEN DESPITE ACCUSER'S TEXTS DECLARING...



Suspect... on CCTV

## Mum tells of terror at Night Watcher

By ANDY CRICK

THE violent burglar dubbed the Night Watcher raided a terrified mum's house while her daughter was doing homework upstairs.

The suspect, believed to be an ex-soldier due to the military precision of his attacks, crept up on the woman as she sat watching EastEnders.

He put a shotgun to her head before stealing jewellery from her home in Sevenoaks, Kent.

She said: "I was terrified because my daughter was in the house. I had no way of controlling that she might come in. "How dare somebody just violate my home, especially when I had a child in the house."

Police believe the man has been behind seven burglaries, also in Surrey and Berks, in three years.

## Hatton's £8m bill

THE Hatton Garden gang have been told to jointly pay back just £8million – or face extra time in jail for the £27million raid.

John "Kenny" Collins, 77, Daniel Jones, 63, and Terry Perkins, 69, who are serving seven-year sentences, and Brian Reader, 78, who is serving six years and three months, each face another seven years if they fail to pay.

A judge ruled yesterday at Woolwich crown court that once the crooks' assets were recovered, the final confiscation order would be only £8million.

Extra jail time could mean some of the ageing gang will die behind bars.

## Full milk 'healthier'

DRINKING full-fat milk may be better for the heart than "healthy" skimmed alternatives, a study claims.

The fatty version boosts levels of "good" cholesterol in the bloodstream compared to reduced-fat varieties, scientists found.

And they discovered very little difference in "bad" cholesterol levels in the different types.

The findings by researchers at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, fly in the face of decades of advice.

Experts have advocated drinking skimmed milk to reduce the risk of clogged arteries.

## LIFE IS SWEET

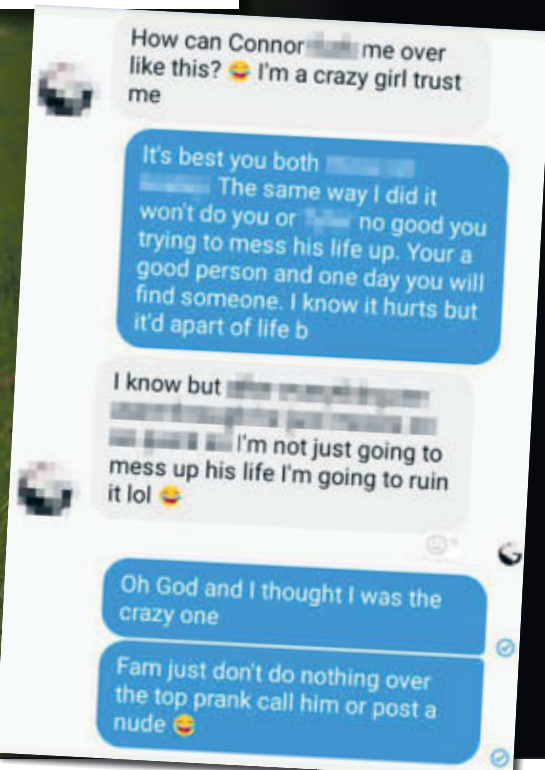
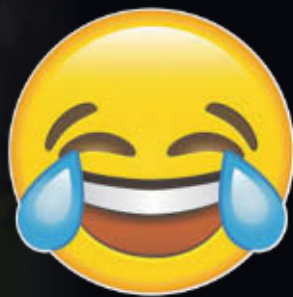
Rhys Price, 14, used the Heimlich manoeuvre to save a girl, 11, choking on a sweet on a bus in Caerphilly, South Wales.



**WRONGLY ACCUSED**

Innocent Connor, 19, spent three months in custody

# I'm going to ruin his life..lol



**A TEEN rape suspect spent three months in jail after cops failed to disclose damning messages from his alleged victim which bragged about "ruining" his life.**

Connor Fitzgerald, 19, lost his job as a BT engineer following his arrest last year.

But the charges were thrown out last week when prosecutors were told she had sent texts threatening to destroy him. One read: "I'm not just going to mess his life up, I'm going to ruin it lol."

The case echoes that of Liam Allan, 22, whose rape trial collapsed last month after cops discovered messages that cleared him.

Connor, of South Norwood, South East London, said: "It's been heart-breaking. It felt like I was guilty until proven innocent."

"My life has been ruined. I'm scared

EXCLUSIVE by JONATHAN REILLY and BRITTANY VONOW

to even leave the house because everyone thinks I'm a rapist."

The woman, who cannot be named, accused him of rape after a boozy night out on June 24 last year.

On November 1, cops burst into Connor's family home and arrested him in front of his mum and sister.

Connor was denied bail and held in Category B HMP High Down in Basset, Surrey.

But his brother then found some of the bombshell messages on Connor's iCloud account and alerted the CPS.

Last week the case was finally dropped at Croydon crown court and he walked free after three months. Connor, who plans to sue the police and CPS, said: "If my brother hadn't found the texts, I'd have ended up in prison for 12 years or more."

A CPS spokesman said the case was kept under review until cops provided more material this month, when "it was decided there was no longer a realistic prospect of conviction".

A spokeswoman for the Met added: "We are content with the investigation and our disclosure work, which was conducted in liaison with the CPS."

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## APOLOGY FOR LIAM

THE Met Police and CPS yesterday apologised to rape suspect Liam Allan after texts proving his innocence were withheld. Commander Richard Smith said it was a "mistake" but had not been deliberate. Liam, 22, right, of Beckenham, South East London, said he hopes there are "consequences".



## CPS review for extra 600

COPS and prosecutors are urgently reviewing a further 600 sex offence cases across London, a senior officer revealed yesterday.

Met Police Commander Richard Smith said: "We have moved in 120 officers to assist with the review of the 600 cases we have which are post-charge at the moment."

Claire Lindley, Chief Crown Prosecutor for London South, added: "The process has not yet finished. During the review some cases have given cause for concern."