



CHAPTER

03

A KIDNAPPING ORDEAL

*(A short-lived letter campaign and a consideration on
putting the person first)*

'I wish to report a kidnapping.' Peter began his letter to the two major national newspapers. John will be proud of me, he thought, as he penned the letter, smiling across at the folder where he had stored all of John's correspondence from last year. I do really need to type up all that stuff one of these days. It is great material. I need to have some way of being able to share it with some of my friends rather than let it gather dust.

He continued writing.

An elderly neighbour and good friend of mine has been kidnapped, and, as far as anyone can ascertain, he has not been seen in months.

There have been some recent exchanges with the kidnappers. However, they have made no demands that can be reasonably met. They are lovely people, apparently. They sound so when they find time to respond to the telephone. They assure me that my friend is safe, that he is in good hands. But they will not give him back or allow anyone to see him.

Peter considered moving his letter to a closing paragraph but decided to plough on. I do not simply want to meet John, he thought. I also want to make it easier for the thousands of others in the same predicament.

