

# THE DARK SIDE OF ARTHUR C. CLARKE ?

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## PART ONE

### CONTEXT AND AUTHOR'S MOTIVE

In late 2022 I was intermittently reading Arthur C. Clarke's *The Lost Worlds of 2001: A Space Odyssey* with a view to publishing a review of the book. In previous writings about the book and film versions of *2001: ASO* I'd already noted major differences between Clarke's and director Stanley Kubrick's fundamental attitudes to the project. The *Lost Worlds of 2001: ASO* appears to have been Clarke's effort to shift the *2001: ASO* novel's narrative back toward what he wanted it to be (Kubrick having contractually bound him toward a finalized version that didn't match Clarke's vision of the story). Over the years I began to realize that Clarke and Kubrick were actually in deep opposition on a number of issues, including their attitudes to technology, space travel, human evolution and "artificial intelligence". The details of these differences I will save for another publication.

Shifting my attention away from Kubrick's world view to Clarke's, I became interested in the personal life of the famous sci-fi writer (one of the "big three", alongside Asimov and Heinlein). A lot can be understood about a person from their major life choices and routine habits – things they might not realize or admit to. As I began to read about Clarke's personal history I stumbled across a Wikipedia entry stating that in 1998 Clarke had been accused by the UK's *Sunday Mirror* newspaper of sexually abusing pubescent boys in Sri Lanka. I'd heard internet rumours once or twice over the years that Clarke was a paedophile, but had quickly dismissed them as just standard online conspiracy speculation (having also looked into allegations against some other celebrities that amounted to nothing after further research). I'd also previously published videos debunking the two accusers of Michael Jackson featured in the *Leaving Neverland* documentary. In other words, I'm not one of those people who assume every celebrity paedophilia rumour is true.

However, with this story about Arthur C. Clarke I quickly went down quite a rabbit hole. It turned out there was a lot of information that appeared to support the allegations, but some of it was scattershot. It had to be hunted down and pieced together. The more extreme voices claim there was either a conspiracy to discredit Clarke or a conspiracy to cover up his crimes. Either one would be a hell of a scandal if it were proven fully. But, as is typical of any coverage of a controversial issue, whether by news media or indie writers, evidence is cherry picked to fit the desired narrative.

Being currently interested in exploring the psychological and philosophical aspects of Clarke's fictional and non-fictional works, and especially how it all relates to his famous collaboration with Stanley Kubrick on *2001: A Space Odyssey*, I have found myself recently in the position of being unable to objectively assess the Clarke's work because I have a question mark hovering over him concerning these sex crime allegations. So I feel I must reach a conclusion on the matter before I can progress with my further studies of Clarke's ideas in science and science-fiction.

Unfortunately, what I wasn't able to find in any published form was a comprehensive, unbiased, reasonable, well-sourced overview of the entire matter that explored arguments both against Clarke and in his defence. And so, this article is my attempt to provide the kind of overview I was hoping to find. The careful research and compiling of this article, I hope, will resolve the issue in my own mind and help you do the same.

So my aim with this article is to present to you a sufficiently complete, unbiased and non-sensational version of the Clarke allegations – the story is powerful enough without the need for emotional embellishment on my part. In fact, when I first went down this line of investigation, I felt incredibly conflicted and somewhat disturbed to the point I couldn't decide whether or not to talk about the matter in a published format at all.

I'd always generally viewed Clarke as a highly intelligent and well-meaning writer who was effectively sandboxed and used by Stanley Kubrick during the production of **2001: ASO**, providing a pro-technology, pro space-race framing that helped lure investors into funding the film, the highest budgeted movie ever made at the time in 1969. Clarke had been gradually reduced to a cog in the production wheel as Kubrick proceeded to transform the project into something neither Clarke nor the investors expected. Kubrick shared less and less with Clarke about what was actually being filmed, to the point that Clarke didn't know what the ending was going to be until the first screening he attended. I'd always felt this was a disservice to Clarke. The movie sequel to **2001: ASO**, called **2010: the Year We Make Contact**, I personally think is a very underrated film, despite Stanley Kubrick having no direct involvement – and it was Clarke who penned that story on his own. So the last thing I expected of Clarke was that he would be some sort of serial sex offender. It ended up taking a good four days or so, and a fair amount of follow up research, for me to emotionally and mentally process the issue and decide to go ahead and write about it.

While compiling this article I contacted journalist Graham Johnson, who was reported to have recorded a taped confession from Clarke on some of these matters in 1998. Graham, who is a fellow Liverpudlian (or "scouser", as we're known in Britain) and is still working as a journalist today, responded to my contact requesting further information about his original reporting. Though I'd had no correspondence with Graham before, he said he'd been following my film analysis work for several years. In turn I had read several of his articles and bought his book **Hack**, which chronicles his journalism career and further outlines his reporting on Arthur C. Clarke. Being both from Liverpool, Graham and I had a lot in common, resulting in a deep dive phone call lasting a good 30-40 minutes. The content of this phone call will contribute to this article.

I've also decided that, for balance, I will present arguments in Clarke's defence, where applicable, being that I'm not 100% certain on all aspects of the allegations – there are many middle ground possibilities. As we scour the depths of available information on this entire topic I'm sure that you will find yourself being bounced back and forth – alternating between thinking Clarke was innocent and thinking he was guilty. This was certainly my experience. So I recommend you read the entire article, being that it's quite a complex puzzle to solve and all the pieces count.

I also intend to explore, regardless of whether the sexual allegations were true, the positive, human side of Clarke. Even if the allegations against him are true, I don't believe that we should engage in a phony cleansing act of burning all his books and writing him out of history. The fact is, Clarke, no matter how dark his hidden side, inspired a lot of genuine discussion about humanity's potential future. This can't be erased, nor should it. It's the same with Gary Glitter. Removing his songs from radio play and refusing to stock his music in record shops didn't change the fact that his music career brought a lot of enjoyment to a lot of people, as well as idolization. All of us are a mixture of light and dark and in these kinds of cases the two extremes can be so far apart it defies belief, but truth should always prevail over wishful dismissal.

## PART TWO

### **ARTHUR C. CLARKE BACKGROUND AND KNOWN RELATIONSHIPS**

Let's start with some basic, non-sensational background. Arthur Charles Clarke was born in 1917 in the UK. He took up science related hobbies early in life, including astronomy, and began writing science fiction at around age 20. He also worked as a science publication editor and worked in the Royal Air force as a radio operator for several years. By his mid-thirties he was dedicated to science fiction writing and had built himself a strong reputation in the field. He is now most well-known for his collaboration with Stanley Kubrick on *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

#### Alleged homosexual relationship with Mike Wilson

According to a [Sunday Times article from 1997](#) (the year before the *Sunday Mirror* published sex crime allegations against him) Clarke is quoted as saying he met and befriended Mike Wilson in 1951. Wilson was born in 1934, making him 17 years Clarke's junior. In 1951, when he met Clarke, Wilson would have been approx. 17 years old and Clarke approx. 34.

The next page photo (from their later diving times in Sri Lanka) shows Clarke on the right and Wilson centre. In the aforementioned Sunday Times article, Clarke is quoted stating that Wilson introduced him to skin diving (sea diving without scuba equipment). Wilson was then conscripted and separated from Clarke for several years.



Their age gap is noteworthy, being that many sources cite Clarke as gay or bisexual and some sources cite Clarke and Wilson as having been in a homosexual relationship.

<https://smritidaniel.com/2015/07/18/nalaka-gunawardana-and-kavan-ratnatunga-at-home-with-arthur-c-clarke/>

<https://www.nndb.com/people/725/000023656/#FN1>

In an [article for the Guardian](#), Clarke's friend and fellow writer Michael Moorcock stated that, when attending one of Clarke's birthday parties in London before his move to Sri Lanka, **"Everyone knew he was gay. In the 1950s I'd go out drinking with his boyfriend."** Moorcock was himself 17 at the time. He doesn't state who Clarke's boyfriend was, but he does name someone present at the party as **"Mike"**. This may well have been Mike Wilson.

According to multiple sources, including [Clarke's biography](#) at the Clarke Foundation, in 1953 (at age 36) Clarke met and quickly married Marilyn Mayfield (age 22) who already had a son, but they split up within six months. This is the only reported instance of a heterosexual relationship that I've been able to find in Clarke's life. Given the extensive sources citing Clarke as homosexual, and the total lack of documented or even hearsay references to any hetero relationships in his life, I find this sudden marriage and separation a very odd episode. It's even more strange for the fact that their divorce was only finalized in 1964.

My suspicion is that, as a public figure in an age when homosexuality was taboo, Clarke may have attempted to fit in with what he believed was expected of him. The marriage and prolonged period before official divorce may have been a straight cover by Clarke to publicly hide his homosexuality – known as a *Lavender Marriage*. This is speculation in the absence of further sourced information, but it's not wild speculation.

After the 17 years younger (and, at the time, 20 years old) Mike Wilson finished his service he hooked up with Clarke again in 1954. They went to Australia and the two embarked on more diving hobbies. Note the proximity to Clarke separating with Marilyn Mayfield, whom he married in 1953. Wilson and Clarke then moved to the Indian Ocean island of Sri Lanka in 1956. Clarke was now age 39.

I raise the question of why two men of such age gap were so close. If they were in a relationship then it furthers the notion of Clarke being attracted to males much younger than him. However, in the late 1950's Wilson married Elizabeth Perera. He therefore went his separate way from Clarke, though the two still collaborated on a number of [deep sea diving books](#) in the following years. The continued collaboration between Clarke and Wilson, after Wilson's marriage, suggest that there was no homosexual relationship between them, though doesn't prove it. Here's a picture of Clarke, Wilson and Elizabeth Perera (Wilson's future wife).



Clarke lived in Sri Lanka for another five decades until his death in 2008 at age 90. The reasons he cited for moving to Sri Lanka were the miserable British weather and his love of scuba diving. While I concur with Clarke's assertions about the British weather, the second motive I'm less sure of. There are many scuba diving destinations all over the world, including parts of Australia and the United States. These are places where Clarke would more easily be able to socialize with fellow sci-fi writers and scientists in the west, especially given the lack of internet until the 1990's. Alternatively, being that Clarke was from the UK, he could have settled in a number of Mediterranean countries that would facilitate a scuba diving hobby and keep him closer to his relatives. Central American countries like Belize and Mexico also provide scuba diving destinations and are only a short distance from the United States. Clarke's major sci-fi contemporaries, Isaac Asimov and Robert Heinlein, spent their lives living in the US. But Clarke moved all the way to Sri Lanka, an Indian Ocean country where English isn't the first language, and where customs were very different to the West.

Significantly, Sri Lanka has been cited by numerous human rights organisations as a western paedophile destination for child prostitution and abuse. It is still claimed to be such a destination today. Rather than write a full section on this, I'll simply provide some links for you to explore.

1. <https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/top-five-countries-highest-rates-child-prostitution-1435448>
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prostitution\\_in\\_Sri\\_Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prostitution_in_Sri_Lanka)
3. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/child-sexual-abuse-sri-lanka-current-state-affairs-and>
4. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/sex-tourists-prey-on-sri-lanka-s-children-beach-resorts-are-huntinggrounds-for-european-child-abusers-and-pornographic-video-makers-tim-mcgirke-reports-from-colombo-1400952.html>
5. <https://defenceforumindia.com/threads/india-did-not-purchase-arms-from-sri-lanka-sl-army-denies-pti-news.53588/page-2>
6. <https://world.time.com/2013/08/13/sri-lanka-struggles-to-contain-a-growing-epidemic-of-child-abuse/#:~:text=Sri%20Lanka%20Struggles%20to%20Contain%20a%20Growing%20Epidemic%20of%20Child%20Abuse,-By%20Anjani%20Trivedi&text=War-scarred%20Sri%20Lanka%20is,raped%20in%20the%20island%20nation.>



The reputation of Sri Lanka, and particularly the city of Colombo (where Clarke lived for most of his life) for child prostitution doesn't prove that Clarke was a pederast or paedophile, but it's a notable factor in the lead up to the allegations against him.

#### Alleged homosexual relationship with Leslie Ekanayake



Some sources have claimed or speculated that Clarke had a long term relationship with a young man named Leslie Ekanayake.

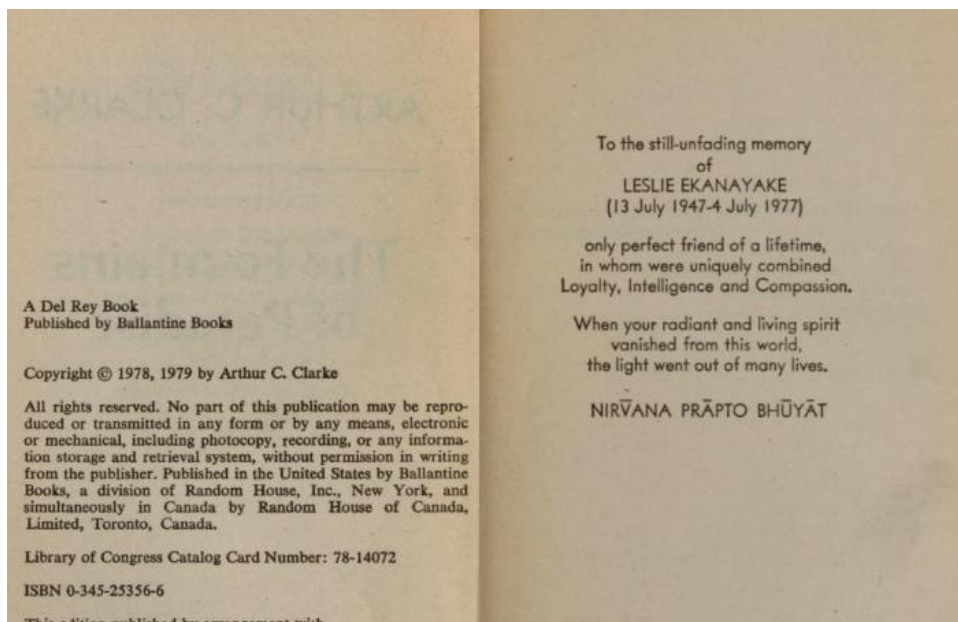
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/161101886/leslie-ekanayake>

<http://andrejkoymasky.com/liv/fam/bioe1/ekanayake01.html>

In the mid-1950's, when Clarke first moved to Sri Lanka permanently, Clarke became close with the Ekanayake family, eventually living on the same grounds as them, though in separate houses. The initial source of contact that Drew Clarke and this family together appears to have been Hektor Ekanayake, who already ran a scuba diving business. Hektor and Arthur had teamed up to run the business together. Clarke, being considerably wealthy by Sri Lankan standards, was idolized by the family it seems. And in turn Clarke, who never had children of his own and never married again, took on the Ekanayake's as a substitute family. This in itself is nothing to be suspicious of. Some gay men, lacking the opportunity to become Fathers, will genuinely treat a nephew or niece as if it's their own child. Here's a photo of Clarke and the Ekanayake's. The boy in the picture, sat on Clarke's lap, is an odd choice. I don't know who the boy is, but assume he is one of the Ekanayake family.



As the younger brother of Hektor, Leslie was also 30 years Clarke's junior. He reportedly died in a motorcycle accident just before his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. If there was a homosexual relationship between them it would further support the notion of Clarke being attracted to significantly younger men. However, the rumours appear to have been mainly fuelled by three factors. The first is a eulogy to Leslie in Clarke's novel *The Fountains of Paradise* (published 1979, two years after Leslie's death). The Eulogy states ...



While the eulogy certainly conveys strong emotional closeness between Clarke and Leslie, it could just as well be of a Fatherly or brotherly nature. But the term **“only perfect friend”** is strange. It disregards Clarke's friendships with the rest of the Ekanayake family, Mike Wilson and everyone else. It's about as close to a *“in love”* statement as Clarke could make without bluntly confirming Leslie as a romantic partner. The second contribution to the relationship rumour is that the shared property was christened **“Leslie's House”**.





However, as seen in the above picture, Both Arthur and Hector's names are engraved below. This appears to be a eulogy to the deceased from Clarke and Leslie's family.

Another factor cited as evidence of Leslie and Arthur having been lovers is the fact that Clarke is buried in a grave right next to Leslie's. Some online sources have cited this as proof they were lovers.



However, this appears to be a family grave area. Note the additional *Ekanayake* grave to the right, as well as the large additional space on Leslie's grave for later deceased family members to be added. Clarke's gravestone is separate. His name hasn't been added to Leslie's.

The final piece of evidence, and seemingly the strongest, to support the notion of Leslie having been in a relationship with Clarke, is [Leslie's grave memorial page](#) and [Clarke's grave memorial page](#) on the same site. Each of these pages clearly lists the other party as their "*spouse*", but I don't know who put in the details of these two pages.

If Leslie and Arthur were lovers, it would again highlight Clarke being attracted to much younger men (30 years younger in this case), but it wouldn't prove he was engaged in illegal sexual activities. Clarke would almost certainly have met Leslie via the Ekanayake family and not as a rent boy he then fell in love with. We can also say with near certainty that, being Clarke became friends with Leslie's older brother Hektor in 1956 or possibly before, then he would have known Leslie since he was approx. 9 years old. But I've found no information to suggest how old Leslie was when his "*spouse*" relationship with Clarke began, if there even was one.

Whether Clarke had homosexual relationships with the 17 years younger Mike Wilson and / or the 30 years younger Leslie Ekanayake is open to debate and we may never know. But the total lack of public evidence of Clarke having had a long term sexual relationship with anybody else, male or female, during his five decades living in Sri Lanka only furthers the plausibility that one or both of these men were actually Clarke's lovers.

We could assume that Clarke was a lifelong celibate. Either way, sexuality and relationships appears to have been a troubled aspect of his life to the point where any involvements he had, with the exception of his marriage to Marilyn Mayfield, were kept hidden from public scrutiny. His choice to live his final five decades in Sri Lanka, largely away from the curious eyes of the English speaking western world, may well have been motivated by his sexual pathology.

Now let's explore the allegations made against Clarke ...

## PART THREE

### ALLEGATIONS, EVIDENCE AND COUNTER-ARGUMENTS

Article in SUNDAY MIRROR, 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1998

The first published allegation, against Clarke, of sex crimes that I'm aware of came from journalist Graham Johnson writing for UK newspaper the *Sunday Mirror* on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1998.

<https://www.thefreelibrary.com/It+doesn%27t+do+any+harm+...most+of+the+damage+comes+fro+m+fuss+made+by...-a060659502>

Before we explore the details of this article, I'd first like to offer my thoughts on journalist Graham Johnson and his reliability as a source. I'm well aware that some journalists exaggerate, distort through selective editing, or even fabricate quotes in order to sensationalize a story. But not all of them do. I've read up on Johnson's career and explored some of his other publications, which include books on true crime. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graham\\_Johnson\\_\(author\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graham_Johnson_(author)) He worked for many major news sources including the BBC, has reported on child slavery in India, among other subjects and published a book called *Hack*, which chronicles his experiences working for major news publications and attempts to lift the lid on some of the unethical and illegal practices he encountered in the business. I've only read a few portions of *Hack*, but the following reviews on the book and biographies on Johnson himself may give you some insight.

<https://ethicalmartini.wordpress.com/2012/07/07/from-hack-to-hell-and-back-again/>  
<https://kevinegperry.com/2014/03/11/graham-johnson-gets-the-scoop/>  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0956474814526520a>

In 2005 Graham was nominated for a major journalism award. One of the situations he was involved in and personally blew the lid on, was the phone hacking scandal of 2014. Johnson put himself in legal jeopardy to expose the practice, resulting in a six year suspended sentence for himself, but also was commended by the judge for blowing the whistle. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/dec/18/sunday-mirror-graham-johnson-sentenced-phone-hacking>

Today Johnson campaigns for press reform through his company *Byline Investigates*.

<https://bylineinvestigates.com/about/>  
<https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/13488452/persons-with-significant-control>

While reading his account of the Arthur C. Clarke investigation in his book *Hack*, I was struck by his no-nonsense, street talk style – certainly not typical of a journalist. It was then no surprise to me to learn that he came from my home city of Liverpool. This is a city where boat rocking and straight talk is much more the norm than in London.

Reading a person's statements in carefully edited publications and actually conversing with them in a direct Q&A are very different experiences. So I emailed Graham with some questions about his reporting on Arthur C. Clarke. Graham responded and we then chatted by phone for at least 30 minutes, during which he recounted how he investigated the Clarke allegations. Our discussion was very rapid, but also very casual, the content mostly reiterating what I'd already read in his published articles for the *Mirror* newspaper and in his book. The questions I asked about specific details were immediately answered, though limited in detail, which is understandable given it's been approx. 25 years since he broke the story. So I didn't get any specific impression that he was making up details. It's also been my experience in the past that, when people have something to hide, they don't like to be put on the spot. They prefer to hide behind delayed forms of communication, where they can carefully word their responses. Graham didn't have to reply to my email at all, but it was he who invited me to speak on the phone and, once talking, he wasn't in a rush to end the conversation.

The initial groundwork for the investigation was done by [Roger Insall](#) (now deceased). Roger specialized in dark true crime stories, particularly the exposure of paedophiles. He'd apparently spent time in Sri Lanka looking into Clarke's activities, but his employer, the *News of the World*, wouldn't publish the story. According to Graham Johnson's book *Hack* this is because Rupert Murdoch, owner of the *News of the World*, was friends with Arthur C. Clarke.

The *Sunday Mirror* then took up Roger Insall's story by sending their reporter, Graham Johnson, to team up with Insall in Sri Lanka. Clarke was due to receive a Knighthood from Prince Charles so Graham states he had a 24 hour window upon arriving in Sri Lanka. Graham told me that, initially guided by Roger Insall's information, he visited a number of beaches typically prowled by western paedophiles where Insall claimed to have met boys / men who said they'd been molested by Clarke. Questioning various people on the beaches, Graham says he quickly found a handful of males who reported such experiences, but it wasn't enough solid evidence to build a story. Graham also told me he spoke to several other adults, courtesy of Roger Insall's leads, who claimed to know of the same pederast activities on Clarke's part.

To give the story greater credibility, Graham visited Clarke's house. He was refused entry by the servants, so he bought lots of flower bouquets and returned, stating he was there to congratulate Clarke on his forthcoming Knighthood. He was then given admittance and proceeded to talk with Clarke in his bedroom. Clarke was around 80 years old at this point and was propped up in his bed. I asked about the décor of the room, but Graham told me he was wholly concentrated on trying to get some sort of confession out of Clarke regarding the molested pubescent boys. The décor of Clarke's bedroom is, however, a factor which we shall return to.

**Before we continue, I should make the reader aware that the alleged tape recording of Clarke's "confession" has never publicly surfaced over the years. It has never been released on social media either. The question of the tape's existence (and content) is a complex issue, which we'll return to. But, for now, please note that the transcribed quotes of Clarke's "confession" would not be admissible in a court of law without the original recording being submitted as physical evidence. It's also notable that, according**

to graham's book *Hack*, his reporting of the tape's existence and content was done over the phone from Sri Lanka to the UK. So it appears that the *Sunday Mirror* then wrote and ran their allegations without having had physical access to the actual tape recording, which likely would still be with Graham Johnson in Sri Lanka.

A major question I had for Graham was how he got Clarke to make the admissions, which Graham was secretly recording. Graham told me that, after Clarke's initial denials, Graham began stating the names of the boys he'd spoken to. Clarke then proceeded to try and justify the pederast behaviour (sexual activity with underage pubescent boys, as opposed to children) and "**admitted**" to sexual relations with at least one 14 year old. Among the statements attributed to Clarke in the *Sunday Mirror* are the following ...

***"I am all in favour of efforts to stop it. But how do we stop it without interfering with the rights of responsible adults. ... I think most of the damage comes from the fuss made by hysterical parents afterwards. If the kids don't mind, fair enough."***

When asked if he had attended parties of a known Swiss tycoon paedophile (this would be Victor Baumann) who had operated in Sri Lanka, Clarke reportedly replied:

***"I may well have done. I mean the very first man I met here in 1954 was a paedophile and made no bones about it. He was in intelligence in the army, a fantastic guy."***

Here are some linked reports regarding Victor Baumann.

[https://www.ucanews.com/story-archive/?post\\_name=/1996/11/13/swiss-investor-arrested-on-pedophile-charges-supporters-protest&post\\_id=8474](https://www.ucanews.com/story-archive/?post_name=/1996/11/13/swiss-investor-arrested-on-pedophile-charges-supporters-protest&post_id=8474)

<https://www.rediff.com/news/feb/17child.htm>

Regarding the apparent quote from Clarke, it's strange that he would know that any such "**army intelligence**" associate was a paedophile (They don't exactly go shouting it from the roof tops). And it's strange he would call him a "**fantastic guy**" to a journalist. According to the following link, Clarke knew a man called Fred C. Durant III when he first arrived in Sri Lanka. The book featured in the link is signed to Durant and family, and it states that Durant worked for US army intelligence.

<https://historical.ha.com/itm/books/science-and-technology/arthur-c-clarke-with-mike-wilson-the-treasure-of-the-great-reef-new-york-and-evanston-harper-and-row-/a/6069-30879.s>

Here's another example of a Clarke book signed to Durant

[https://www.abebooks.co.uk/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi=31216147610&searchurl=sortBy%3D1%26tn%3Dspace%2Bodysey&cm\\_sp=snippet- -srp1- -title1](https://www.abebooks.co.uk/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi=31216147610&searchurl=sortBy%3D1%26tn%3Dspace%2Bodysey&cm_sp=snippet- -srp1- -title1)

Durant also became a [key figure in the Clarke Institute](#), founded in 1983. He was a major figure in space research and had worked for NASA and the CIA. I'm not aware of any documented sexual allegations against Durant, so it's difficult to know exactly whom Clarke may have been referring to.

The *Sunday Mirror*'s article continues, claiming that, even in old age, Clarke regularly attends the *Otters Aquatic Club* to play table tennis with school boys. A little searching on Google maps reveals



this club is a short walking distance from Clarke's house – just over a kilometre. Though a later link in this study confirms Clarke would drive his Mercedes to the club instead of walking.



The article claims the club was a notorious haunt for western paedophiles wanting to proposition young boys willing to sell themselves to foreigners, though I've personally been unable to find any other sources making these allegations regarding the club.

Clarke's frequent attendance of the club is cited in this [1997 interview](#), one year before Graham apparently extracted a confession from Clarke.

***"... Otter's Aquatic Club where he comes most evenings to take on anyone who might fancy a fast game of table tennis."***

His regular attendance of the club was also confirmed in a [1999 article for the Guardian](#), though this was an article defending Clarke against the allegations. Journalist Tim Avers was taken to the club by Clarke where he observed Clarke playing table tennis, despite being over 80 years old.

So I think it's safe to say that Clarke did, indeed, attend the club frequently. But whether it was just innocent table tennis and socializing is harder to say.

Clarke is then further quoted in Graham's article ...

Asked what his definition for paedophilia was Clarke said: ***"There are two different definitions, anyone who interferes with young boys who are not old enough to know their own minds and that's my definition. It varies for me."*** Asked how he knew whether the



boys really did know their own minds as he had not known them for long, he said: ***“Because pure and simply they looked reasonably mature. Mature enough for me.”***

Told one of them was just 13, he said: ***“If he really was 13 he will be a very mature 13.”***  
 Asked if he thought that was morally wrong he replied: ***“No.”*** Told that some of the boys had told us they would not have had sex if he had not given them money he said: ***“I’m sure. But I didn’t make anyone do anything they didn’t enjoy doing.”***

Again these are surprisingly self-incriminating statements. It’s hard to believe Clarke would make such statements to a journalist. The article then continues, naming three men who claimed to have had sexual experiences with Clarke when they were younger. These are as follows ...

Godwin Fernando, 33, a former slum boy who scrapes a living selling lottery tickets on street corners, claims he was enticed into Clarke's bedroom at 13 after being invited to his house.

***“He wanted me to give him a massage and showed me how to rub his legs. Then he put his hands in my shorts and started playing around. He wanted oral sex with me and said he would give me some money to help my family. I never liked the sex - I did it for the money. He told me never to tell anyone about the visits to his home.”***

Antom Bottoni, a former translator for UK charity *Save the Children*, told how he was introduced to Clarke at the *Otters Club* by his paedophile boss when he was just 17. He said: ***“Arthur invited me to his house and asked me to give him a massage in his bedroom. At the time there were photographs of boys on the bedroom wall and he kept pornographic photographs of boys in a locked cabinet by his bed. He liked to show them to me before we had sex but I wasn’t really interested. I have sent four or five other boys to his house because he asked me if I had any friends who needed ‘help’, meaning money.”*** Antom, now 31, added: ***“At the Otters Club I saw him talking to one boy and heard him invite him back to his home. He was 15 years old and still at school.”***

As a teenager Sunil Jayatilleke says he was picked up by a beach pimp as he swam and taken to Clarke's house. He said: ***“I went into the bedroom to give Arthur a massage. He was wearing a sarong and took it off and lay naked on the bed. I undressed, we had oral sex and then we fell asleep. Mr Clarke gave me 1,500 rupees (pounds 15). I saw him about four times.”***

A notable aspect of the article is that it states ...

When we asked Clarke about suggestions that he may have been one of the original pioneers of sex tourism in Sri Lanka he gave a wry smile and said: ***“I am more amused than disgusted that anyone should think that.”***

I was wondering about who the ***“we”*** are and assume this to be Graham Johnson and Roger Insall, interviewing Clarke together. So, effectively Clarke would have made these admissions in the

presence of two journalists. In [another article](#), in which Clarke refutes the claims, he confirms that two men did come to visit him, but says he was misquoted. On that basis I think we can safely assume that a meeting did actually take place, which led to the article.

However, for me there are two major aspects of this news story that are difficult to believe, and yet at least one of them has to be true. Either Clarke did make these kinds of statements of admission or he didn't, in which case the quotes in the news story would have to be a fabrication. Both of these possibilities are difficult to believe, though neither are impossible.

There have been instances of celebrities stupidly stating things to journalists that have brought harm to their own reputations. [Sean Connery's statements](#) about hitting women are an example. But Clarke's apparent admissions are beyond any kind of dark confession from a celebrity that I've ever come across. For one thing, Clarke would be risking not only his reputation, but legal repercussions. However, campaigners against child abuse in Sri Lanka have alleged that westerners committing such crimes are virtually never prosecuted in the country. Clarke was a powerfully influential public figure in Sri Lanka. If he was guilty then, in combination with his old age and perhaps a decline in mental faculties, may have simply not felt very threatened in the moment by the discussion or had no idea how to respond to such an unexpected interrogation. Having been in Sri Lanka for decades, he may have lost touch with western ethics on the subject.

On the other hand, the idea that a journalist would arrange a meeting with a wealthy and respected public figure (in this case one connected by friendships with the likes of media mogul Rupert Murdoch, and who was about to be knighted by Prince Charles) then completely fabricate a series of severely defamatory statements to be published – this is equally hard to believe. Such a lie would be all the more outrageous on account of the journalist claiming to have a taped audio recording of the incriminating quotes. I've heard of journalists intentionally misquoting, but have never heard of them claiming to have an audio recording that doesn't exist. The risks to the journalist and the publishing newspaper (who would need to go along with the fabrication of the quotes) are astronomical. The journalist risks his own reputation – his career – and the newspaper risks a defamation lawsuit. Of course, newspapers do sometimes get away with outright smear attacks against people who lack the financial resources to sue, but Arthur C. Clarke had wealth and influence. So either Clarke did make the astonishingly self-incriminating admissions or this is one of the most outrageous pieces of news media defamation in history.

Here's some final quotes from Johnson's article ...

His friend Dayanade de Silva, director of current affairs at the Sri Lankan Broadcasting Company, says: ***“Arthur seems attracted to the rough, unsophisticated 17 and 18-year-olds, although I know he has sampled much younger ones. Arthur likes casual affairs with lots of different boys. He gets a lot of pleasure by moving with the teenage lifesavers. They are between 15 and 17. I have even sent Arthur boys, he shares the same tastes as me. If I think he might like one of my boys I give them his phone number - he asked me to. The last time I saw Arthur a few months ago he was still having casual sex with boys. The boys do it for money and money is nothing to Arthur C. Clarke.”***

There appears to be a misspelling of de Silva's name. It's actually spelt Dayananda de Silva [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dayananda\\_de\\_Silva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dayananda_de_Silva) In one way his statement is more damaging than the statements of the men who claim to have been abused by Clarke. De Silva was a well-known and influential news media figure in Sri Lanka. To fabricate a quote by him would run the severe risk that he would immediately refute the statements publicly, thus killing the story's credibility. To my knowledge Dayananda did not refute having made the statements. But it's also strange that he would incriminate himself as having the same sexual preferences for teenage boys. It would be good to contact him for more explanation and confirmation of the quotes, but he died in 2010.

Article in THE MIRROR, 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1998

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February, the day after Graham Johnson's report on Clarke was published in the *Sunday Mirror*, several follow up and reactionary articles appeared in different media publications. They bring up many important details and follow up claims.

The [first of two articles](#) in UK newspaper *The Mirror* includes several more Clarke quotes that are not present in the aforementioned link to Graham Johnson's report the day before. I assume the additional quotes are because the *Sunday Mirror* and *Mirror* newspapers were basically one and the same, therefore having equal access to Johnson's reporting.

***"I'm trying to think of the youngest boy I have ever had, because of course you can't tell here. It is very difficult here." Asked about the age of boys he had liaisons with, Clarke said: "Most of them had reached puberty."***

Defending his actions, he said: ***"I think most of the damage is done by the fuss made by hysterical parents. If the kids enjoy it and don't mind, it doesn't do any harm. There is hysteria about the whole thing in the West."***

Asked if he had had sexual relationships with them he said: ***"Yes."*** He added: ***"I know once many, many years ago when I first came here I did and the going rate was about two rupees. Money has never been part of a relationship. But of course when you are fond of them you give them money or a watch or something ... whatever."***

These admissions are even more surprising and self-incriminating.

The Mirror, reporting in the same article, had also contacted Clarke's brother in England and his responses (assuming they're accurate) are interesting.

But Clarke's younger brother branded the claims as ***"idiotic"***. Frederick Clarke, 76, said at his home in Bishop's Lydeard, Somerset: ***"The poor bugger can't even stand up - I can hardly see him cruising in his wheelchair for young boys. I can't accept these allegations are***

***correct. Arthur is paralysed in one leg and one arm. I don't believe he is physically capable of these things. He's been surrounded by nurses and staff for years."***

While this logic appears to be applicable to Clarke at the age of 80 when the allegations were made, it overlooks the fact that the allegations are cited to older men who claimed to have had sexual encounters with Clarke in their teens. However, the following statement quoting again, Clarke's own brother, appears to support the allegations.

But he admitted he would not rule out the possibility that Clarke may have had sex with boys in the past: ***"He may have had an interest in young boys years ago. I don't know whether he ever indulged it or not."***

For this to come from a family member is surprising. It sounds like a reluctant acknowledgment that Clarke did have pederast sexual tastes.

Clarke himself is quoted in The Mirror article, refuting the allegations.

***"THIS was a political hatchet job - not aimed at me - but designed to embarrass Prince Charles who is planning to honour me with a knighthood on Wednesday.***

***I am very much against mucking about with small boys. I take a dim view of that.***

***On the one hand I am very angry to have been smeared. There is no truth whatsoever in the allegations being made against me and they are very hurtful. On the other hand I like a good fight and, in a strange way, I am enjoying it.***

***I have not been sexually active for more than 20 years. I had a major prostate operation more than a decade ago which would have made anything like that quite impossible. That was on top of post-polio paralysis. I've been confined to a wheelchair for well over a year, although I can hobble a few steps on sticks. And yet the Sunday Mirror paints a lurid picture of an 80-year-old paedophile playing table-tennis with 12-year-old boys. Who do they think they're kidding?***

***My conscience is completely clear. I am convinced that this is nothing more than a cheap attempt to embarrass my friend Prince Charles."***

Let's examine this response. As with his brother's response, Clarke himself cites his current 80 year old health as a rebuke, claiming he isn't physically capable of the abuse. He cites a prostate operation from twelve years before, but again this doesn't address the fact that the allegations were from older men claiming to have had sexual encounters with Clarke as much as twenty years earlier. His statement that he is against ***"mucking about with small boys"*** also seems to deflect away from the allegations, which weren't about *small boys*, they were about adolescent and teenage boys.

Clarke's claim that the allegations are a political hatchet job against Prince Charles holds more merit, and we will return to this later, but what I find leans against Clarke's denial is the things he doesn't attempt to refute. He doesn't deny that journalists visited him at his home, leading to the story. He doesn't claim that the Sri Lankan men quoted as making the allegations don't exist or offer any reason why they might lie, nor does he claim that Dayananda de Silva's (well-known Sri Lankan journalist) statements about him are lies. A truly innocent party, especially if they had expensive lawyers (I'm unaware of whether Clarke used any legal representation in response to the allegations), would demand specific information from the accusers – precise dates and locations etc, pinning down their claims to specifics that can then be investigated and disproven with counter-evidence, alibis etc. And, crucially, Clarke doesn't claim that the tape recording of his confession doesn't exist.

Second article in THE MIRROR, 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1998

On the same day as the above article *The Mirror* published [another Graham Johnson piece](#), this time expanding the claims made by Clarke associate / Sri Lankan journalist Dayananda de Silva.

Arthur C. Clarke is said to have told a top journalist about his preference for teenage boys.

Notorious gay Dayananda de Silva, 64, claims the author loved showing off pictures of youngsters. De Silva, head of news at the Sri Lankan Broadcasting Company, said: ***“For a while I was the only person who Arthur discussed his views with. He had a lot of pornographic literature. He used to show me a book full of snaps of young boys and girls aged between 13 and 17. Some of the boys were Sri Lankan, others were white. I presumed the white boys were from London. All of them were good-looking and athletic. He told me he was attracted to Sri Lankan boys because of their dark skin and slender builds. Some of the boys were attracted to his status. Over here the locals have deified Arthur and he is treated like a saint.”***

De Silva added: ***“He gets very excited in the presence of young boys. Not long ago Arthur was giving a speech and there was a group of schoolboys in the audience. They were interested in science and wanted to meet the great man. They had stars in their eyes. When I told Arthur he was over like a shot. I could see his eyes light up. He was looking at them in a very devilish way.”***

I have questions as to Dayananda de Silva's motives. Why did he, personally, choose to blow the whistle on Clarke? Did he have some other agenda? And why would Clarke trust him personally with such pictures? He claims he was the only person Clarke discussed his views with, but how could he know this? Clarke, being famous, had a lot of associates.

On the other hand de Silva's account matches with one of the men who claimed to have had sexual relations with Clarke in their early teens – the sharing of pornographic pictures. It's not the most precise of details though.

Article in Rediff On The Net (Indian online news network), 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1998

Coming on the same day as the two *Mirror* articles, and just one day after the original story was published, Indian website [Rediff On The Net](#) were fast to follow up on the story with an [article of their own](#). The first Clarke quote given is one I didn't find in the original UK articles.

***“Once they have reached the age of puberty, it is OK... It doesn't do any harm.”***

However, the remaining Clarke quotes in the article do seem to match. It's possible there has been some translation issue. I assume the original article was written in Hindi and then translated back into English. Or they may have just paraphrased.

The rest of the Rediff article features extensive quotes from [Maureen Seneviratne](#), an author and children's rights campaigner from Sri Lanka. She is cited in the article as ***“co-ordinator for a non-governmental organisation called Peace -- Protection of Environment and Children Everywhere.”***

Maureen cites problems with Sri Lankan law, which held sex with minors as illegal, but held the child equally responsible. (I'll add a thought of my own – such a law would guarantee under-reporting of sex crimes by the victims themselves). She claims the laws were legal cosmetics in response to public outcry against rife paedophilia. The article continues ...

She said her group had indeed heard rumours about Clarke's activities, but being a small NGO, her organisation could not take it up as that would be like ***“tilting at giants who have written books and been made chancellors of universities. It would have been like signing our own death warrant,”*** she said in a reference to the official patronage enjoyed by Clarke, the first foreign celebrity to be given tax-free status on the island. The writer has also been made chancellor of the Meratuwa University in Sri Lanka.

Of course, it's unlikely that either the staff at Rediff or their quoted source, Maureen Seneviratne, had actually heard Graham Johnson's tape recording of Clarke. They likely read the *Sunday Mirror* online version and took the claims at face value. However, Graham told me in our phone call that the children's rights organizations in Sri Lanka all had files on Clarke.

Article in THE INDEPENDENT, 6th Feb 1998

[This article](#) states that Clarke has stone-walled the British royal press all week. It claims that he turned up to a state banquet thrown by the Prince of Wales in Colombo, despite the allegations having been published. I wonder how Clarke was socially received by the guests.

Clarke offers flat out denials of the allegations, but doesn't debunk any particular details.



The article also appears to cast doubt on the credibility of Graham Johnson, who allegedly recorded Clarke confessing his pederasty.

Graham Johnson, was allegedly sacked from the *News of the World* for fabricating an encounter with the *Beast of Bodmin*.

The *Beast of Bodmin* was a sort of toned-down version of the Loch Ness Monster, in this case a rumoured panther-type cat roaming the Moors.

The article then offers its summary of how the Sri Lankan press have responded to the allegations against Clarke.

In Sri Lanka, Clarke's reputation remains almost entirely intact. The *Mirror* story was reported only on one radio programme. Newspapers have carried nothing about the allegations. In the *Lanka Monthly Digest's* Golden Jubilee Special on the "Fifty greatest Sri Lankans since independence," "Sir Arthur C. Clarke," as he is styled, is the only foreign-born resident to be featured.

Note that Clarke hadn't even been knighted at this point.

This article isn't available from any search engine source. I found it instead at the British Newspaper Archive <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

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# Arthur C Clarke: why I don't have to hide my love for boys

**Angela Lambert reports  
on 'one of the most  
repellently vain,  
domineering and  
egotistical men she  
has ever met'**

**T**his week Arthur C. Clarke was to have basked in the honour of a knighthood bestowed on him by Prince Charles. Not any longer. A scandal has broken over the head of the 80-year-old scientist, author and visionary.

He has been accused by a Sunday newspaper of being a paedophile: a lover — and abuser — of young boys in Sri Lanka, the tropical island he has made his home. The paper claims that Clarke admitted to paying for sex with these children. He is quoted as saying: "At this stage in my life there is no point in trying to hide things."

What has long been rumour and speculation seems to have become acknowledged fact. "I think most of the damage (to children) comes from the fuss made by hysterical parents afterwards," he added, using the same defence as most paedophiles.

Since these remarks were published, the man who is famous as the author of *2001: A Space Odyssey* and more than 100 other books, as well as many scientific discoveries and predictions of startling accuracy, has asked for the investiture of his knighthood to be postponed. Nor will he be meeting Prince Charles.

Clarke has denied the allegations. Nevertheless, this furore does not surprise me. Less than a year ago, I spent three days in Sri Lanka with Arthur C. Clarke. I found his lifestyle distasteful and Clarke himself — even if he is a genius — one of the most repellently vain, domineering and egotistical men I have ever met.

In the course of 30 years as a journalist I have interviewed hundreds of remarkable people but never anyone so monstrously self-centred and self-satisfied as Clarke. He encourages a string of visitors so as to be able to repeat the stories of his triumphs over and over again.

He sits behind his desk, bare-footed, in extremely tight shorts and flamboyant shirts — often open to the waist — apparently quite unaware that his dry, creased, lizard-like body is not an appealing spectacle.

His study, which he shamelessly refers to as his Ego Chamber, is hung with trophies, medals and inscribed photographs, all to the greater glory of Arthur. He is waited on hand and foot by four good-looking young male secretaries, and a host of valets and servants man the front door, the stairs, the kitchen, his bedroom, the garden.

Amid this veritable harem of Sri Lankan youth, with their glowing golden skin and brilliant dark eyes, sits Arthur C. Clarke like an aged toad, his belly drooping over the brief shorts, a yapping one-eyed Chihuahua nestled in his lap repelling all-comers.

Clarke suffers from a condition called post-potus syndrome, which means his legs are too weak to hold him up for long and he has to go everywhere in a wheelchair. Yet he still radiates tremendous energy, dominating every conversation and every gathering. He is vigorous enough to play a daily game of table tennis at his favourite club in Colombo.

There, too, he is surrounded by good-looking youths who fawn on

him and flatter him and seem to pander to his every whim. He nearly always beats them at table tennis. Arthur C. Clarke doesn't like to lose.

For three days he insisted that I accompany him everywhere and would comment for my benefit on the people around us. "What a beautiful little child over there," he said, drawing my attention to an exquisite little boy of seven or eight. "They have such beautiful eyes."

It was true, but I thought it odd at the time that he should be quite so blatantly excited by the beauty of a small child. His home is called Leslie's House, named after a young Sri Lankan of whom he was exceptionally fond. Leslie died about 20 years ago in an accident, riding a motorbike that Clarke had given him.

Now he is looked after by Leslie's brother, Hector. Hector's British wife Valerie and their three daughters, Chereen, Tamara and Melinda, Clarke says cheerily: "I've been a cuckoo in the nest of many happy families."

**"When I tentatively asked a Sri Lankan friend whether the rumours were true, he replied: 'He's protected — he knows that'"**

Hector's family live next to Clarke. Amid all the speculation around Arthur C. Clarke, one thing should be remembered. He has been married. It was many years ago, didn't last long and produced no children, but he did have a wife. Was that what in homosexual circles is known as a "lavender marriage", meaning a cover-up for less conventional relationships?

But his life has not been emotion-



**Sex claims:** a Sunday newspaper has claimed that Arthur C. Clarke admitted to paying for sex with young children

ally or physically empty. In 1956, in pursuit of his obsession with skin-diving, he moved to Sri Lanka, that jewel in the Indian Ocean whose clear blue waters were the perfect setting in which to indulge his favourite pastime. As it happens, the island is populated with gorgeous brown children, whose parents are often so poor that they turn a blind eye to the distasteful sexual needs of wealthy foreigners.

The bodies of these children can be bought for a few pounds, and thousands are. In the past 30 years, Sri Lanka has become famous as a paedophile's paradise and the abuse of its children is an international scandal. But those in power on the island are afraid of deterring tourists, who bring much-needed income and have done little to discourage the unsavoury exploitation of the young by these sex tourists.

Since moving to Sri Lanka more

than 40 years ago, Clarke has become the island's richest and most famous resident. So celebrated is he that the government allows him to live tax free — the only person to be granted this privilege. His reputation is well-known among the ordinary people of the island. When I tentatively asked a Sri Lankan friend whether the rumours were true, he replied: "He's protected — he knows that."

And, indeed, when these accusations of paedophilia are mentioned, Clarke says royally: "How it would embarrass everyone, right up to the president. I mean, I am chancellor of the university, a public figure, that is the problem."

Was this a tacit admission that he knows he is protected? Maybe Clarke having to postpone, probably indefinitely, the investiture of his knighthood is a public humiliation from which his ego may never recover.

It's one of the most fierce attacks on Clarke I've encountered. Journalist Angela Lambert, in response to the *Sunday Mirror* allegations, offered her description of a three-day visit she made to Clarke in his Sri Lankan home less than a year before. Clarke himself acknowledged Angela had visited him in a Sept 1999 *Guardian* article, which we'll come to later.

Lambert's article claims it had long been rumour Clarke was a paedophile. She said that in her 30 years of journalism she had never met anyone as **"monstrously self-centred and self-satisfied as Clarke"** and a large caption reads **"One of the most repellently vain, domineering and egotistical men she has ever met"**. She describes that Clarke's home is filled with self-worshipping memorabilia in what Clarke calls his **"ego chamber"** (these details are verified in a video filmed after Clarke's death, which I shall link and comment on later). Angela states **"He is waited on hand and foot by four good-looking young male secretaries, and a host of valets and servants man the front door, the stairs, the kitchen, his bedroom, the garden"**. She describes going to watch Clarke play table-tennis at his favourite club. No doubt the *Otter Aquatic Club*, which Clarke also took *Guardian* journalist Tim Avers to in 1999. This is also the venue the *Sunday Mirror* alleged he goes to

proposition children and rent boys. Angela describes that youths pander to Clarke there and that he always beats them in table-tennis. She says that Clarke insisted she accompany him everywhere and would frequently comment on the beauty of children he spotted, some around ages 7 or 8. She says he was **“blatantly excited”** at the sight of them.

Describing Clarke’s closeness with the Ekanayake family, Lambert attributes this quote to Clarke, **“I’ve been a cuckoo in the nest of many happy families”**. She claims Clarke is the most-wealthy and well-known person on the island and that a local, when asked about the rumours of his sexual activity with minors, described him as **“protected”**.

Two articles in the Sri Lankan SUNDAY TIMES, Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 1998

<https://www.sundaytimes.lk/980208/plus4.html> (both articles at same link)

These two articles give some insight into how the Clarke allegations were being taken in Sri Lanka, one week after the story first broke. The first article largely summarizes the original published allegations and Clarke’s denial, as featured from the same news sources. However it includes this statement.

Dr. Clarke has consistently avoided giving press interviews after the report was published. When the *Sunday Times* called on his office, a person named Tony answered the telephone and informed us that Dr. Clarke was resting and did not wish to be disturbed. He also said that Dr. Clarke is seeking legal advice in an attempt to disprove the statements.

To my knowledge, no legal representatives have made public statements at any point on behalf of Clarke, and Clarke did not take legal action to clear his name. But, rather than simply taking this as evidence of his guilt, we could also say that Clarke was not up to the task of as legal battle, given his advanced age.

The article also outlines that child’s rights groups in Sri Lanka have been calling for an investigation into Clarke. And includes the following curious statement, regarding Arun Tampoe, *“attorney-at-law and child rights activist”*.

Tampoe also recalled that another British Tabloid had come to Sri Lanka to inquire into Dr. Arthur C. Clarke few months ago.

While this suggests that a wider suspicion among British news sources was present, it could also be a reference to the *News of the World*, which sent Roger Insall to investigate Clarke, only for the *Sunday Mirror* to be the one that published the results.

The following statement no doubt refers to Dayananda de Silva, but interestingly, the newspaper avoids mentioning his name.

Further, the *Mirror* on Sunday and Monday carry disclosures by a senior journalist in state media, who is alleged to have said that Dr. Clarke had a lot of pornographic material and had once showed him a book full of snapshots of young boys and girls, some Sri Lankan, others European.

The second article in the Sri Lankan *Sunday Times*, published on the same day, defends the reputation of the *Otter Aquatic Club*, which Clarke regularly attended and, allegedly, would proposition young boys. Sam Lovell, secretary of the club, confirms Clarke had been a member for forty years, but that his behaviour was impeccable. He says the club **“has a membership exceeding 5,000 including persons from the ages 2-90 years”**. He claims the allegations were done **“to discredit Dr. Clarke and the Otters Club”**. I don’t see why a vendetta would be held against the club itself. And while I have not come across other sources alleging the club to be a paedophile haunt, I’m also not aware of the club having taken any legal action to restore its reputation. That said, legal action against a newspaper can be very expensive and is difficult when the two parties are in separate countries.

For the curious, here is modern day promotional video for the *Otter Aquatic Club*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSoldQVeQYk>

Follow up article in SUNDAY MIRROR, Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 1998

On the same day as the two Sri Lankan news articles, which largely defended Clarke, Roger Insall (the reporter who did the groundwork investigative work in Sri Lanka) and Tracy Schaverien, penned a [new article](#) in the *Sunday Mirror*. Roger Insall is now deceased, but Tracy Schaverien is still working.

<https://uk.linkedin.com/in/tracy-schaverien-59184813>

<https://muckrack.com/tracy-schaverien>

I recently had a brief Facebook conversation with her, asking for further sources and whether she had heard the Clarke confession tape, but she said it was so long ago she couldn’t remember.

Their article considerably expands the allegations against Clarke. The piece is titled **SMIRK OF A PERVERT AND A LIAR; Police probe links Clarke to international child sex ring**. The article at first claims that, just four days after the pederast allegations were published against him, Arthur C. Clarke attended a Sri Lankan state party, at which Prince Charles was present (Clarke’s presence was reported on by in *The Independent* two days earlier).

Included in the article is a transcribed new portion from Graham Johnson’s tape recording. It reads ...

J: *What's the youngest person you've had?*

C: *I couldn't...You're asking me to get...*

J: *I know it's not 10 and 11, but maybe 13, 14, 15?*

C: *I couldn't say. You can never judge. But no one that isn't old enough to know his own mind. And most of them had reached puberty.*

J: *If one of them was 13, how did you judge?*

C: *If he really was 13 he will be a very mature 13.*

J: *You don't think that's morally wrong?*

C: *No. I mean. It depends on the country. You can't have an absolute morality.*

The following, from the article, is a whole new ball game of allegations.

We also have a copy of a secret document which names Clarke as a paedophile known to members of the *North American Boy Lovers Association*, one of the world's most notorious child sex networks. US detectives, who arrested leaders of the association 10 years ago, say Clarke was named by other paedophiles they quizzed during an FBI investigation.

The perverts had set up children's homes in Thailand as fronts for their sick activities. One of its leaders was Jonathan Tampico, 48, a top nuclear scientist who worked for the American Government. He served two-and-a-half years in jail for molesting a boy of 12 and is now on the run with a million-dollar warrant on his head for further porn offences. He told detectives he had stayed at Clarke's home in Colombo and had swapped letters with the author.

Another known paedophile, former church minister John Wakefield Cummings, 56, is serving a 24-years-to-life sentence after admitting molesting 17 boys in his care. He told police in Sacramento, California, that Clarke had been contacted at his Sri Lankan home by a paedophile who was on the run from the American authorities.

In a sworn statement made to an investigator for Sacramento's district attorney (see below), Wakefield Cummings told how the pervert fled to Sri Lanka where he was able to contact the paedophile community through Clarke. He then fled from Sri Lanka to Indonesia.

Detectives contacted a child welfare group to warn them about Clarke's activities. A senior Sacramento detective said: ***"We never had any reason to take action against Arthur C. Clarke because he was outside our jurisdiction. But Clarke's name did keep coming up. We were looking into members of The Boy Lovers Association who all seemed to know or be aware of him. He ended up connecting to a lot of people we were investigating. Tampico was one of those who said he went to Sri Lanka. I have seen letters between him and Arthur C. Clarke. There was nothing overtly sexual in them, but they were clearly corresponding."***

He added: ***"Cummings told us in the course of interviews that Arthur C. Clarke is a paedophile. He said Sri Lanka used to be a popular destination for the paedophiles. But then the government changed and they were all thrown out. He said Clarke was one of the few they didn't expel because of his status."***

Considering the gravity of these statements it's essential to seek other sources that corroborate or debunk specific elements. I've been unable to acquire any other documentation on church minister

John Wakefield Cummings. However, [this US legal archive page](#) from 2002 confirms that Jonathon Tampico was, indeed, a paedophile and child pornographer and was on the run from US authorities in early February 1998, only to be taken back into custody in July of that year. It doesn't confirm that he travelled to Sri Lanka, but his fugitive period is only glossed over with a few sentences, and the trial only related to crimes in the US. The page also confirms his involvement in the *North American Boy Lovers Association*. The major discrepancy I see with the *Sunday Mirror* article is that it says Tampico fled to India, yet Tampico was actually re-arrested in Texas about six months later.

I haven't been able to find any online articles about Jonathan Tampico that pre-date the *Sunday Mirror's* article about Clarke on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb that year.

Something else I find important about this particular article is that Clarke does not appear to have made, at any point, any attempt to publicly deny or debunk its content. Though the article does not disclose its precise US sources, it does state ...

Ron O'Grady, of ECPAT (End Child Prostitution In Asian Tourism) confirmed he had been warned about Clarke by police in Sacramento.

So it may have been Ron O' Grady who supplied the aforementioned documentation to the *Mirror* journalists. Unfortunately, Ron is now deceased. He was the founded ECPAT in 1990. Here is a [video of him](#) explaining his decision to found the organization. This is another aspect of this article that I have not seen challenged by Clarke. And I'm not aware of any counter statement by Ron O' Grady in response to the article, which we would expect if his quotes had been fabricated. In fact, there appears to be a surprising lack of response, almost entirely, to this article by the world's news media.

Article in INTER PRESS SERVICE NEWS AGENCY, 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1998

[This article](#) mostly reports on what we have already explored in previous press reports, but it also mentions that Swiss businessman Victor Baumann was exposed as a serial paedophile in Sri Lanka and Europe.

Article in the IRISH TIMES, 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 1998

<https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/an-irishman-s-diary-1.136524>

This article mostly summarizes what had already been published, though it leaves out the 8<sup>th</sup> Feb article, alleging Clarke to be connected to an international paedophile ring. The author cites his personal visit to Clarke in 1992, during which he didn't see anything suspicious, as his reason for asserting that we should assume Clarke innocent.



Article in THE INDEPENDENT, 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 1998

[This article](#) claims that the allegations against Clarke received minimal media attention in Sri Lanka. I've only been able to find one Sri Lankan news media report on the issue, so I concur. However, the article states that religious groups in Sri Lanka had begun calling out for an investigation into Clarke, and that this investigation (or at least the appearance of one, in my view) had begun. The article claims that the police had already spoken to Dayananda de Silva. Remember, he was the friend of Clarke's who, for reasons unknown, decided to tell journalists he had been witness to Clarke having pornography of young boys and girls and of paying for sex with young boys. The police also said they would interview the other witnesses.

The article also claims Clarke is a friend of the country's (then) president, Chandrika Kumaratunga. As well as Clarke's other high profile connections and status, as included in the article, it very much gives the impression that an actual investigation will not take place. The investigation will just as likely be a cover-up to spare embarrassment for Clarke and the country.

Article in the BBC, April 6<sup>th</sup> 1998

The BBC was, and still is, one of the largest news organisations in the world. It has massive global reach and considerable resources, yet it appears to have remained silent on the issue of allegations against Arthur C. Clarke for almost three months after the story broke. When it did [finally report on the matter](#), it took the initial media lead in stating that Clarke had been found *not guilty* by the investigating police authorities in Sri Lanka. How it got that lead is a mystery. Who supplied this info and why did other news sources not get the scoop?

The bias of the BBC coverage is evident in the contradictions between its headline and its content. The title flatly claims **"Sci-fi novelist cleared of sex charges"**, yet the end of the article states the inquiry is not over and that the Sri Lankan authorities have not spoken with the *Sunday Mirror* journalists who made the allegations. The chief investigator is also quoted as saying that the investigators had interviewed the three men whose allegations had been reported in the *Sunday Mirror*. This will have been the three men who separately claimed to have been molested by Clarke in their early teens. The article does not state what became of these interviews, however, such a statement at least seems to confirm that the men did exist and so, they had not been conjured up in the imaginations of the *Sunday Mirror* journalists.

Providing so little info, but presented in its title as a closed case, the BBC article may as well read **"Clarke is innocent simply because a Sri Lankan police chief says he is"**.

Second article in the BBC, April 13th 1998

Contradicting the finality of their *nothing to see here* article from a week before, this time the BBC coverage is more interesting. This article outlines an argument of whether the Clarke tape even

exists. The BBC claim that the Sri Lankan embassy, via Interpol (The International Criminal Police Organization), are awaiting a copy of the taped confession the *Sunday Mirror* claim to have. The *Sunday Mirror* claims it had already sent a copy of the tape to Interpol, **“who failed to let them know they had not received it.”** The Sri Lankan source says it will end its investigation if it doesn't receive the tape.

It appears from this exchange, that some party is hiding something. Either the *Sunday Mirror* have lost the tape or it never existed or the content is different to how they reported it. When speaking by telephone to Graham Johnson I asked him about where the tape, or copies of it, are and why it hadn't been publicly released. Graham told me that the newspaper was concerned about getting sued so it had backed off and not pushed the whole issue further. He said that he had personally kept a copy of the tape for many years, but in the last ten years or so it had been discarded as part of a clear out of his old possessions. Given it's been well over two decades since Graham broke the story and Arthur C. Clarke is now laid to rest, I didn't expect Graham to still have a copy of the tape today. It's a shame though as it would have cleared up the matter as far as the accuracy and authenticity of the Clarke *“confession”* is concerned.

It's possible that legal threats had been made by Clarke's representatives against the paper. There may have even been a conflict over the legality of entering Clarke's home and recording him. Typically, this kind of legal exchange would occur out of public view and by letter or mediation. And any litigation-avoiding agreements between the accused and the publisher would typically be confidential. This is undoubtedly one of the reasons why some news stories are suddenly discontinued.

News coverage of the Clarke allegations, at least in terms of new evidence, appears to have completely dried up after this. The occasional article has appeared via both mainstream and independent online voices. These sources typically have repeated portions of what's already been stated in the original coverage of the allegations, and the authors have typically offered their own view in favour or Clarke's guilt or innocence in the matter. There have, however, been a handful of significant new reports and information sources ...

Article in the GUARDIAN, 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 1999

Next up Tim Avers, for *The Guardian*, [wrote a piece](#) seemingly defending Clarke against the allegations. Avers visited Clarke at his home in Sri Lanka. He describes Clarke's home environment, his **“servants”** and offers up some other details from Clarke's life I hadn't encountered before such as his Father having died when Arthur was 13. He was, apparently, involved in a top secret radar-project in America, and he told Avers most of his scientific papers had been published in *Playboy*. He says that he has volumes of personal archives, but that they are sealed up to be released in thirty years because **“there might be all sorts of embarrassing things in them”**.

Clarke also offers some confirmation of his personal circumstances in Sri Lanka ... He says his house is called *Leslie's House* and that he adopted his friend Hector's three daughters and helped bring them up. Then comes the question of the sexual allegations ...

A curious exchange then follows. I ask him if he was damaged by the allegations on the front page of the *Sunday Mirror* from last March, which accused him of *"paying for sex with young boys"*. "Oh," Clarke says understatedly, ***"that was very unpleasant, of course, and luckily there was no problem whatsoever. I immediately got the police in, and they disproved the whole damn thing"***.

*Are you suing the Mirror?*

"Well," he says, ***"that's why I don't want to talk about it"***.

*So how did it come about?*

***"Two journalists came to interview me,"*** he says ***"I said nothing that I would've regretted if they'd quoted it accurately. I don't understand their motivation. Or I do. He (Clarke points to a picture of himself and Prince Charles) was coming, and they wanted to create some embarrassment. But every single one of their facts was refutable. I have signed affidavits"***.

Clarke says he got the police in, but according to the other news reports we've explored, it was pressure from local religious leaders and other sources that prompted the investigation. Clarke neither confirms nor denies whether he is suing the *Mirror* newspaper, and never actually did to my knowledge. The lack of legal action doesn't prove his guilt of course. However, Clarke admits that two journalists did come to visit him. This would have been Graham Johnson and probably Roger Insall. On that basis I think we can safely assume the journalists did not lie that they had even met Clarke. The question remains though as to the accuracy of the quotes from that meeting – the apparent confession from Clarke. Clarke doesn't state that they outright lied, merely that he wasn't quoted accurately. It seems a weak denial. The article also makes no further mention of the ***"signed affidavits"*** that refute the allegations. If Clarke had shown these to the journalist and they had been reprinted, this would go a long way in his favour.

Their discussion of the matter continues ...

*So, is he going to sue the Mirror?*

***"I'm waiting to decide whether to sue"***.

*But he must want to clear his name?*

"Well," he answers, ***"I'm 82"***. What hurt most, Clarke says, was that after the initial report, there was a string of follow-up stories. Angela Lambert, the strident voice of the *Daily Mail*, having declared Clarke a couple of weeks previously the century's greatest visionary,

suddenly decided in retrospect that he was the **“most repellent man she had ever met. What annoyed me about that piece, a very nasty piece, was that she referred to my ‘handsome young valets’. It’s just absurd. They’re all very nice, but you’ve seen them, I clearly didn’t choose them for their looks”**. When he says this, one of the servants, a paunchy man in his forties, winces just a little. **“Anyway,”** he says, **“at this stage, there’s nothing to be said”**.

For the remainder of the article, Avers describes how he escorted Clarke to the *Otter Aquatic Club*, at Clarke’s request, so Clarke could play table tennis and show the journalist how harmless the place was. Avers described the venue as a **“sports complex”**.

#### Graham Johnson’s summary in his 2012 book, **HACK**

Author and journalist Graham Johnson did make one more publication on the matter in his 2012 book called **Hack**, which chronicles his experiences in the field of journalism. The book includes (beginning on page 240) a three page hindsight summary of the Arthur C. Clarke episode.

Graham’s writing in the book is equivalent to rough street talk. He swears, he uses bold sensational metaphors and crude humour, not that this means his basic statements are more or less credible. He does make a statement which supports the notion that the whole story was, at least partially, motivated by a desire to damage the reputation of Arthur C. Clarke or Prince Charles.

**“We’d been tipped off that the wank-on-the-biscuit, shape-shifting rulers of the world were gonging Arthur up for the following week. In the New Year’s list. Prince Charles was coming to Sri Lanka himself. To do the honours. The synchronicity was sublime. In the finest of Fleet Street traditions, the big plan was to fuck the whole thing up. For all the nonces and their establishment cronies. All at once. Put a bomb under the fucking lot of them. In one great, big, massive piss all over their weirdo parade. But was our dynamite good enough to do the job.”**

For those of you not aware, **“nonce”** is a UK slang term for paedophile. Graham’s statements above, if made while Clarke was alive, could have contributed to Clarke making a legal case for defamation. It doesn’t prove that Clarke didn’t confess anything on tape, but it does suggest a defamation motive. Actually though, UK defamation law, at least today, isn’t concerned with the motive of the publisher, only what they actually publish and its actual real world effect on the defamed.

Another statement in **Hack** is ...

**“At first Arthur said it was just scuttlebutt from unreliable rent boys. But as I reeled off the names and claims of one witness after another, the old fox was forced to concede.”**

Though not quoted verbatim, this does slightly expand on Clarke’s initial denial at the start of the conversation.

Graham explains that, after getting a confession to sex with 14 year olds out of Clarke, he quickly left and called back to his newspaper to report what he had. There's no statement as to whether Graham travelled back to the UK with the tape to play it for his employers before the article was published. And there might not have been time for that, given that the paper wanted to run the story before Clarke could be knighted. So, in Clarke's defense, we could allege that Graham had only the stories from the ex-rent boys and Dayananda de Silva to go by, and so he had fooled his own newspaper by telephone into running the story, claiming to have a confession tape that didn't exist, but that is as speculative as anything else. Also, if that were true then surely Graham would have been fired, instead promoted, upon his return to the UK. And, as Graham states in his book, Clarke never sued the paper.

#### First video tour of Clarke's house, posted on Youtube 2010

In this [video tour of Clarke's house](#), at 0:54 the man showing the visitor around the house is touching a framed photo of Leslie Ekanayake, cited at findagrave.com as Clarke's "*spouse*". We don't get to hear what the tour guide says about this picture.

As an interesting insight into Clarke's pathology, at about the 2 minute mark, the videographer asks what Clarke loved about scuba diving, and the guide responds that being underwater is like zero gravity (as in similar to outer space).

Clarke's red Mercedes is seen from about the 4:50 mark.

We don't get to see Clarke's bedroom in this video, but we do in the next one ...

#### Second video tour of Clarke's house, posted on Youtube 2016

This [video of Clarke's house](#), interior and exterior, contains some notable details, which I will cross-reference with other information.



Based on the video footage of the exterior and views through windows, I've been able to confirm that the property seen in the map above was indeed Clarke's House at Barnes Place in Colombo.

One thing that's clear throughout the video is that the reports of Clarke having an "***Ego Chamber***" are true. Whole rooms are packed with framed photos and documents, awards and trophies ... referencing himself. Shelves upon shelves are filled mainly with every print edition of his own books as he could find. And, as Angela Lambert and other journalists have reported, Clarke would go to great effort to show all of this off to guests.

There's nothing criminal about the *Ego Chamber*. In fact, it makes me feel a bit sad for Clarke. People who try to build themselves up in such a manner are usually compensating for hidden low self-esteem. Clarke's disconnection from his cultural and family roots suggests a great feeling of detachment – an inability to "*fit in*". Add to that his homosexuality (or, at least, bisexuality with homo leanings) being a western taboo, and we have what I view as a man who was, deep down, quite lonely. The Ekanayake family were a substitute for having a family of his own. The *Ego Chamber* is a substitute for a deeper sense of self-worth that wouldn't depend on externally received appraisal.

Curiously, a young looking male is seen through a doorway at 3:26 and appears to be watching but trying to keep out of view. Probably, he's one of the Ekanayake family.

At 3:57 a self-portrait of Clarke is visible (also visible more clearly at 7:51 in the first Youtube clip cited above this one). It features Clarke either floating in the sky or sat upon an unseen mountain peak. The closest mountain in view could be *Adam's Peak* in Sri Lanka. Note the very large moon seen in a daytime sky. The height of the setting plus the picture being placed very high on a wall seems to convey Clarke's desire to escape Earth and attain paradise in some other plane of existence, whether spiritual or stellar.

At 7:29, in the top left, a collection of Kubrick DVDs is visible (white covers).

At about the 8:00 min mark we enter Clarke's bedroom. This is the place where some of the reported abuses apparently took place. In the original *Mirror* newspaper reports, sources were quoted saying that Clarke had pictures of young boys on the walls of his bedroom and a box full of pornographic pictures of children next to the bed. We see none of that here though. In fact the bedroom is incredibly empty. There is a single bed with a metal frame attached (likely because of Clarke's frailty in old age). There is one framed picture in a corner by the window, one chair at the desk area and, aside from storage furniture, there's nothing else. It looks as empty as a hospital room. Clarke's *Ego Chamber* rooms are preserved in great detail for visitors, but why is the bedroom so empty? Was it this empty when Clarke lived and slept in there? Surely, there would be some personal photos of family and friends in this most personal of spaces. Most likely, the majority contents of the room have been cleared out, leaving a mystery as to what Clarke's bedroom was actually like.



The last room, a storage area, seems to have been left as Clarke had it. Only the bedroom has been cleared.

Article at the DAILY BEAST, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017

[This article](#) by journalist John Sykes describes his visit to the deceased Clarke's house and includes quotes from others who knew Clarke and knew he was gay. Another American writer, Charlie Hulse, who settled in Sri Lanka, claims that Clarke moved to Sri Lanka so that he could express his sexuality without causing embarrassment for his own family.

This article also describes that Clarke rented his home and office space from Hektor Ekanayake. In other words he didn't own it. Hektor also claims, when asked, that his younger brother Leslie was not Clarke's lover. Whether Hektor is covering for Clarke is hard to tell. However, Hektor didn't necessarily know everything that was going on in Clarke's life.

Hektor would sometimes not see him for weeks, despite living across the courtyard. When he did see him, he would ask, ***"What are you doing, Arthur?"*** and Clarke would invariably reply, ***"Writing a book."***

If Hektor didn't see Clarke for weeks at a time then he wouldn't necessarily know exactly who visited Clarke's part of the premises. Also, as cited in multiple sources we've explored, Clarke would go out frequently to the ***Otter Aquatic Club***. Hektor wouldn't know what Clarke was up to there either.

The author states that everyone he spoke to said Clarke was not guilty of the sexual allegations thrown at him in 1998. However, the denials are far from satisfactory.

It should be noted that everyone I spoke to in Colombo who knew Clarke was adamant that the stories were completely untrue. ***"He liked young men, say 20, 25, but the idea of him with children...no, no,"*** said one friend, who did not want to be named.

The quote only talks in terms of adults and children, but does not address the issue of pubescent and underage teenage boys, which was the primary allegation made.

However the crowd Clarke hung out with were seen by some as lecherous towards younger native men. Another expatriate in Galle said that Clarke and his friends—Bawa et al—were collectively known as ***"The Lizards. We just stayed away from them,"*** the person said.

Later in the article Hektor is quoted as acknowledging Clarke was gay, but states that he had no regular lover or relationship. He also admits that Clarke was a mystery to him in some ways.

Article in VICE, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017

[This article](#) has a section that is especially interesting. The full piece is an account of childhood experiences told by personal friends of Vice reporter Graham Isador. One of those friends cited is Peter Troyer. His story appears to reference paedophilic behaviour from Arthur C. Clarke, though Clarke isn't named in the piece. Here's his story in full ...

***“I grew up in Sri Lanka. My dad was doing some work for the Canadian government. There were a lot of expat kids in my area and we had free reign of the neighbourhood. Our parents mostly let us do what we wanted, but we were told to stay away—never go near—a large property that bordered my house. When we asked why the reasons were always vague.***

***There were some rumors (sic) that someone very famous or maybe powerful lived there. We all got the sense that he was ...a danger in some way. One day I was home sick from school. My grandfather was visiting from Canada and he was assigned to watch me. I remember that I was in pajamas (sic). We were in the backyard and my grandfather was painting peacocks. Out of our hedges this man appeared and approached us. I instantly knew it was the man from the property. The man from the property wanted something from my dad, who of course wasn't home. My grandfather was star struck by the man. Grandpa could barely speak. The two began chatting. The man flattered my grandfather's painting. He said he also liked to paint but only people. The man looked towards me and said let's paint the boy.***

***I was placed on a stool in front of the two men. I was eleven years old. Very quickly the neighbour said the clothes were spoiling the beauty of me. He asked me to remove my clothes. I looked at my grandpa and did as I was told. Soon after I was on the stool, naked, and crying. I don't know how long this went on but at some point my father arrived home. He quickly reviewed the scene, saw the man from the property, and...went ..nuts. He just lost it on them: raising his voice. Getting in people's faces. I honestly thought he might kill them both.***

***Within a couple of hours my grandfather was gone and they never - ever - spoke again. Although in some circles it was common knowledge, the man from the property was a famous British science fiction novelist. Apparently he had been banished to (then) Ceylon from postwar Britain rather than face prison for being a pederast. I think about that day sometimes. My father didn't have a temper and rarely ever even raised his voice but the man he became in that moment while essentially unrecognizable. While we've had our ups and downs from that moment forward I never questioned his love for me again. Ever. I knew he'd kill for me. I learned how important it is to protect your family and those more vulnerable than you.”***

Being that there appears to be no other **“famous British Sci-fi novelist”** that lived in Ceylon (now called *Sri Lanka*), the child-voyeuristic neighbour is almost certainly Arthur C. Clarke. And, at age 11,

Peter was approaching the pubescent age that Clarke has been alleged to have been physically attracted to young boys. It's possible though, that neither Peter Troyer, nor the journalist who compiled the article, realized that the man in their story was, in fact, Arthur C. Clarke. If their intention was to hide the identity of Clarke as the culprit then describing him as a **"famous British Sci-fi novelist"** was a very poor way of disguising his identity. Clarke died in 2008, so there was no risk of a lawsuit, had his name been mentioned in the article. In fact, name dropping Clarke certainly would have brought a larger readership to the piece.

Of course, the story can just be taken as hearsay. We could assume the *Peter Troyer* story was simply made up for the article or even that Peter was just a fictional name. However, the unusual surname *Troyer* in association with *Sri Lanka*, where western names are rare, allowed me to verify that Peter Troyer not only does exist, but that he did actually live in Sri Lanka. In fact, there is even a [Wikipedia page on his Father, Warner Troyer](#), describing his period in Sri Lanka at the time of the story, and naming *Peter* as one of his children. Warner set up and ran a school for journalism (of all things) in Colombo, which was within a few streets walking distance of Arthur C. Clarke's residence. [This article](#) also confirms Warner Troyer did business in Colombo.

In case those connections aren't enough, Warner Troyer is described in the Wiki article as having died in Toronto, which is where Graham Isador (who compiled the Vice article) and Peter Troyer now live and are currently mutual friend on Facebook.



I believe the Peter Troyer in [this video link](#) to be the same one we've been referring to.

With all this evidence it's safe to say that the *Peter Troyer* mentioned in the *Vice* article does exist and did live in Sri Lanka as a child.

Hektor Ekanayake interviewed on youtube, posted 2018

Now to our final, and most recent, source of information - a short Youtube [video interview with Hektor Ekanayake](#), business partner of Arthur C. Clarke and older brother of Leslie.

Hektor gives basic background of how Clarke, with Mike Wilson, first came to Sri Lanka and how he ended up being Clarke's business partner. Most of this we already know, but the really significant and surprising part begins at the 2:00 mark. Hektor's English is rough, but the subtitles (though badly translated in parts) are clear enough, in combination with the audio. Hektor states ...

***“When anybody come to see Arthur, what do you think, he always help him. Okay, he will never say no. Even if he sick he get them to come upstairs and have them in the library, and I was gonna read a book or something until he had come out of the bedroom you know. So he's very, very, very helpful to people, anybody who come to see him.”***

What a strange statement. Who were these people who would come to see Clarke for help, and why did they come to him, specifically? Who sent them to Clarke? What type of help did they need – money, advice? And why would Clarke see them privately in the bedroom, out of Hektor's view?

The parallel with the allegations is striking. Clarke had been alleged of having boys come to his house for money they or their families needed and to give Clarke sexual favours in his bedroom for the money. Hektor's statements actually give considerable credibility to the allegations. If he was trying to cover up sex crimes he knew Clarke committed then he did a terrible job of it in this interview. Or perhaps Clarke had the Ekanayake family so fooled that he was able to get away with such crimes for years in such close proximity. That may initially sound outrageous, but sexual abuse often occurs for years within family households, while being known only to the victim and abuser.

## PART FOUR

### AUTHOR'S CONCLUSIONS

I'll finish this study of the Arthur C. Clarke allegations by presenting, as I see it, the strongest arguments for and against Clarke. I'll compile these into separate sections – as happens when the prosecution and defense summarize their case in a trial. But before doing this I'd like to address a central issue that has never been adequately addressed.

#### **Did the Clarke confession tape really exist?**

When speaking on the phone to Graham Johnson (the journalist who allegedly recorded Clarke's confession in his house) I asked where the recording currently is, why it's never been made public, and whether he personally had kept a copy. Graham told me that there was a copy with the *Mirror* newspaper at the time and that he personally had kept a copy, but had discarded it many years ago as part of a clear out of old possessions. Graham also said that the tape was not made public because of the risk of being sued by Clarke.

In turn I asked journalist Tracy Schaverien, who co-authored the *Mirror* article alleging Clarke was connected to an international paedophile ring (published 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1998), if she had heard the tape, but Tracy she said it was so long ago she couldn't remember.

Another possibility is that the tape was held onto and not shared with other news media sources because the *Mirror* wanted to keep the story in their own lap and milk it for more coverage. I find this implausible though because the story would have been much bigger if portions of the tape had been aired on prime time TV. It would have boosted the credibility of the newspaper itself and its key journalists for having broke the story.

The legal issue is a complex one with many possibilities. There has been no published evidence as to what kind of legal action Clarke took, if any. He was quoted as saying he was considering it. It's notable that all of the *Mirror's* allegations against Clarke were published within an eight day period, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1998, and thereafter completely ceased (all coverage after that coming from other sources). On that basis, I suspect there may have been some sort of confidential agreement made between Clarke and the newspaper (possibly a Tomlin Order). No doubt this would have involved Clarke's legal representatives acting on his behalf. When a legal threat is made against a newspaper for its allegations, the paper will tend to cease publishing the allegations while the legal aspect is resolved. The legal process, conducted privately, can then last for months.

If an agreement was made then it may have resulted in the suppression of the taped evidence, which would also mean the *Mirror* would not be able to share it with any other sources, including other news organisations that had requested a copy. I'm unsure if a Tomlin Order would prevent the supplying of the tape to a law enforcement organisations such as *Interpol*, who were reported to have asked for the tape, but said they never received it. Sometimes private settlement of a legal

issue, whether damages were paid or not, requires that the very existence of the settlement be kept confidential.

I had read some hearsay online sources claiming that the *Mirror* had published an apology to Clarke, but I've been unable to find a source publication. I even checked the British Newspaper Archive, at which the only news media reference I've found is an article in the *Irish Independent* newspaper, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2008, stating that the *Mirror* had published an apology to Clarke.



But, as with the tape transcriptions, this is hearsay in the absence of the original apology article. In particular, I would have expected that Clarke and his legal representatives would have flag waved a published apology to the world to clear Clarke's name once and for all. And it's not just the existence of an apology that is important, but its wording. If the apology admitted there was no recorded confession it would be damning for the newspaper's reputation and its allegations, but if the paper had stated it had misinterpreted Clarke's recorded statements then this would still leave room for interpreting potential guilt on his part.

The sudden silence, from both parties, about the existence of the tape does little to resolve the issue in either party's favour. Often when a confidential agreement is reached there are concessions from both parties, simply for the sake of avoiding the massive expense and stress of an actual court trial. One party may be completely in the wrong, but will save themselves from the reputational chopping block by merely agreeing to cease what they deserved to be sued for.

So, did the tape exist? Well, Clarke himself admitted to a journalist for the *Guardian* in 1999 ...

***"Two journalists came to interview me," he says "I said nothing that I would've regretted if they'd quoted it accurately."***

This at least confirms the discussion took place, and I find it implausible that the journalists would not record the interview, given their intention to use Clarke's statements against him. Even for a tabloid paper, it would take quite a conspiratorial effort to completely fabricate Clarke's



“*confession*”. It’s not impossible, but I find it more plausible that a tape recording did exist, that Clarke had made some sort of self-incriminating statements and that the newspaper used that as a platform to exaggerate the content, knowing that Clarke would not demand the full tape be made public for fear of further self-incrimination.

So I do believe a tape recording did exist, but I have questions over whether it was accurately transcribed in the *Mirror*’s articles. If that were true then neither Clarke nor the newspaper would want the tape to be made public, as it would incriminate them both in different ways.

### The case for Arthur C. Clarke’s guilt

If all of the allegations against Clarke hinged on the alleged tape recording confession then I would have to lean strongly in favour of his innocence, being the tape has never been made public. Unfortunately, it’s not that simple. There are many other factors that point to his, at least partial, guilt.

The circumstances of Clarke’s sexual habits, and any long term relationships he may have had, were something he kept intentionally hidden from the world. He was certainly homosexual and, of the two known close associates who have been widely speculated (even by his loyal fans) to be his lovers, both of them were a great deal younger than Clarke and met him at or before the legal age of consent. Mike Wilson met Clarke at age 16-17 (and was 17 years younger). Leslie Ekanayake met him at about age 9 (and was 30 years younger). Homosexuality doesn’t prove pederasty or paedophilic behaviour, but the secrecy of his love / sex life even post-2000, when homosexuality became much more accepted in the West, suggests Clarke had more to hide. Other celebrities were proudly *coming out the closet*, but not Clarke.

His choice, in the 1950’s, to relocate to one of the world’s worst locations for child prostitution and live there for the rest of his life, largely away from the scrutiny of even his family and western friends, is odd. The question remains ... was he partially motivated by easier sexual access to young boys without major risk of legal repercussion, given the country typically turned a blind eye to such activity?

In terms of Clarke’s personality I have noticed a pattern of elitism, entitlement and superiority running through some of his writings and interviews. One statement Clarke made in a BBC presentation in 1964 struck me as revealing of his pathology. Clarke asserted that humans should domesticate monkeys to be our household “*servants*” (in other words, our *slaves*). He then joked that there could be a problem if the monkeys formed unions. The statement smacks of racism and elitism, and I find it unpleasantly ironic that Clarke then settled in Sri Lanka, using his wealth and fame in a poor nation to surround himself with willing “*servants*” as journalist visitors to his house have called them. I also add that Clarke’s preoccupation with the creation of artificially intelligent androids is a trait often associated with the desire for controllable household slaves. Considerable

attention and effort is also given, in science fiction and in real life A. I. robotics, to the development of pleasure providing, sexually attractive androids.

Clarke's egotistical preoccupation with himself, his home being virtually a self-worship shrine, also fits with the self-absorbed attitude of sex offenders. I've worked with paedophiles in probation and came to realize that many of them actually take pride in their double act – their faking of normality in company and the release of their dark side when they get a helpless victim alone. It's like a chess game of wit and daring to them. They feel superior when their mask of concealment is successful. Clarke's *Ego Chamber*, which was designed to impress visitors as much as himself, can be considered a mask, with the suspiciously empty bedroom being the place where his darker urges would emerge.

Regarding the allegations made against Clarke in 1998, it wasn't just about the supposed confession tape. Three men were named in the initial allegation article as having stated they'd had sexual encounters with Clarke in their early teens. And a well-known radio-broadcaster from Sri Lanka, Dayananda de Silva, was extensively quoted in two articles, describing Clarke as regularly paying underage boys for sex and for owning child pornography. I have heard no debunks of their statements, neither from the press nor in Clarke's public claims of innocence.

Further statements against Clarke have been reported as coming from human rights group leaders Maureen Seneviratne and Ron 'O Grady. Both said they had heard reports before of Clarke being engaged in sexual activity with minors. Ron 'O Grady mentioned that Sacramento Police had warned him about Clarke and the *Mirror's* coverage of Clarke being connected to an international paedophile ring references a Sacramento source, probably the same source. Maureen also explained that Clarke was too influential in Sri Lanka for her organisation to pursue action against him.

Then came journalist Angela Lambert's article in the *Daily Mail*, describing that she had spent three days with Clarke and had personally noticed the unusual attention he paid to other people's young children. She also described Clarke as being waited on by lots of young men, which has been reported by others as well.

We have John Sykes' article in the *Daily Beast*, quoting locals as citing Clarke and his friends as being lecherous toward young men. Then we have Peter Troyer's account of an altercation between a **"famous British sci-fi author"** and his father in Sri Lanka, after the author had persuaded the 11 year old boy to pose nude for a painting. This story almost certainly refers to Arthur C. Clarke.

And then we have Hektor Ekanayake's statements in a Youtube video that people would come to Clarke's house for help and that he would then wait until they came out of Clarke's bedroom when they were done. This fits with some of the descriptions of Clarke's behaviour that were part of the allegations. It's also possible that Hektor, and perhaps other members of the Ekanayake family, knew about Clarke's pederast behaviour, but kept a lid on it because they were making plenty of money from their association with Clarke.

With all of the additional statements and accounts, most of them not published by the *Mirror* newspapers, there appears to be a pattern too broad to be classed as a vendetta by a single tabloid.

And, unlike the *Michael Jackson* allegations, there was very little to be gained for most of these sources by speaking out. None of them were suing Clarke for damages, so there was no financial motive. The three men in Sri Lanka would have been unable to sell their story to a local press that was blatantly on Clarke's side. If their accusations had been taken seriously then they may have been prosecuted themselves as equally responsible for the encounters, that reportedly being the Sri Lankan law at the time.

Regarding the supposed investigation into Clarke by Sri Lankan police (which supposedly cleared his name), multiple sources have cited him as being too influential and well-connected in Sri Lanka to be properly investigated by the authorities. Multiple sources, including children's rights campaign groups, have described the island as a haven for sex tourism which the authorities ignore. And the laws of Sri Lanka then holding the child as equally accountable in a sexual encounter virtually guarantees hardly any children reported being abused to the police. This law would also mean the three men named by the *Mirror* as victims of Clarke would be charged alongside Clarke. In fact, in the finalizing of this article I stumbled across a [Sri Lankan news source stating](#) that still, today, there is no law in the country prohibiting sex with young boys at all. No wonder they didn't pursue anything with the authorities. And, if Clarke was a pederast, then no wonder he remained there for five decades.

The supposed investigation was simply reported to have been dropped. It was reported that the three men who had made allegations to British reporters against Clarke were to be interviewed, but nothing further was made public about that. They were not revealed to be liars. So it does appear that the Sri Lankan authorities swept the issue under the carpet.

And to finish off we have Clarke's very poor response to the allegations. After initial denials, but without any specific debunking, Clarke shut himself off from the media for at least a week. He gave later statements to various journalists, restating his claim to innocence, but he debunked nothing. He admitted the journalists did come to his house and questioned him, but instead of saying they had fabricated the allegations, he just said he'd been misquoted. He did not claim that the named men who had described early-teen sexual encounters with him were liars or that they didn't exist. He also made no public comment about the report of him being connected to a paedophile sex ring. And he published no documented evidence from the supposed investigation by the Sri Lankan authorities, even though he claimed to one reporter that he has *signed affidavits*.

Crucially, he did not publicly demand that the *Mirror* release their tape recording of him for the world to hear and to prove he had not said what he was quoted to have said.

## The case for Arthur C. Clarke's innocence

The primary factor pointing to Clarke's innocence is that the supposed tape recording of his "confession" has never been made public or otherwise proven to exist. Though Clarke admitted the journalists' visit to his house occurred, we must dismiss all reported quotes from the tape as hearsay. This, in itself, dismisses a large part of the case against him.

Many of the articles that followed the *Mirror's* reporting, such as those of Angela Lambert, can be passed off as those people emotionally over-reacting because they believed the *Mirror's* report. And so, they felt compelled to call Clarke out publicly for what they thought he'd done.

If a legal challenge from Clarke had prevented the public release of the tape of Clarke's confession, then surely his death would release the *Mirror* newspaper from that obligation, allowing them to now publish the tape in full. But they haven't.

Clarke asserted that the entire set of allegations against him by the *Mirror*, an unreliable sensationalist tabloid, was motivated by a desire to cause embarrassment for Prince Charles. And this is more or less admitted in Graham Johnson's account of the story in his book *Hack*. Desperate for a story that would embarrass, the journalists needed to quickly find or concoct something for the occasion. So they targeted an 80 year old man, who was barely able to walk and would be unlikely to have the energy and stamina for a court battle against a newspaper. They knew he didn't have it in him to sue and that this in turn would allow them to publish what they liked.

The *Mirror's* reporting of the *Otter Aquatic Club* as a paedophile haunt has not been substantiated by any other source either. And Clarke was even confident enough of his innocence to take journalists with him to the venue, both before and after the allegations were published.

Mr Clarke's privacy was clearly due to his homosexuality in an age when it was not publicly acceptable, and so, secrecy of this nature became a lifelong habit for him. It does not prove a paedophilic or pederast tendency. Another aspect of his extreme privacy is that he was a prolific writer. He wrote many books and articles and engaged in extensive correspondence with scientists, journalists and fans of his work. Being a writer is a very introverted way of living and Clarke was so absorbed by it that this may have been the reason he had hardly any long term relationships. He may have even spent the vast majority of his life in celibacy.

The allegations of Clarke being linked to an international paedophile ring were claimed to be from a "secret document", but like with the "confession" tape, no such document was released or even specifically named. There has been no other information linking Clarke to paedophile rings.

Regarding the alleged relationship with the (30 years younger) Leslie Ekanayake, surely any such relationship would be noticed by Leslie's family, who lived on the same property as Arthur. If they had been unhappy with Clarke's behaviour they could have evicted him from the property being that Clarke was renting from them. This also raises another possible reason why Clarke settled in Sri

Lanka – the lower living costs. Clarke was not wealthy when he first moved to Sri Lanka. It was his involvement with Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* that finally brought considerable wealth more than ten years later, but by this time he was settled and had integrated himself into the Ekanayake family. There was no reason for him to leave.

And lastly, why have there been no video recorded accounts uploaded from people who claim to have been abused? The only one is a brief written from Peter Troyer in Canada, but his story doesn't specifically name Arthur C. Clarke.

For a court of law to find a man guilty of sex with minors requires conclusive evidence. There has to be witness testimony, physical evidence, chronology of events specified in terms of dates and times. This is largely missing from the allegations against Arthur C. Clarke and, in a court of law, this would mean presuming innocent until proven guilty.

#### Final thought

Based on this extensive analysis of all the available information on the matter I currently believe that the *Mirror* newspaper wasn't completely honest in its reporting about Clarke. I strongly suspect that Clarke did make some self-incriminating statements to the two journalists who visited him, but that the paper exaggerated those statements to create a more shocking story. Hence neither party was eager to have the actual tape published at all.

Regarding Clarke himself, I would say I'm now about 75% inclined to believe that he'd had sexual relationships with under age boys. How frequently this occurred, how far into his life span it continued, and whether some of the victims were pre-pubescent, I have no idea. I don't believe he forcibly raped anyone, but I do suspect he had used teenage rent boys, which is effectively rape-via-bribery. Whether he was connected with other men of similar sexual urges I'm also unsure of.

I do, of course, remain open to new information that might hint toward Clarke's innocence or guilt.

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