



Letters

Stringing along the Amis saga

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The row smoulders on ... Martin Amis and Anna Ford. Photograph: EPA/Rex

Ah, so now Anna Ford withdraws most of her charges against [Martin Amis](#) (the drop-by on the way to the airport, the smoking) and it all comes back to her ([Letters](#), 25 February): I was the one who (allegedly) had a cigarette and in other ways exhausted and upset my dying friend. Does this not rather defeat the purpose of her original clumsy letter, which was to impugn Martin? Next she'll be forgetting – or re-re-remembering – that I later came back unaccompanied, at Mark's request, and was not cautioned to be anything but myself. Or that I came to the funeral, bringing Martin's express commiserations during his absence in America? When did a widow of such long standing last exploit a poor memory in such an inexpensive way, and still come up beaming complacently? For shame.

Christopher Hitchens

Washington DC

• Mark Boxer himself would have loved this spat. He had an epicurean ear for gossip – witness his wonderful strip cartoon in [the Listener](#) of the 1960s called [the Stringalongs](#). I fear that Amis would have appeared as Martin Amis.

Clive Irving

New York

• I have no desire to flatten Martin Amis metaphorically, but I once did bring him down literally. He had just excavated the ball from a scrum when I hit him with a crunching tackle. Coincidence or not, it was around this time (he and I were 13) that his thoughts and ideas began to form themselves into perfect sentences, with which, at break times, he would entertain anyone who cared to listen. The rest is history.



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