

## **Murder ?**

Jane was 19 years old when she was stabbed to death, 69 stab wounds. Her four-month-old son, my grandson was propped up in an easy-chair. This is what my son found on his return from work, Good Friday 1989.

So began the saddest period of my life. Adam was charged with the murder of his wife and in prison in Brixton. Ten months later following a three week trial at The Old Bailey ,Adam received a life sentence. Their baby son, was cared for by Jane's parents, who later adopted him; he never saw his father again or his sad grandmother and her family. All along Adam protested his innocence and that he was at work all day on that awful day.

I believed the police, one does.

Eventually as more and more evidence surfaced, I did believe Adam. His lawyers believed him from the beginning, which helped him greatly.

After his conviction they set in motion an Appeal to the High Court immediately.

I have been asked how I felt, how I coped? I coped because I had to be there for my child. I love him. An event of great seriousness such as this, causes emotions to polarize. Mother Love surfaces, intense bubbling with passion and an overwhelming desire to hold and protect the child who has caused himself such harm and placed himself in such jeopardy.

In the beginning was the dichotomy of horror and disgust at the crime and the welling, over-powering love focused on Adam which later made room for cold anger and grief for Jane's terror, her wasted, lost life and a desperate sadness for my son accused of her murder.

Families, friends and colleges all rallied round me. I did not suffer public abuse as many do. Yes, I changed my name, it helped. Shortly after the conviction, Victim Support put me in contact with families that had undergone similar traumas. I was unaware of the extent of my emotional damage until I met others similarly placed. These families knew how I was feeling - the ins and outs of it all.

More than two years after Adam's conviction he was released by Lord Lane and other Appeal Court judges –

- "INNOCENT,"
- "Wrongly accused,"
- "Wrongly convicted,"
- "Wrongly imprisoned."

His case now figures in the Law Books of this County, it was the first case where a jury's verdict was overturned simply because they "got it wrong."

The finger firmly pointed at an ex-girlfriend.

All this was too late to prevent his small son from being adopted.

Adam eventually moved overseas hoping to ease his losses through distance and differences.

I am a most fortunate mother. My son is NOT a murderer. I do know what a mother experiences in this situation. How her broken, weeping heart tumbles into the lasting agony of grief, sorrow and shame. I cannot forget. It affects me now as I write this. To help and ease my residual pain I offer my services to those in like circumstances. Many of us do.

It helps to put such powerful knowledge to good use, to carefully help and support people making the long and heavy journey with their loved one, a serious offender. It is interesting that many people who have been helped stay to help others; it seems to consolidate the healing process, which began with the comfort offered by others who knew.

Adam's Mother  
Always remembering Jane and their son.

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