

REVELATIONS OF LOVE TRIANGLE INVOLVING MURDER VICTIM

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In an extraordinary interview, the wife of the lover of murder victim Angelika Kluk reveals that she happily accepted he was in love with two women

She was the beautiful young Polish student whose life was brutally taken and whose battered body was found days later buried beneath the floorboards of a church.

But behind Angelika Kluk's innocent smiles in the photographs taken before her murder, lay a very secret double life.

It shocked her staunchly Catholic family - particularly her older sister Aneta, who forbade Angelika's married boyfriend from speaking out.

And it may challenge the belief of many couples who consider themselves to be happily married.

What is already known is that 23-year-old Angelika had been having an affair with a married man, 42-year-old Martin Macaskill.

What The Mail on Sunday can reveal, however, is the bizarre and bitter-sweet love triangle with Martin's wife Anne, which developed parallel to that relationship - and the fact she had agreed to share her husband with Angelika as part of the latest social phenomenon to cross the Atlantic - polyamory.

Polyamorists believe in free love and multiple relationships, but not casual sex.

Now, four weeks after Angelika's body was found in St Patrick's church in Glasgow, Anne Macaskill talks candidly for the first time about her husband's infidelity; how she was persuaded to share him with Angelika and how she coped not only with the brutal killing of her 'rival' but with her husband's grief as he mourned his lost lover.

She speaks frankly of her decision to stand by her husband - and how her acceptance of a second woman in his life had left some of their closest friends and family bewildered.

Speaking exclusively to The Mail on Sunday, Anne, 35, said: "What Martin and I have - and what Martin and Angela had - was all about love."

Her decision to speak out was prompted by speculation about her marriage, and her anger at the way the family of Angelika - who she knew as Angela - tried to 'airbrush' her husband out of the student's life. Most painful was their banning him from Angelika's memorial service.

Speaking from the home she still shares with Martin in Inverkip, Renfrewshire, last night, Anne said: "I accept that most people find it difficult to understand why a wife would stand by her husband when she discovers he loves another woman.

"Even more will find it difficult to understand why I agreed to Polyamory, where an individual has more than one romantic relationship and where everyone involved is aware of, agrees to and respects the other.

"It should definitely not be confused with swinging, which is simply about recreational sex."

Bank worker Anne, originally from Brighton, added: "Perhaps it is not something to discuss around the dinner table but why not? We live in a modern society, where children are born out of wedlock, homosexuals get married and divorce is an everyday occurrence.

"Society doesn't react to these events, so you would think being in love with two people at the same time would be equally acceptable. In my experience, that wasn't the case.

"Angela - she never used her full name - was young, pretty, incredibly intelligent and had a genuine enthusiasm for life. For that life to be ended so abruptly is beyond belief."

Anne said she had been fully aware of the relationship between her husband and Angelika. "Martin loved Angela and she loved him - with her whole little heart. But Martin also loves me and I love him.

"These are facts that many people, my friends and family included, have been unable to understand. If they do accept the possibility, they still think Martin should have chosen one of us over the other."

Anne said polyamory was not something she herself felt comfortable with to begin with. She first came across the term on the internet after Martin told her he was in love with Angelika.

She said: "I wanted to get more information on people who loved more than one person. It made me feel better that there was a term for it. I felt I wasn't going mad after all.

"I didn't feel comfortable with the concept to begin with but it is something you really work on over a period of time. We were in the very early stages of trying to make it work with Angela.

"At some point, I would have met her but it was still too early for me." She added: "When Angela was sent the links to one of the websites on polyamory, her response was: "It's good to know that it's more common than people think"."

Anne admits that a confession by a husband that he has fallen in love with another person is not news that any wife would welcome.

She said: "I didn't immediately pack my bags, or Martin's. I had no right to tell my husband what to feel. Love was what he felt for Angela - and for me as well. It's not a finite emotion and for anyone who believes that it must be, just ask any parent how they manage to love more than one of their children at the same time.

"In terms of jealousy, that's an emotion you only feel when you're insecure about yourself or your relationship. I was never in any doubt that Martin loved me and he had no plans to leave me to be with Angela, so I wasn't insecure and there was no scope for jealousy."

But Anne, who met Martin 16 years ago on a residential training course in Harlow, Essex, while they were working for the same insurance company, admits life did become more difficult.

She explained: "How do you persuade society that it's feasible to be in love with more than one person at the same time? Surely it's just not right? How many people are romantically involved with more than one person? Certainly, I know of plenty - but in most cases the other person is kept secret from their husband or wife.

"Which is worse? The deceit of having skeletons in your cupboard and living in fear that one day they might come out, or having a frank and honest relationship?

"The majority of people are not intimate with one person - they're intimate with one person at a time. In other words, they are serial monogamists, jumping from one relationship to another."

Anne recalled how the couple, who have been married for 12 years, talked 'endlessly' about ways to try to make a three-way relationship work after Martin confessed his feelings for Angelika.

"At one point, facing pressure from society to do the right thing, I asked him to choose - and he chose me.

"But it hadn't been an easy decision and I soon realised I couldn't force him not to love Angela. Love is not an emotion you control - you can't flick a switch and make it go away. So I invited him to contact her again."

By the time of Angelika's disappearance, she and Martin had been seeing each other for several weeks after meeting through friends who had used his executive chauffeur business, based in Inverkip.

Angelika had been living at St Patrick's Church in Anderston, Glasgow, where she had been working as a cleaner for the summer to help fund her studies in Gdansk.

She had been missing for a couple of days when Martin made public appeals for information on her whereabouts. Gossip went into overdrive when it was discovered that not only was he still married, but he was still living with his wife.

To the confusion of many, an apparently equally-concerned Anne had been seen helping him to distribute 'missing person' leaflets and was clearly giving him her support.

Anne recalled: "Angela wrote in her journal that Martin was 'the most precious person in my life'. In the week prior to her death, Martin and I had been visiting friends in Mallorca. Angela and Martin had remained in touch by text, phone and e-mail. He'd arranged to see her the day after we returned - the day she was last seen alive.

"Angela had been counting down the days, as she hadn't seen Martin for over a week and time was running out before she had to return to Poland to resume her studies.

"When we returned though, Martin was unwell with flu, so he postponed his visit to her until the Monday."

Describing how she arrived home from work on the Monday evening to discover a distressed Martin, she said: "He'd been calling Angela but her phone was switching straight to voicemail and she hadn't replied to any of his text messages since Sunday afternoon. That was so unlike her.

"We went to the church and distributed missing posters. The most recent photos of Angela had been taken by Martin and he made them available to the police and the Press.

"Martin was shattered when the news came that she was dead, which was delivered by a police liaison officer - not even a member of the family."

Angelika's sister Aneta banned Martin from attending the memorial service and painted a picture of herself as being close to her dead sibling. "I was her little mother," she said.

But Anne throws new light on the relationship, which she said had grown tense, with Angelika trying to break away from her older sibling. "Aneta had made it clear to Angela on numerous occasions that she didn't approve of her love for Martin. She'd told her to end the relationship many times and Angela hated her for it.

"In fact, Angela had said she 'was in the process of detaching herself from her sister, Aneta' and was 'rather enjoying the freedom it gave her'."

Anne is incensed that Martin was banned from Angelika's memorial service, attended by 300 in Glasgow last month.

Much was made of the fact that she went herself to the event to pay tribute on his behalf. Anne said: "I sang hymns, said prayers for Angela and cried for Martin. It was so sad he wasn't there - and so very wrong.

"Martin complied with Aneta's every demand. Aneta said in an e-mail to Martin that if he stayed away from the memorial service then she might accommodate him at the funeral in Poland. It was a very cruel thing to do to someone who was grieving for his girlfriend.

"The important service to be at was the one in Glasgow. Martin met Angela in Scotland and she loved everything about the country and its people - this is where her heart will stay. To be robbed of that opportunity was so selfish and certainly not what Angela would have wanted.

"To not be allowed to show your love for that person or have their love for you acknowledged in any way by their sister makes the horror you are going through a million times worse. To be barred from attending their memorial service and be airbrushed from their life is deplorable."

Paying her own tribute to Angelika, Anne said that of all the floral gifts left outside the church following the discovery of her body, the one which had touched her most read: "God only takes the best."

She said: "In Angela's case this was true. Whilst I never did meet her, I have shared her life and knew her through Martin. I will continue to share with him his happy memories of her. Angela had a passion for living, so I try to make every day count because none of us knows what the future holds."

Asked what the future holds for her and Martin, she admits the last few months have not been easy.
"There's an empty space in Martin's heart for Angela and there always will be.

"For any marriage facing a tough situation, divorce is always an option - but surely a last resort. I'm really glad I ignored what society deemed to be unacceptable and the pressure to walk away from my marriage.

"People should work hard to make the very most of their relationships, cherish what they have and not be in such a hurry to throw it away.

"My experience has certainly tested the strength of my marriage. But my personal difficulties pale into insignificance when compared with the task of coping with the murder of a loved one."

Peter Tobin, 60, an odd-job man at St Patrick's, has been charged with Angelika's murder.

READER VIEWS (1)

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One has to admire the strength and integrity of this grieving couple for coming out as poly publicly amid these circumstances. Most of us in the polyamory world prefer to keep private in even the best of circumstances. Too private, I sometimes think; like gays in the 1950s, we're everywhere, but most other people haven't a clue --

- Alan, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

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