

Myra went to the end of the earth for Brady.. they were bonded by blood

EXCLUSIVE

By **TAMITH CAREY** and **AMANDA REVELL WALTON**

CHILD killer Myra Hindley confessed to her prison therapist that she was bonded to evil Ian Brady for the rest of her life by the blood of their victims.

Former prison officer Joe Chapman said: "It was stronger than any marriage because they both needed each other to survive the gallows."

"She had gone to the ends of the earth for the man she loved."

Father-of-three Joe, 47, caused alarm after revealing in *The Mirror* yesterday that he had allowed his eight-year-old step-daughter to spend three hours on her own with Hindley and her gay lover.

Hindley strolled hand in hand with Sophie Chapman through the grounds of the jail and later sent her a letter signing off with "lots of love".

For weeks Joe listened to Hindley giving him sick details of the Moors murders she committed with Brady.

And he gained a rare insight into the power Hindley experienced "exercising control over the life and death of others".

Joe also saw how Hindley's crimes gave her the "satisfaction of knowing her relationship with Ian was stronger than most".

Once a week for a year, Joe met 57-year-old Hindley until, after years of claiming she had been an innocent bystander, she finally broke down and confessed to playing an active part.

But Joe finally lost faith with Hindley when she refused to accept responsibility publicly, choosing instead to put the blame back on to Brady.

Finally the killer, involved in a messy lesbian love triangle, rejected Joe after he dared to say she would never go free.

Control

In an exclusive interview, Joe, 47, told *The Mirror*: "Myra and I worked through the crimes together. There was a point when Myra openly admitted that she became as evil as Brady."

"And some of his power and feeling of control over lives came on board. Some of this for Myra became her life, her reality."

"It was the adrenaline rush. The fact that she went to the ends of the earth for the man she loved."

"She told me she became bonded to Brady for the rest of her life by the blood of their victims."

"It was stronger than any marriage because they both needed each other to survive the gallows."

Among the stomach-churning details Joe sat through was Hindley's account of the death of Lesley-Ann Downey.

During her trial, the jury was played a tape recording when the ten-year-old could be heard crying: "Please mum, please God, what are you going to do with me?"

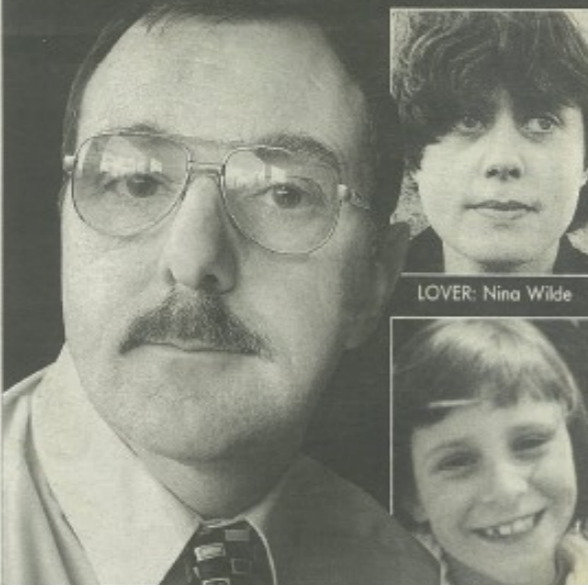
Joe said: "People have asked me if I was shocked by what I heard."

"But I had lost my capacity to be shocked before working with Myra."

"The difficulty I had with what Myra told me was trying to con-



CAGE: Cookham, where Hindley walked with Joe's stepdaughter



THERAPIST: Joe Chapman talked to Hindley for a year STROLL: Sophie

nect then and now. I think Myra was evil then but is not evil now."

Joe admitted that he became close to Hindley. And she was capable of using his friendship to try and influence him. When he showed her a parole review report he had written, she asked him to drop references to her anger.

"But I wouldn't change it," said Joe. "I gave her incidents when I had seen her angry."

Joe first met Hindley in 1983 at Cookham Wood prison in Kent, her home for 13 years.

Several years later they met again when Joe visited the prison to give a talk. Joe said: "I saw someone who almost appeared trapped. I could see in her face that she was exhausted. She looked

very drawn and frail. But during our initial chat, there were periods when she smiled and laughed. I thought: 'Yes, there is humanity in there as well.'" Joe noted that Hindley was still meticulous about her appearance, despite her 30 years in jail.

"She struggled to keep the years back — to keep on the top side of what the prison sentence must have been doing to her."

Each week, Joe counselled Hindley for an hour in a private room. He said: "Myra talked to me about the offences in detail. She talked about her whole life from birth to the final offence to imprisonment. All in graphic detail."

During their chats, Hindley even joked about the infamous



LOVERS: Wicked Myra Hindley and Ian Brady before they were jailed for life for the Moors murders. Publicly she still blames him

mugshot, which is still the enduring image of her. It was clear she wanted to escape the mask of the evil, hate-filled child-killer. "We had a bit of a laugh about that picture."

"When it was taken, she said she had not slept for days and she had black shadows under her eyes."

"She wanted to let me know it was not a good representation of her." But Hindley was under no illusions about how she was viewed by the outside world — as a monster.

Joe said: "Once in Cookham, I cut my chin saving and she said: 'Oh God, they will think I have cut your throat.'" There were regrets too.

"She shed tears for the fact she could never turn the clock back. 'It wasn't about self-pity. It was

about wishing she had never met Brady. I remember her saying: 'If I'd not met him, I'd be a grandmother by now.' I think that is probably true."

"I now think she is back to the Myra Hindley she was before she met Brady." As a therapist, Joe admitted he often broke the rules by talking to friends and relatives to find out more about his subject.

And rather than maintain a professional distance, he said he counted Hindley as a friend.

Despite their closeness, Joe lost touch with Hindley when she asked to be transferred from Cookham to Durham to be near lover Nina Wilde.

She had fallen in love with the Dutch student, even though her long-term lover Pat Cairns still visited her every week at Cookham.

Pat, a prison warden, had fallen for Hindley in London's Holloway jail in the Seventies.

Pat became so besotted she plotted to help Hindley escape and was jailed herself for conspiracy.

Joe explained: "After serving her prison sentence, Pat went off the scene and they had no contact for more than eight years."

"But then Myra re-established contact. The relationship was rekindled and Myra started to refer to her as a partner again."

"Pat even moved down from the North to be nearer to Myra. She really loved her."

"But when Nina arrived at Cookham as part of her research into criminology, Pat had a rival."

And soon there were fears Nina was

given too much of a free rein in the jail for someone in her position.

"It was decided that Nina should become Myra's mentor and to help teach her German and Dutch."

"Nina was given keys to the prison, which is normally unheard of because she was a student on placement. It meant the student could be away from other women prisoners. But the uniformed staff were appalled."

"There was a lot said behind the scenes about what she and Nina were doing."

"I suspected at least a month before I confronted Myra about it."

"Myra was a coward at that point. She was and isn't very good at confrontation and didn't want to tell Pat, who was naturally angry." When



EVIL: The infamous Hindley picture

her relationship with Nina was exposed, the student was instantly dismissed.

Joe said: "The Press ran an article about Myra being caught in a sexual clinch in her cell with another woman, with her floral knickers round her ankles."

It was Hindley and Nina who had enjoyed Joe's trust when he allowed them to spend three hours strolling in grounds of Cookham Wood with his stepdaughter Sophie.

The visit had also had the blessing of the then-governor Chris Ellis.

With Nina gone, Hindley's only option if she wanted to see her lover again was to get a transfer.

Joe said: "She wanted somewhere to go where Nina could come and visit her. She decided she wanted to go to Durham prison."

But it also spelt the end of her friendship with Joe.

"I warned her Durham was a long way away and I would not be able to keep counselling her."

"She said she knew that, thanked me for what I had done, and said I would always remain a friend and I was her rock."

But once Hindley had left, Joe soon felt frozen out.

Furious

He said: "I talked to Nina. What came across strongly was that Nina wanted to be in sole contact with Myra and cut other people out."

"At the end of the day, I believe Myra blanked me out and dumped me because she couldn't take what I was saying to her."

On top of that Hindley was furious when Joe said it was unlikely she would ever win her freedom.

Joe said: "I don't think she would last the course because of her notoriety."

Joe is bitterly disappointed that Hindley still shrinks from a public confession.

She recently said that she had only taken part in the murders because Brady had terrorised her.

But Joe knows the truth. He believes honesty is all Hindley has left.

He said: "Myra had a responsibility in the crimes that have nothing to do with the beatings from Brady."

"Myra has omitted to go into the details of her crimes openly. Perhaps the main reason is she does not want to turn people away from her by coming out with what she has done."

"She has to own up to that responsibility. There is a lot of power in telling the truth."

"People should know everything I know."