

# STABBED MUM



**WHEN Michelle Storer opened her front door to see two police officers, her blood ran cold.**

She knew it could only mean one thing – that the obsessed ex who had been jailed for life after nearly killing her in a knife attack was on the loose.

The mum-of-two had warned cops that vicious Ian McLean had a history of escaping from prison.

So she was stunned to learn he had been allowed to simply STROLL out of an open-door mental health facility to which he had, unknown to her, been moved.

The unit, Littlemore, was just **20 MINUTES** away from the home she shared with her daughters.

Michelle, 37, told The Sun: "When the officers came to the house and told me he'd escaped and they needed to take us to a safe house, I just burst into tears and said, 'How has this happened?'"

"But they said they didn't know. "From that moment on I was scared to death – not knowing where he was – or if he'd come back to finish off the job."

Michelle and children Leanne, 20, and Maegan, 12, were returned to

**EXCLUSIVE**  
by AMANDA  
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their own home in Banbury, Oxon, the next day, July 8.

They were given 24-hour police protection, a panic alarm, and were advised not to set foot outside or even to open windows or doors.

All lived in fear of their lives until, at last, McLean was re-arrested in Poland last Tuesday.

Michelle said: "It was a terrifying eight days. The police kept saying that we couldn't leave the house."

**'I'm afraid he'll finish the job'**

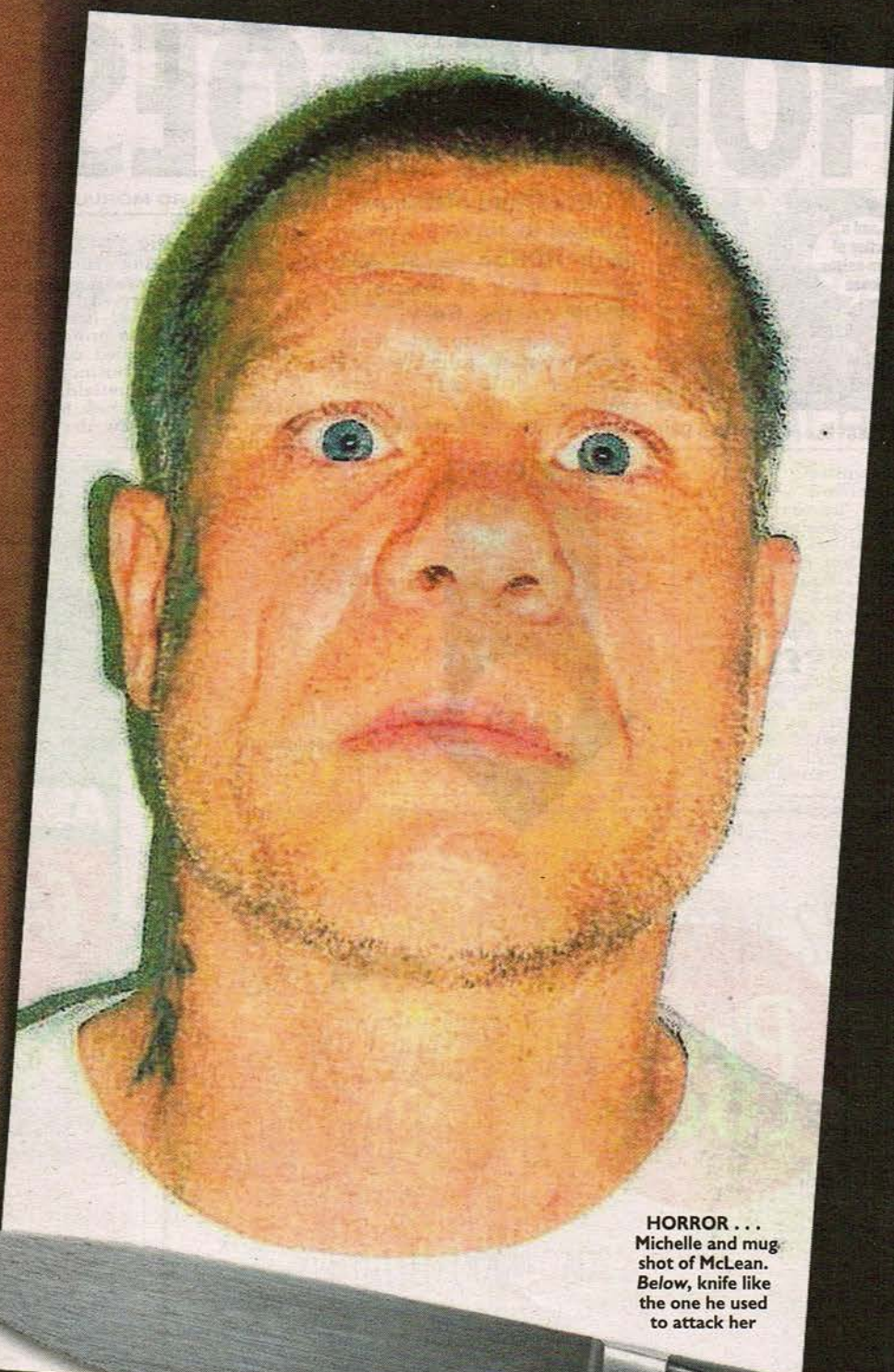
Even now, with McLean back in custody, she does not feel safe – in case he finds his way back to an un-locked facility again.

Michelle said: "I don't believe he should ever be put into an open unit as he will do it again. My family and I need protecting from him – as does the public."

"I'm worried that he will have to kill me before they lock him up."

"Deep down I've always been afraid that he will come back and do what I believe he originally intended to do – and finish me off for good." Back in 2004, McLean

# Will my violent ex have to kill me before he's locked up for good?



**HORROR . . .** Michelle and mug shot of McLean. Below, knife like the one he used to attack her

had spent **THREE WEEKS** before his attack watching her movements every night from her garden, hidden in her daughters' Wendy House.

The pair had met nine years earlier and had drifted in and out of a casual relationship in between two serious relationships which Michelle had with two other men, the fathers of her daughters.

They had not seen each other at all for four years when they bumped into each other again at the start of 2004 and decided to try life together as a family.

They moved in together, with McLean thrilled at the idea of being a father figure to Leanne,

then 11, and Maegan, 20 months. But he quickly changed. Michelle said: "He'd kick off if the toothpaste top hadn't been put on, or if the bed wasn't made properly."

"For the first time I started to feel afraid of him. In the end I told him I needed some space."

They parted and a few weeks later McLean threatened to burn down her home. Police gave her a panic alarm. Just three days after that, on April 3, 2004, Michelle was

woken in the early hours by her elder daughter's screams.

She said: "I thought I was dreaming that Ian was attacking me. Then I heard screaming and I opened my eyes and realised it was real. Ian was punching me and stabbing me at the same time."

"I'll never forget him stabbing me in the head. Then the handle on the knife broke and that's probably the only reason I'm alive today."

*"He threw the knife away. Then he leant over me and whispered in my ear, 'Die'."*

McLean fled and young Leanne reached under her mum's bloodied body to set off the panic alarm Michelle had on her wrist.

She was rushed to hospital and had so many stab wounds from McLean's 5in kitchen knife that doctors could not count them all. Unemployed McLean handed himself in two weeks later.

Eight months after the attack McLean, who is now 44, pleaded guilty to wounding with intent and was jailed

for life at Oxford Crown Court. The court had heard he had a string of previous convictions.

On one occasion he had been jailed for attacking a man with a razor. He had also once absconded from an open prison near Aylesbury, Bucks.

Knowing this meant that, even after McLean was jailed, Michelle could not feel safe.

## 'I'd be constantly checking locks'

She said: "I couldn't be on my own, and I'd be constantly checking the windows and doors."

And she knew McLean was still obsessed. He tracked her and wrote to her at every address she had.

Then 18 months ago he sent a relative a picture of Michelle's mother, her two daughters and a wedding ring, which she took as a threat to her family.

That is why Michelle was stunned when police told her he had been moved from prison to a psychiatric unit in Milton Keynes - from which he was getting day release to visit a library in Oxford.

The full-time mum recalled: "I said, 'Are you mad bringing him to Oxford, that's only 20 minutes up the road'. I warned them he'd

abscond but they just said 'safety measures' were in place."

His next move was to an unlocked unit at the Littlemore Hospital in Oxford - but this time Michelle was not told about it.

Authorities say he was moved there in order to begin his reintegration to society, as he would be eligible for parole next year.

Instead, he used the chance to walk out. He headed straight to London, took a Eurostar to Brussels, then made his way to the seaside Polish city of Kolobrzeg, where he was arrested.

He is now waiting to be extradited home - while Michelle and her terrified family want reassurance that he will never be left in an open prison again.

They are not alone in their fears. Just over a week ago double-killer Ian McLoughlin, 55, allegedly stabbed a man to death while on day release from prison.

And earlier this month convicted murderer Craig Black, 39, went on the run for three days after absconding from an open jail.

Shattered Michelle said: "The laws of this country have to be changed so that innocent people like myself are protected from offenders who are still very ill and who are violent and unpredictable."



**FEAR . . .** with Leanne and Maegan. Above, Littlemore