

EXCLUSIVE: LEE HARVEY WAS STABBED TO DEATH BY HIS FIANCÉE WHO THEN CLAIMED

BY AMANDA REVELL WALTON AND JANE WARREN

THEIR son was murdered by his fiancée. But for the first week after Lee Harvey's death at the age of 25, Maureen and Ray Harvey believed he was the victim of a horrific road-rage attack. Until the murder, they were unknown, unremarkable and quite content with their anonymity. After former model Tracie Andrews was convicted of the crime that devastated their lives, they wanted nothing more than to retreat into their home outside Birmingham and quietly mourn their loss.

Their lives are now focused on granddaughter Danielle, now seven, who is Lee's child from a former relationship. They see her most weekends and bear the pain of coping with a little girl who is fully aware that her father was murdered by someone he loved and trusted. Now Tracie's decision to write a letter to a newspaper admitting the crime she had always denied has had a disturbing impact on Danielle and the family are bitterly angry. They say the little girl is worried that the woman who murdered her father might harm her family in other ways.

"Danielle said to me, 'She won't get out will she?'" reveals Maureen, 53. "I tell her they won't let her out. I tell her about the nice policemen she has met and that they won't let her out either. She thinks Tracie is going to get out and she is going to do to her mum what she did to Lee. It's terrible. It affects her schoolwork. It has affected everything. She said to me recently, 'I think something is going to happen to my mum.' She's worried a lot about death. She asks me how old I will be when I die."

Maureen spent time with her granddaughter the day after Lee died. "That night, when I went up to see her, she was looking out of the window. I asked what she was looking at. 'I'm looking up at Heaven,' she said. Then she pointed to a bright star and said, 'That's my Daddy.' After that day, we always look at that star and say it's Lee's star."

The family believe that Tracie has only admitted that she committed the crime to help reduce her sentence and feel compelled to tell the true story of their son's relationship with her. They are also writing to the Home Secretary to insist that she serves the minimum 14 years of her life sentence.

"The only truth in it all is that she murdered Lee. Everything else is dressed up to try to get her parole earlier," says Ray, 54, who works in the haulage business, "because she now thinks she can get time off her sentence if she admits she is guilty." Lee was still living at home when he met Tracie in October, 1994. Maureen says: "Lee told me, 'I've met the most beautiful girl, Mum. I think this is the one'. When we met her, she was quite overpowering and very forward. I thought she seemed to really love herself."

Ray interjects: "The day we met her, it was like a curse. It was a fatal

attraction. Lee was no angel but he was a loving, honest man, who met the wrong person. I never liked Tracie from the day I met her. But I tried to like her because of Lee."

Maureen remembers Tracie telling her how she'd spotted Lee in a nightclub a year before they met. "She told me she thought it was love at first sight. But when she told us about the father of her little girl, Karla, I didn't like the way she kept running him and his family down." Lee and Tracie became inseparable. "I thought they were seeing each other too much and were getting too heavy too fast," says Maureen. "Tracie would stay here with Lee for the weekend and I used to think, 'But what about her daughter?' She seemed to let anyone look after her daughter, Karla. If Lee wasn't making a fuss of her then she would sulk or throw a tantrum."

Ray swiftly surmised the nature of their bond. "She was a total manipulator. Their relationship was based on two things, sex and blackmail. One day Lee said to Maureen, 'I wouldn't ever want to know that she was doing to somebody else what she does for me.'"

"Unfortunately, sometimes with men, instead of using their head, it's what's between the legs that rules them. With Lee and Tracie, it was pure and utter lust."

Of course, Lee didn't see it like this. Four months after meeting Tracie, he moved into her flat in Alvechurch, Hereford & Worcester. Maureen says: "I remember saying to Lee, 'Don't you think you're jumping in too quickly?' But he just smiled, gave me a hug, and said 'I'm in love, Mum'."

BUT then the arguments started. "If Tracie rang and Lee wasn't here, I'd get the third degree about where he was," says Maureen. "She wanted to know Lee's exact movements. She'd hate it if he went to see Danielle's mum Anita. If she didn't get her own way, she'd throw tantrums. Sometimes, she'd come around to the house and sit outside and sulk in the front garden, refusing to come indoors. I told them to give each other some breathing space and split up for a while and see how they felt."

Tracie looked so terrible my heart went out to her. It's horrible to think she held my hand when she'd really murdered my son

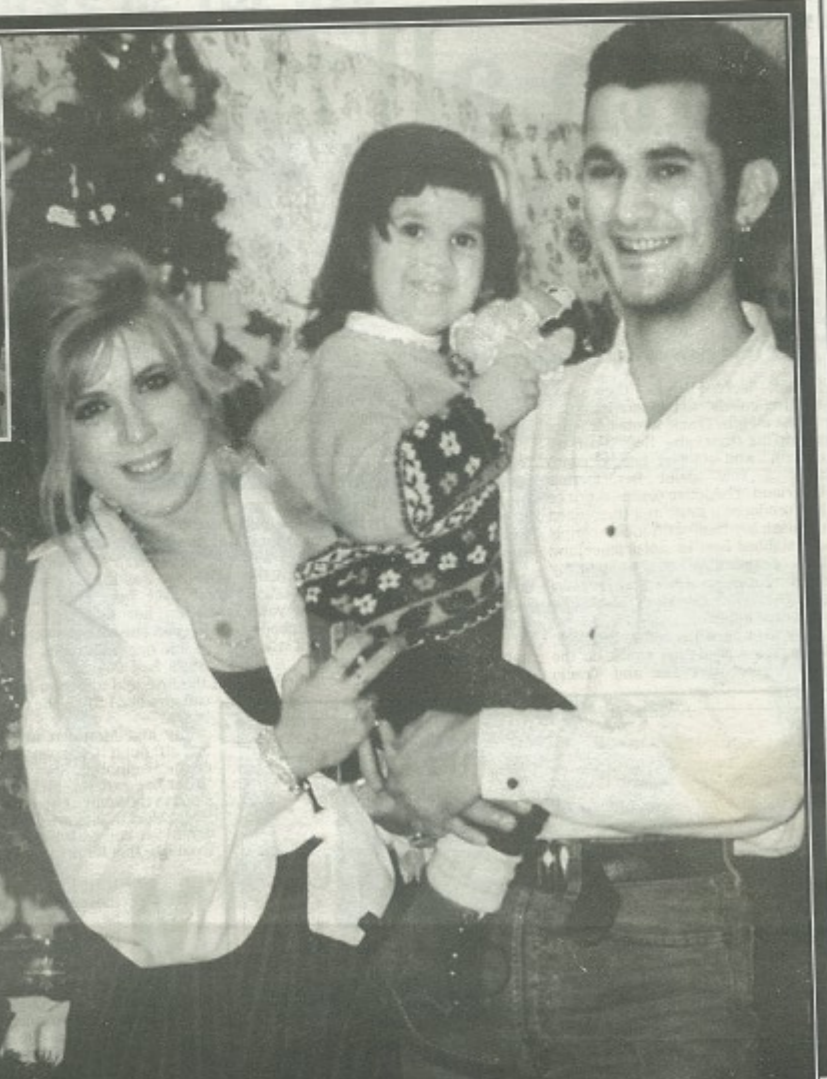
club when Tracie had turned up. They'd both started arguing. All of a sudden, Tracie went mad and attacked me," Lee said. "She gets so jealous Mum, it scares me."

Ray adds: "Tracie was very jealous of our family and how close we were." When Michelle got married, Tracie refused to let Lee go to the family ceremony. For Maureen, this was the final straw. "Lee didn't come to his own sister's wedding because of Tracie. She didn't want anything to do with it because she didn't want it to take the shine off her own engagement. She

told Lee that, if he went to the wedding, she'd kick him out of the flat. Lee told me, 'I've got to stand by her, Mum'. I knew he'd regret it for the rest of his life and he did. And she stopped him seeing his only daughter being bridesmaid."

But, however many misgivings they had about their son's choice of future bride, nothing could prepare them for the horror of December 1, 1996, when they heard that their son had been killed in a road rage incident on a deserted country lane. "I think Lee tried to finish with her the night he died," says Maureen.

HE WAS A VICTIM OF ROAD RAGE. HERE, HIS PARENTS TALK OF THEIR NIGHTMARE



"Michelle said, 'How could anyone do that?' And Tracie said straight away, 'I'd do that. If I couldn't have him, nobody else could have him.' A chill came into the room when she said that. And there was a silence. Then Lee said something and she started hitting Lee with the cushion, not playfully, but really hard, saying, 'You'd better believe it.'"

"When I went to see Lee's body, there was a stab wound in his back. I believe she was the one that had the knife, not Lee. It's rubbish that Lee had the stab wounds but it was so awful. I can't watch television with stabbings in it now because I see Lee. If he had the knife because I see Lee. I'm sure he would have overpowered her. In the letter, she says she was trying to defend herself, but you can defend yourself without plunging a knife into someone more than 40 times."

Tracie and Maureen made an appeal for witnesses on national television. "Tracie was in a real state and looked terrible. My heart went out to her," says Maureen. "But Ray and Michelle still thought Tracie had something to do with it. To think that Tracie held my hand when she'd done what she'd done is horrible."

Shortly after that press conference, Tracie attempted suicide by taking an overdose. "I didn't want her to die because she was the only person who knew how our son had died," says Maureen. When Tracie

heard the story about the car overtaking you. Did Lee let them overtake you?" Tracie explained they had, but even then Ray was sceptical. "The road they went down was too narrow for overtaking. And I knew Lee wouldn't have stopped the car in a dark country road when there were two men in the other car."

PASSION AND BETRAYAL: Lee Harvey's pride in fiancée Tracie Andrews and his daughter Danielle shines out in this family snap. Today, his parents Maureen and Ray, above left, are angered by Tracie's letter confessing to Lee's murder. Initially, they supported Tracie and accompanied her to the press conference where she cynically appealed for witnesses

was in hospital recovering, Maureen and Ray kindly went to see her. "I asked her how she was feeling, but she didn't answer, she just looked us both in the eye and said, 'I'm so sorry for what I have done.' She said the same thing to us again when we went to see her the next night. Looking back, I think Tracie confessed in her own way when she said 'sorry' to us in the hospital."

Ray drew similar conclusions. "I said to Maureen when we got out of that room, 'She has just confessed to murder.' I think she was trying to

unburden herself on us." The following Saturday, the grieving family learned that the woman who professed to love their son was being arrested under suspicion of his murder. Maureen says: "I couldn't stop shaking. It was too much for me to bear. Ray said, 'I knew it.' But I just couldn't bear the thought of my son dying at the hands of his lover, rather than in the arms of his lover. I didn't want it to be true. It hurt too much."

The arrest confirmed Michelle's suspicions. Maureen recalls her daughter's reaction when first told about Lee's death: "When she calmed down, she asked us, 'How?' Ray told her the story we'd been told about the road rage attack, but she just looked at us both and said, 'She's done it'. Ray said he thought so too."

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