

THE STORY OF GRIEG

Much has been written recently about the various forms of domestic abuse which some men and women perpetrate. In the past, domestic abuse has generally referred to physical abuse, but of late, mental abuse and manipulation have been considered as equally damaging.

Spare a thought then for Grieg whose wife became adept at both physical and mental abuse as his mother, Fiona, can ratify.

Grieg and his wife are in their late twenties and have been together for seven years. They have two children.

In Grieg's place of work his colleagues were worried about him because, time and time again, he arrived at work with bruises and other obvious injuries. In fact they were so worried that they contacted his mother Fiona about it. Then the truth started to emerge. His wife is an inordinately jealous woman. She stopped Grieg going to work on the grounds that he would probably spend his time looking at other women.

When Grieg had a mobile phone, his wife would use it to pretend to be Grieg and would send Fiona abusive text messages saying how much he hated her. Now she won't let him have a mobile so that Grieg has to secretly use a phone box when he wants to speak to his mother.

Grieg's wife is very plausible and manipulative and people tend to believe what she says. Recently she told Grieg to take the children out and when he was out of the house she locked him and the children out and phoned the police falsely alleging that Grieg had been abusive. She has also made other false allegations, telling the children's nursery that he hits the children. They believed her so that, on one occasion when Grieg turned up to collect the children, the nursery staff would not allow him to take the children.

His wife has also been physically abusive on many occasions: she has dragged keys down his face blackening both his eyes; she broke one of his front teeth and has hit him with a curtain pole. She has even attacked him when the children were sitting happily on his lap. Both his parents have seen his injuries and have photographed them.

Because of all the abuse by his wife, Grieg has tried to leave on several occasions but he always returns because he is so worried that, in his absence, his wife might harm the children and prevent

him having access to them. This is the reason why so many men return to an abusive partner.

Eventually he found the courage and support he needed to leave and take his children with him. They now live with him at his mother's.