



MY HELL Suzie McGuire on how husband's

It wasn't a cry for help. I wanted to kill myself

Here, Suzie tells how the relentless abuse inflicted while she was suffering from post-natal depression drove her to try to kill herself and how she had to spend 10 days in intensive care.

“By March 2013, I was at my lowest ebb. Derek had cut me off from virtually everyone.

He even contacted my work without me knowing, telling them I wanted more time off on maternity leave. I was horrified.

What I really needed was to get back to work and away from him. But Derek had made sure he was the only one I turned to.

I will never forget how low I felt the day I tried to take my own life. It wasn't a cry for help. I was so desperate, I had convinced myself the only way I could escape from Derek's relentless abuse was to take my own life. I knew my family would look after the children.

It had taken a huge effort for me to get dressed that day but I was determined

to do something normal for a change. I decided to get some groceries and I was so proud of getting out again, I popped round to Derek's office to tell him. Instead of giving me a hug and words of encouragement, he was cold and nasty, telling me to f*** off. I ran from his office with

tears streaming down my face. I decided there and then that the only way to end the pain was to end my life.

I knew I would have to run around several different shops to get the number of paracetamol I needed, along with a litre bottle of horrible cheap vodka.

I drove to secluded woods near Bonnyton Golf Course and I crammed the pills into my mouth, washed down by the vodka. My phone kept ringing. I could see it was Derek but I ignored the calls.

I sat looking at pictures of my children until I began to drift away. I remember thinking at last I would get peace.

I woke up in the high dependency unit of Hairmyres Hospital in East Kilbride. When I opened my eyes, I could see my family at my bed.

My wee mum looked so distressed. She looked so glad to see me open my eyes. Derek sat silently at the end of my bed. I saw his face and closed my eyes.

The doctors told me I was lucky to be alive. It had been touch and go, they said. My organs had started to shut down. I was kept in hospital for 10 days.

Derek had been driving around looking for me, found me at Bonnyton woods and got me to hospital.

He saved my life but, once I got back home, nothing had changed. Derek was a little subdued for a while but it didn't last.

■ Marion Scott

Suzie McGuire has told how the lies and smears of her wife-beating ex during his trial inflicted more savage blows in his campaign of intimidation and terror.

She believes Derek Mitchell used the court case to put her through one final ordeal after she finally found the courage to end the relationship.

In a desperate attempt to destroy her reputation and career, he accused her of having a cocaine and booze problem.

And he said he had suspected the baby they had together had in fact been fathered by Celtic footballer Marc Crosas.

His lies were the conclusion of a vendetta he had started by calling Radio Clyde to make spurious complaints against Suzie. It caused the DJ to finally walk away from the station she had joined as a teenager.

Mitchell produced no details to back up his claims but knew the damage was done.

At one point, under heavy cross-examination by Mitchell's lawyer Billy Lavelle, she voiced the frustration felt by many victims, saying: "I can understand why so many people suffer in silence."

With the chance to set the record straight today, Suzie told the Sunday Mail: "I'd take any lie detector or forensic test available to prove I don't have drink or drug problems."

"He was the one receiving counselling for alcohol abuse, not me.

"I was pregnant twice during the four years with him. I was breastfeeding our babies and taking medication to control severe post-natal depression. For a huge part of that time I was getting up at 4am to do the breakfast show.

"How could I have done any of those things, never mind all of those things, if I was a cokehead or a drunk?"

"Derek knows how important image is in my business and he did everything he could to destroy mine without a second thought about how I would feed our children and keep a roof over their heads.

"He went berserk in April 2010 when a newspaper claimed I'd had some kind of fling with Marc Crosas, causing over £5000 damage to my car with a knife.

"I met Marc when Michelle Mone invited me to a Celtic awards night for players at the Thistle Hotel in Glasgow and we'd chatted about how homesick he was.

"Marc asked me to play him a Paolo Nutini song the next day on my radio show and I promised him I would. I'm old enough to be his mum but this brief meeting was turned into some romantic fling.

"Michelle had her driver with her that night and she dropped off Johan Mjallby en route, then me, before she went on home to Thorntonhall.

"Knowing I'd split up yet again with Derek, I vividly remember Michelle telling me to make sure all the doors and windows were locked once I was safely inside. The paper said Marc came to

His lies in court felt like being attacked again but I took it all, stood my ground and told the truth

– Radio star on trial ordeal



OUT OF CONTROL Mitchell and, right, Celtic star Marc Crosas



“Derek went berserk when a newspaper claimed I'd had a fling with a footballer”

my house later and we had sex. That's just not true and Derek knew that.

"I already knew he'd go to any length to destroy me but to deny his own son left me gasping. He also lied about me having an abortion.

"His father claimed I'd propped up the bar during his 40th wedding anniversary celebrations in Arran while other people looked after my children. I was bottlefeeding at the time so I wasn't propping up any bar.

"And the 'other people' supposedly looking after my children were their own grandparents, my mum and stepdad who had also been invited on the break and Derek's parents, who wanted to play with the children."

The court ordeal was one final torment in a long road to rid herself of Mitchell.

She said: "I took it all, stood my ground and told the truth. It made me sad and so angry. Domestic abusers are so clever they rarely inflict their violence anywhere in the open, it's always behind closed doors so nobody else is a witness. That's how they get away with it time after time."

The truth, according to Suzie, was that Mitchell was star-struck and fame hungry and his addiction to the limelight quickly became an

embarrassment. She told how, soon after they were married, he tried to ingratiate himself with the footballers, pop stars and business people she became friends with through her radio show and charity work.

While her job required her to rub shoulders with stars such as Robbie Williams and Taylor Swift, all she really wanted to do was to get back home to her children. But Mitchell couldn't get enough of it.

She said: "I loved my job but Derek seemed to love it even more, insisting I take him with me to all the events I was invited to.

"When we attended gala dinners and events, Derek would make a beeline for any celebrities, pestering them for selfies which he loved to post on social media. I was cringing inside.

"I remember a Halloween party at our house the first year we were together and he pestered former Miss Scotland Nieve Jennings all night like a lovelorn teenager. It was sickening.

"When Alexandra Burke did a private party for some friends in November 2010, he was all over her like a rash and I felt for her as she's someone I've worked with and a really lovely girl.

"Magician Dynamo was at the same event and he kept pestering him all night for pictures too.

"He quickly became so gallus and over-familiar with these people. I think he thought they were his friends.

"I remember we were having a quiet dinner together in 29 in Glasgow when

Who knows the future? I'm just happy to be alive

Suzie enjoyed a six-figure salary and a showbiz lifestyle with her dream job presenting a show on Clyde 1.

But her shattering experience of domestic violence and her ordeal in court has led her to a new vocation – helping other victims.

She said: "Right now, I

believe I'm just lucky to be alive and I have my four children and my happy home back.

"I know my real friends have always been there for me and my family have never left my side.

"I don't regret lifting that phone and telling all to the police. I just wish I'd done it far sooner.

"I'm speaking out now

because I hope this will save more battered and abused women and encourage them to pick up the phone. I'd advise any abused women to take pictures of their injuries and keep a note of the date and time of the attack.

"I want others to know that there is help out there and new lives to be had.

"I don't know what the

future holds for me. I'd love to do more to help other battered women.

"But whatever is ahead, at least now I don't need to be terrified in my own home. My doctor says my post-natal depression is almost gone now that I'm not having to contend with living with violence too."

Suzie says being a full-time mum and getting her

family back to normal is her goal.

She added: "I'm enjoying taking my girls to school and Oliver to nursery.

"Then wee Poppy and I pop back home to play with her toys.

"I am just glad to be back in control of my own life – that's a strange feeling after all this time.

"While I'm really enjoying