

# MUM'S SHOCK DISCOVERY ON LAPTOP



**HAUNTED**  
... Paula, also pictured right with Karen and sex offender Parker



## I shopped my best friend's husband for being a paedo

**BEST friends for 18 years, Paula Hoar and Karen were inseparable.**

Along with their partners, they would regularly spend weekends sleeping over at each others' houses.

Karen and her partner Kenneth Parker welcomed Paula's three children, two boys aged eight and 12 and a four-year-old daughter, into their home and always made an effort to keep them entertained.

It was not until Karen asked Paula to fix her laptop that the vile truth about Parker emerged.

As Paula, 32, looked through the computer, she uncovered thousands of indecent images of children.

With tears streaming down her face, she forced herself to go through them one by one, praying she wouldn't find what she feared most – a picture of her daughter.

It was just the beginning of a nightmare which saw Paula first tell Karen her husband was a paedophile, before going to the police with her discovery.

Paula said: "I felt sick to my stomach flicking through those pictures. They were the most disgusting things I have ever seen – and were on my friend's laptop.

"At first I thought it may have been some terrible mistake but the more I found, the more I shook.

"I had to make sure there wasn't one of my daughter. It was the hardest thing I've ever had to do."

By GEMMA WISE

Paula and Karen had been best friends for 18 years, despite Karen being 17 years older. After Karen was introduced to Parker – known as Glyn – six years ago, they married within a year. The couple moved from Portsmouth to West Bromwich and the girls lost touch.

Paula said: "I didn't hear much from Karen when they moved away. But one time I flicked through my phone book and came across her number – so I rung her for a catch-up.

"She explained she was back in the Portsmouth area. I went straight round there and it was like we'd never been apart."

### Sick

The pair began doing everything together again. Every barbecue or party, Paula, her kids and her partner at the time went to Karen and Parker's home. They even slept on their sofa if they'd been drinking.

But Paula never warmed to Parker. She said: "He never seemed to take part in adult conversation.

"He'd always go to play hide and seek with the kids, which makes me sick to think of now. I didn't really think anything of it then because I had no reason to."

Having previously worked in IT, Paula was the first person Karen turned to when her computer was running slow. It was then the first alarm bells started ringing. She said: "Karen asked me to take a

look at her laptop and I noticed Parker's face drop.

"He came over and sat on the arm of my chair and made me feel really uncomfortable – I told Karen I'd look at it another time."

Karen later asked Paula to have another look at it so she could watch DVDs. Paula took the laptop, despite Parker trying to stop her.

She said: "The page open had something about an escort agency on it. I thought he was seeing prostitutes behind Karen's back."

Paula said she would take the laptop home to install new software.

There, she came across hundreds of indecent images of children, secretly put there by Parker.

She said: "I went back that night to tell Karen what I'd found.

"It was then she told me he'd been convicted before but that he told her it was a mistake. He said it was a work friend who had borrowed the computer and downloaded the pictures.

"I opened the laptop and showed her what I'd found – she was speechless and started weeping up.

"I didn't want to hurt her but I had to let her know the truth. I remember realising she believed he was innocent.

"By then I had realised he had never been alone with my kids. But I still can't help but think he was getting some sick pleasure out of playing hide and seek with my daughter. The next day I took the laptop to the police station."

After being confronted by his wife, Parker had already handed

himself in. Paula said: "I was so upset. I couldn't abandon her when she needed me most. I couldn't imagine what she was going through.

"In the end my relationship broke down because my partner couldn't understand how I could still be speaking to her."

By contrast, Karen has decided to stand by her husband.

At the beginning of June, Portsmouth Crown Court heard that Parker, 56, had downloaded more than 3,000 images of children.

He was given an eight-month prison sentence suspended for two years after pleading guilty to ten counts of downloading indecent images of children, one of possessing indecent images of children and three of possessing extreme pornography.

He was also ordered to go on an internet sex offenders course and banned from working with children.

The court imposed an order restricting his use of computers.

Paula said: "It was hurtful to learn that he was previously ordered not to be around children.

"Karen's now standing by Parker – she believes it's not his fault and that he has a disease.

"I feel I've lost everything because of what this man did. I've lost my best friend, my boyfriend and my piece of mind.

"I don't let my little girl play at her friends' houses or go to birthday parties any more

"I don't think I'll ever be able to trust anyone again."

● Karen's name has been changed.

'He played hide and seek with my kids'