



## Survivors Stories DVD

### Audio Transcripts: Penny

#### Penny Short Clip

I met my partner in 1990 and I'd just ended a long-term relationship that I'd had and I met him a month later and I was living in a nursing home at the time and within probably about six months, maybe less, probably about three months, we got engaged.

And really during that period there wasn't an awful lot of signs that there was anything wrong. He put me on a pedestal. He treated me like a princess. He couldn't do enough for me. And there were no signs his behaviour would change really. I thought I'd died and gone to heaven and met the perfect man. But as time went on I realised I hadn't.

Little things like, I was working and he would comment on how much money I spent. Face creams would be too expensive, just little tiny comments and then he'd want a joint account. And then I realised he was trying to control things using money. And then behaviour. I used to have quite a good social life and I was very, very confident and I used to go out with my friends and then he started saying, "Well you wouldn't want to go out with your friends if you loved me enough. You'd just want to stay with me all the time."

And I thought, stupidly looking back, well I do really love him and he is the best thing, I thought then, that had happened to me. So I stopped going out with my friends, although I did at one time decide that I was going to carry on and I was going to make a point to go out. And I remember coming home and he was so angry and it was the first time that he was really abusive physically and he told me I should leave if I wanted to go out with my friends, because I didn't want to be with him. And we lived in a maisonette and he tried to push me down the stairs.

And I remember holding onto the banister for dear life and I couldn't believe he was doing this and eventually after a long time he let me go and I managed to crawl back up the stairs and then he started to cry. And he said he was very sorry, that he loved me so much, he couldn't bear the thought of me leaving him. And his dad had died of cancer quite quickly and he hadn't grieved for that. He couldn't bear the thought of me leaving him as well. And because I was a nurse, and still am, I fell for it, hook line and sinker and that was the first hook in to his behaviour..