

WORLD EXCLUSIVE: MY HELL BY REEVA'S HEARTBROKEN MUM

BY SHARON FEINSTEIN and LUCY THORNTON in Pretoria

GRIEVING June Steenkamp cannot take her eyes off Oscar Pistorius - even though she goes through hell every time she watches one of his dramatic courtroom outbursts.

The heartbroken mother has sat in dignified silence for weeks while the Blade Runner athlete accused of murdering her daughter Reeve collapses in hysterics, vomits, retches and puts his fingers in his ears.

She has endured endless bloody pictures of the crime scene, the weapon and, horrifyingly, Reeve's catastrophic head wound.

But it has left her haunted by one burning question - is he acting?

June has exclusively revealed to the Mirror how she studies Pistorius's every move in an attempt to find the truth.

She admitted: "It was a big thing for me to go to the trial in the first place and face up to what is going on.

"It's very traumatic when certain things come up. This is my child - and I must listen to the graphic detail.

"I look at Oscar the whole time, to see how he is coping, how he is behaving, I'm obsessed with looking at him, it's just instinctive, I can't explain it.

"I keep thinking, 'let me see how he's taking this'. He has been very dramatic, the vomiting and crying."

She added: "I think he's just about



DEVOTED June & husband Barry

keeping himself together. I don't know whether he's acting. Most of the time he's on his cell phone or looking down at papers or writing notes.

Talking about that very public apology from the Paralympics champion, June said: "It left me unmoved. I knew it was coming. My lawyers had prepared me for it.

"I cried for the first time, 'Yes', but not because he apologised, because of the suffering and agony that my darling daughter went through and because I will never have her again."

She admitted it has been an ordeal hearing the gruesome details of Reeve's death, as expert after expert discussed blood spatter, flesh-tearing bullets and whether or not she was capable of screaming before she died.

As the trial has gone on, she said, Pistorius's family have slowly started to make overtures to her. His sister Aimee handed her a note to say how "sorry" the family was for her loss and inviting her to "reach out" to them for support.

But June, 67 dismissed the approach and said: "It won't bring my daughter back."

She added: "We just want to know the

SHOW OF GRIEF Pistorius outside courthouse

ON PISTORIUS



COLLAPSE Defendant weeps and retches

He killed her, shot her until she was dead. He is aggressive and has been spoiled by people ... that's why he struts around being superior

ON THE VERDICT



ITEM Reeve with Blade Runner last year

I don't care if he goes free or gets 25 years... I don't want to punish him, I just want my daughter back but it's not going to happen

ON HER ANGUISH



WEEPING Pistorius's family hear his account

I have to be there for Reeve, my child. I keep most of my feelings in then at the hotel it all comes out and I break down and weep

ON THE HORROR PHOTO



DISTRAUGHT June is comforted by relative

Seeing her injuries was horrendous and wiped me out. I will see that picture for the rest of my life, until the day I die I promise you



BLASTED Oscar Pistorius on a shooting range fires at a melon

I'm obsessed with looking at Oscar... watching all the dramatic vomiting, the crying. Seeing the hero who has become the devil

COURT VIGIL June follows Pistorius's every move



Pictures: ANDREW STENNIS

ON HER DAUGHTER

Our Reeve was the most wonderful, beautiful person inside and out. She was everything to her father and I, our lives are destroyed. I am surviving. I pray a lot

Video nasty of head 'split like a watermelon'

By LUCY THORNTON at Gauteng High Court

HORROR gripped the courtroom yesterday as prosecutor Gerrie Nel adopted shock tactics.

A video showed Oscar Pistorius on a shooting range using a shotgun to blast a watermelon. He was heard to say: "It's a lot softer than brain but **** it's a zombie stopper."

Then Nel flashed up on the eight court TV screens Reeve Steenkamp's bloodied head. There was no way to escape the gruesome close-up.

Gasps and cries of "Oh, no" erupted from the public gallery at the shocking image. Reeve's eyes were closed. Her hair was matted with blood and brain.

Pistorius turned away in disgust, refusing to look at the shocking image. The prosecutor barked: "We see the effect of ammunition on a watermelon. It exploded. You know the same happened to Reeve's head. It exploded."

"Have a look. I know you don't want to because you don't want to take responsibility. But it's time you looked at it.

SNAPPED

"Take responsibility for what you've done, Mr Pistorius."

But with his face reddening and veins bulging, he refused to look. Instead, he started to sob.

Then Pistorius snapped at Nel: "I was there I don't have to look at a picture. I'm tormented by what I saw that night. I've taken responsibility."

"As I picked Reeve up, my fingers touched her head. I remember. I don't have to look at a picture. I made a mistake. My mistake was that I took Reeve's life."

His lawyer Barry Roux objected dubbing the spectacle and the comparison to a watermelon, "uncalled for". Judge Thokozile Masipa demanded the image be removed from the screens.

The prosecution said June Steenkamp had been warned about what was to come. But the Pistorius family were livid. Sister Aimee said: "If I get within five minutes of Nel..."

Pistorius, who denies murdering Reeve on Valentine's Day last year, insisted he fired his gun "accidentally".

He added: "I didn't have time to think, I shot out of fear."

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truth." June, who had never met 29-year-old Reeve's celebrity boyfriend, wears a picture of her model and law graduate daughter on her lapel in court.

She has previously criticised Pistorius for failing to acknowledge her on the first day of the trial. She said: "He did eventually look

at me. My presence unnerves him. I'm sure of it. He's answerable to me. He looked at me and said, 'Good morning, Mrs Steenkamp'. I never answered, I just nodded my head.

"It was for him to see me, nothing to do with what I'm seeing and what I'm feeling, do you understand? I don't know the man. All I know is what he's done.

"He must see me there in the court, he must feel my eyes boring into him, I think it makes a lot of difference.

"I do look at him too much, maybe. I like to see how he is reacting. I can see him very clearly, even without my glasses - he's the only one I can see,

he's right in front of me." June winced as she recalled one particular picture during the trial that "wiped her out". She cannot bring herself to describe it, but said: "It was just horrendous. I will see that picture for the rest of my life. Until the day I die, I promise you."

As the world watches her every move, June is hurting. She is just not showing it - in complete contrast to Pistorius.

She explained: "I keep it all in and when I get back to the hotel it all comes out and I break down.

June often attends court with Reeve's cousin Kim, who was very close to her daughter. She said: "Kim looks after me like I'm her mother." But June has had to endure the daily nightmare without

watching you and you don't want people to see you when you're in pain.

"I don't want to be crying in public. I'm a private person. I like to keep my feelings to myself.

"I'm being strong for Reeve. I have to be there. It's hard for me to do it, but I'm representing my child.

"I'm there for her, as much as it's hell for me. I know that I have to be there, I'm compelled to be there."

June fears the stress of the trial could kill her husband, a professional race horse trainer - even though she understands why he wants to make the trip.

She admitted they both shared a deep feeling of helplessness at the thought of their daughter's final agony. "That's all I

think about when I'm on my own," she said. "It haunts me... we couldn't help her, we couldn't do anything.

"I imagine how she must have been in terror and pain and suffering, devastated by what was going on. I relive that scene in the bathroom and it's changed me so much, made me harder."

She added: "My daughter is dead. He killed her. He shot her till she was dead in that toilet, in that bathroom, so how am I ever going to feel better about it?"

"She was the most wonderful, beautiful person, inside and out, and she was everything to Barry and me - our lives are destroyed. At the moment I'm just

surviving, trying to make it through each day, I pray a lot and don't feel God has let me down. If you live with God you take the good with the bad. What am I praying for? Strength.

"I'm representing Reeve at the trial. People want to see me there. Also suddenly I've just got strength from somewhere and the will to be there every day, because it's not easy."

June insisted: "I don't care what happens to Oscar. I don't even care if he goes free. All I know is that he has to stand up to what he's done and - if he has to - pay for it.

"What difference is it going to make

to me if he goes to prison for 25 years or is allowed to walk free? No one can tell me how I should feel, and those are my feelings.

"I'm not a person who wants to punish him. I want my daughter back, but it's never going to happen." Barry added: "I don't need revenge, just the truth."

But June said of their daughter's killer: "He has an aggressive persona, he's used to having people adore him, so it must be pretty different for him now.

"He's been spoilt by other people, that's why he struts around and looks superior. He's gone from hero to devil."



By George, he looks like dad...

THE ROYAL CRAWLABOUT: SEE PAGES 2&3

WORLD EXCLUSIVE

Why I sit in that court every day

BY REEVA'S MUM



COUPLE Reeva Steenkamp and Oscar Pistorius

HEART-RENDING INTERVIEW: SEE PAGES 6&7

CHANGE ALL YOUR PASSWORDS

BY MARTIN BAGOT

COMPUTER users are being warned to change their passwords following a major flaw in internet security.

The Heartbleed bug has left online giants such as Google, Yahoo, Amazon and Facebook open to personal data hack attacks.

Web expert Tony McDowell said: "Everyone is vulnerable."

FULL STORY: PAGE 11



Warning as millions hit by Heartbleed computer bug targeting online details