



## Survivors Stories DVD

### Audio Transcripts: Kirsten

#### Kirsten Short Clip

Fairly early on in the relationship I knew I'd made a terrible mistake and I couldn't admit and I felt terrible, and this sounds very strange because of the morals of the era, but I felt terrible that I'd slept with him and we were living together and I was not brought up to do that sort of thing. So I felt I was a finished woman, you know I couldn't have a life away from him. And I couldn't go on with him because life was so awful with his bullying. And I took the rest of the sleeping pills that I had because I already wasn't sleeping because of problems.

And he found me in a complete coma and just left me. And I was in a coma for about four days, but I hadn't taken enough to kill me, but I was completely out for four days. Then I gradually woke up and was pretty ill for a while, and I struggled living in a flat at the top of the house, and I struggled downstairs and asked a woman to call the doctor and meantime he'd come back and when the doctor arrived he sent him away.

The violence started off in the early days mainly with being slapped round the head and I had quite a few black eyes. And then strangled so that you would lose consciousness and I did many times think I was going to die and then it just escalated to generally being punched or a lot of it would happen in the middle of the night. All of a sudden I'd wake up with him kicking me with his feet out of bed. And then I'd go to another room and next thing I knew he'd got my hair and was dragging me out of bed and along the landing back to the room. He would throw things at me. He would smash things around the house. He would be very sexual, well I would call it rape and other things that were really awful sexually and he was a very strong man.