



DIGNIFIED

By Nieve Hearity

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LORRAINE – EARLY 40'S

Dignified.

That's what they keep saying. The parents are so dignified.

I don't want to be dignified.

I don't want to sit here stoically and hear how my boy ran for his life.

How they chased him

Caught him

Beat him

Stabbed him.

I don't want to hear that, I don't want to imagine his last moments. Did he call out for his mum?
Why wasn't I there when he needed me?

I try to stop thinking about it but how can I when the solicitors keep showing pictures of his body,
the CCTV recordings, showing the knives, asking the same questions over and over.

I don't want to think of him like that.

I don't want to think of him at all. That sounds terrible doesn't it? That I don't want to remember my
boy, but you see, its so hard. Its so, so hard. I wake up and for a minute a small, blissful minute my
life is normal again, my boy is asleep in his bed, my husband is asleep next to me and all I have to
worry about is making sure my son is up in time for school.

Then it hits me, he's not sleeping, he will never sleep in his room again, he will never be late for
school again, my bed is empty, my husband long gone now, how can a family survive when the heart
of the family is gone? And the pain cuts me in half, I can barely breathe, I shove the covers into my
mouth to stop the scream and then everything goes numb.

He wasn't perfect, my boy, he wasn't an angel. Class clown, that what his teacher told me, she said
'Mr and Mrs. Lawton, he has so much potential, so much but he is the class clown, once he calms
down, matures a bit, we will see great things from this one' That was his last parents evening. Just
before he decided on his choices for his GCSE's.

He wanted to be a footballer, don't all little boys want to be footballers? He was talented, so
talented it got him killed.

I told him he needed a back up, that not all talented footballers make it, he just smiled that smile
and told me not to worry, he'd buy me a new house with his first wage from Liverpool Football Club.