

It's time to stop grieving ..Jamie always wanted me to be happy



By ANTONIA HOYLE

IN the days before July 7 last year, Yvonne Nash and her boyfriend Jamie Gordon had been busy planning the wedding and excitedly looking forward to the future.

The devoted couple discussed everything from the engagement ring to their dream honeymoon in Australia and were about to decorate their flat to prepare for their new life together.

But then Yvonne's happiness was shattered when Jamie was killed by the bomb that ripped through the number 30 bus at Tavistock Square, Central London, as he travelled to work.

The 31-year-old has spent the past year grieving for the man who was cruelly snatched from her by cowardly terrorists. Now she has decided it's time to move on - and find new love.

Yvonne, who was pictured desperately scouring London hospitals for her missing lover in the aftermath of the attack, said: "Jamie influenced my life massively and I'll never forgive him. But at the end of the day, I'm still here, and life goes on. He has died and nothing I can say or do can change that.

"No one wants to be alone, do they? It's human nature to want to be with someone. I'm at the stage where I'd like a boyfriend."

"I hope I'll find someone eventually. Ultimately, everyone wants to be in love, and Jamie would want that for me.

"I haven't met anyone yet and I hope that doesn't sound terrible. I just don't want to be miserable anymore and I know Jamie wouldn't want me maudlin. He always wanted me to be happy."

"Some nights after Jamie died, I'd almost feel his arms around me. Then I'd wake up and realise he wasn't there."

But despite her good looks and stunning figure, Yvonne, an events marketing manager for Orange, is convinced she'll struggle to find a boyfriend. She said: "Most of my friends are coupled off now which makes it difficult.

"Plus, I always think people are single at my age for a reason. With Jamie, everything was fantastic and I thought I had it all. We were going to marry next summer and have children, probably two.

"I hope I find that happiness again. But I know I was fortunate to have it the first time round. And there's no guarantee I'll find it again.

"I have a wicked job, a great house and amazing friends. But all that seems meaningless without someone to share it with."

Yvonne is due to read an adapted version of e.e. cummings' poem *i carry your heart* at a 7/7 memorial service in Regent's Park tonight.

She said: "It's about someone staying with you after they've gone, and I've found it a comfort."

Yvonne was a driving force behind the memorial which will see tributes and songs to the 52 people killed in the blasts.

She said: "It is just so humbling how much time and energy people have been willing to give. We are creating something beautiful and doing something positive."

Yvonne, who is backing calls for an inquiry into the 7/7 attacks, told of the moment she realised financial administrator Jamie, 30, was missing. He had stayed at a friend's house in Central London the night before the blast

and had taken a different route to work. Her frantic search for him ended two days later when police told her he was dead. She said: "The trauma of not knowing made it 10 times worse. That's why I went into London to look for him. I had to do something."

"The aftermath of 7/7 was appalling. For some relatives it was weeks before they knew what had happened to their loved ones."

Yvonne, who had been engaged to Jamie for six months, said she just felt numb for weeks after his death. Things got better when she returned to work. She added: "I threw myself into my work. There was always someone to hug me if I had a bad day."

She said she "feels nothing" towards the terrorists and added: "I can't explain it. I have accepted it was Jamie's fate that day."

In December she went to Tavistock Square on what would have been Jamie's 31st birthday and their eighth anniversary together to lay flowers.

On New Year's Eve Yvonne, who lost her mum Pat, 54, to breast cancer months before the bombings, made a resolution to start living life to the full again. She took up dance classes and rekindled her love of scuba diving which she learned with Jamie.

She also rejoined nearby Bush Hill Park tennis club where her fiancé was an avid member. Friends there are now preparing a memorial cup in his name.

This morning, Yvonne will again go to Tavistock Square to lay roses at the spot where Jamie died. Tomorrow, she's off to Bermuda for a holiday. She is hoping the service will bring closure and help her focus on a bright future. Yvonne said: "I'm sick of being sad. It's exhausting. I just want to be happy again. It's what Jamie would have wanted."

*i carry your heart with me
by e.e.cummings (adapted)*

*i carry your heart with me
(i carry it in my heart) i am
never without it
(anywhere I go you go, my
dear; and whatever is done
by only me is your doing,
my darling)*

*i feared
no fate (for you were my
fate, my sweet) i want no
world (for beautiful you
were my world, my true)
and it's you were whatever
a moon has always meant
and whatever a sun will al-
ways sing is you*

*here is the deepest secret
nobody knows
(here is the root of the root
and the bud of the bud
and the sky of the sky of a
tree called life; which
grows higher than soul can
hope or mind can hide)
and this is the wonder
that's keeping the stars
apart*

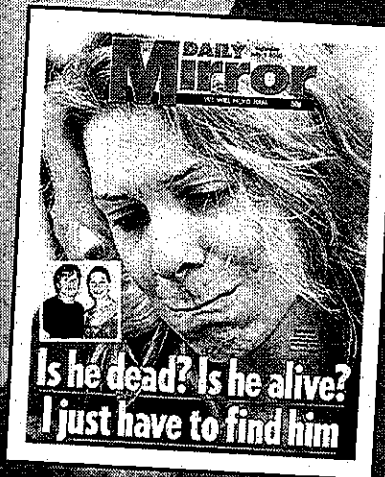
*i carry your heart (i carry
it in my heart)*

YEAR ON

DAILY I



BRAVE: Yvonne is looking for love. Above, with Jamie
Picture: ROGER ALLEN



HUNT: Our story at time