Meet the SCANDALISTAS

They were at the centre of huge celeb storms, so what's it like to be Britain's most hated women?

NATASHA GIGGS

'My life crumbled; Ryan carried on with his'

Natasha, 29, says her life was turned upside down when she confessed to an eight-year affair with her husband Rhodri's brother, footballer Ryan Giggs

When my story broke it was front page news for 15 days. There are affairs, there are affairs with your brother-in-law and then there are affairs with your brother-in-law who's Ryan Giggs. No one could believe this clean-cut footballer and devoted father could do such a thing. It shocked everyone.

I wish I'd confessed to Rhodri before he saw it in the papers but I couldn't do it. Instead, I flew to Spain the night before the story ran and left a letter that my mum delivered to him with the papers at 5am the next day. People think I ran to the papers to tell but it didn't happen like that. A paper was going to run the story anyway – by agreeing to tell my side I could at least make sure they printed the truth. It was making the best of a very crap choice.

Once the story broke, life was crazy. Photographers camped outside my house in Bolton and followed me around Spain. But all I cared about was Rhodri. We didn't speak for 10 days. He sent me a few not very nice texts but I didn't argue. I saw a newspaper photo of him the next day looking like a broken man and that's when it became real. I cried my eyes out. I hated all the hurt I'd caused but I also felt relief that eight years of lying was over.

My sister Haley was with me in Spain and was the only one who knew about my affair. She'd even driven me to hospital for a termination when I got pregnant by Ryan, just two months before I married Rhodri in August 2010.

Hiding abroad, I just wanted to go home. When I did, Rhodri served me divorce papers. I didn't go back to work. I'd been an estate agent but after admitting using empty houses for sex with Ryan I'd have been fired anyway. As my life crumbled, Ryan carried on with his. His wife Stacey forgave him and no one slated him. Instead, I was portrayed as the home wrecker. I don't understand what I've done that he hasn't.

> 'I JUST CRIED MY EYES OUT'

People whisper and point in the street but never say anything to my face. I used to have a thick skin but it really hurts when people on Twitter ask if my boys – Liam, 10, and Louis, five – know their mum's a slag. It made me hate myself. When my boys ask why Daddy doesn't live with us any more, I say: 'Mummy did something really bad but we can see Daddy all the time.'

Why did I cheat? I honestly don't know. I was 20 when I met Ryan and it was an ego boost to know that someone who everyone loved liked me. Even after I got serious with Rhodri, there was unfinished business between us. Maybe I thought it was sexual chemistry but looking back it was just seedy. Although I must've liked it to keep doing it for so long. We often vowed to stop seeing each other but never could. We had to see each other in family situations, so there was no getting away from it.

I thought my pregnancy last June would've scared Ryan off cheating but months later he began an affair with Imogen Thomas – and a week after that he was back in touch with me. I was shocked when I heard about Imogen. She says they felt they were in love and I can believe that. I know what he's like.

Natasha and husband Rhodri have split but are still in contact

Ryan and wife Stacey in 2010. She didn't know he was playing away

Now I don't feel anything for Ryan. I don't hate him but I think he's an idiot. And I do get a bit excited when Manchester United lose. I've only seen him once since the story came out. I was meeting my sister from work on my birthday in October when he and Stacey appeared at my car window, shouting. I froze and it became an ugly row as Stacey swore at me.

She and I were never friends. I think she knew that Ryan and I fancied each other, so she took an instant dislike to me. Ryan was fuming and said: "I *never* had feelings for you – it was just sex." I replied: 'For eight years, Ryan?'

My life's changed so much since the scandal. I'm stronger and closer to my family. But of course, I wish I'd never had an affair. And if Ryan was in front of me now, I'd tell him to man up and admit his part in all of this.

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