The Silent Twins
MARJORIE WALLACE

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JUNE AND JENNIFER GIBBONS WERE RELEASED FROM BROADMOOR IN 1993

THE DAY THE TWINS WERE RELEASED JENNIFER GIBBONS DIED

THE MYSTERY OF HER DEATH HAS NEVER BEEN SOLVED

Vintage is re-issuing this important book nearly twenty years on...

To this day we will never know why the twins took their vow of silence against the world, which they believed failed to understand the intensity of their love hate relationship and mutual suffering.

No one has explained why they were kept in Broadmoor for eleven years for a teenage spree of vandalism and arson.

Most extraordinary of all no one has yet discovered why Jennifer died on the day they left Broadmoor. I still shiver at the memory, when visiting them ten days earlier, they told me of their decision that on the day of their release Jennifer would sacrifice her life to set June truly free.

Ten years later their story haunts me still. Jennifer’s death - just as their silence and the brilliance of their writings – is and will always remain one of the most profoundly disturbing and unsolved mysteries of our time.

If there is any lesson to be learned from their story, it is that we should never underestimate the sensitivities and intelligence of people who for one reason or another may find it hard to communicate.


This is the astonishing tale of June and Jennifer Gibbons, identical twins whose silent, antisocial exterior hid a rich, vast, creative life. From the age of three through their twenties, they spoke only to each other in a secret language, building an elaborate fantasy life. From their self-imposed isolation, they were catapulted into the hormonal havoc of adolescence.

Award-winning investigative journalist Marjorie Wallace penetrates the twins’ silent world to reveal an unforgettable true story of love and hate, dreams and desolation, genius and destruction, culminating in the twins’ detention in Broadmoor.

‘A remarkable (and finally tragic) story which, in its depth, penetration and detail, no less than its extraordinary subject matter, must be seen as outstanding, a testimony to something extraordinary in the author herself’

Oliver Sacks, New York Times Review of Books

Marjorie Wallace is an award-winning investigative journalist, author, playwright and broadcaster, and has won nine major awards for her journalism, books and plays. She is founder and Chief Executive of SANE, the mental health charity.

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Notes to editors:

About SANE

**25 years of meeting the challenge of mental illness**

SANE is a UK-wide charity set up to improve the quality of life for people affected by mental illness.

It has three objectives:

1. to raise awareness and combat stigma about mental illness, educating and campaigning to improve mental health services
2. to provide care and emotional support for people with mental health problems, their families and carers as well as information for other organisations and the public
3. to initiate research into the causes and treatments of serious mental illness such as schizophrenia and depression and the psychological and social impact of mental illness

**New Focus on Suicide Prevention**

SANE is carrying out innovative research into suicide prevention with funding from the Big Lottery. *A New Focus for Suicide Prevention: Harnessing Personal Experience* aims to develop new insights into suicide, enabling both the public and professionals to understand better and respond more effectively. The study will be informed by the personal experiences of people close to those who have either attempted or carried out suicide and those who have attempted themselves.

**SANE Services:**

There are three main ways to access our services for emotional support and information:

- **SANEline** – 0845 767 8000 6pm – 11pm
- **SANEmail** - [http://www.sane.org.uk/what_we_do/support/email/](http://www.sane.org.uk/what_we_do/support/email/)
- **SANE Support Forum (peer support)** - [http://www.sane.org.uk/what_we_do/support/supportforum/](http://www.sane.org.uk/what_we_do/support/supportforum/)

To support SANE and join the community, become a fan and follow SANE on Twitter ([@CharitySANE](http://bit.ly/eEOWsE)), YouTube ([http://bit.ly/eEOWsE](http://bit.ly/eEOWsE)) and Facebook ([http://on.fb.me/hxDan2](http://on.fb.me/hxDan2)).


For more information, please visit the SANE website at [www.sane.org.uk](http://www.sane.org.uk)