# A tragic anniversary: the violent end of Maureen and Jeremy Rickards' marriage



On a seemingly ordinary day, Maureen Rickards visited H Samuel in Canterbury, where she chose an 18-carat gold 'forever' diamond ring to commemorate her 25th wedding anniversary with her husband, Jeremy Rickards. The choice of such an expensive piece of jewellery, however, starkly contrasts the tragic circumstances surrounding the couple's final months together.

Jeremy Rickards, who passed away at the age of 65, had an accomplished career in geology, notably contributing to the discovery of one of the world’s largest gold deposits at the Morila mine in Mali, West Africa, known colloquially as 'Morila the Gorilla'. His professional success allowed him to travel extensively, working in remote locations to discover similar resources.

The nature of Jeremy Rickards’ violent death, described as tragic and perplexing, occurred just weeks after the anniversary celebration. In a deeply disturbing series of events, Maureen Rickards fatally stabbed her husband in the chest, piercing his heart, before concealing his body in a holdall. Subsequent investigations revealed that she had hidden the body in an overgrown area of a communal garden.

Days leading up to the incident were marked by abuse suffered by Jeremy Rickards, who was known to have health issues including cataracts and a heart condition. Witnesses recounted seeing him with visible injuries prior to his demise. A tenant from Maureen's shared accommodation mentioned hearing a 'repeated thudding noise' in the early hours of either June 8 or 9, reportedly coming from something heavy being dragged down the stairs of the property.

Upon police investigation on July 11, Maureen was initially arrested for fraud after using her husband's bank card. During the search, authorities discovered the body concealed beneath grass cuttings in the garden.

In the days since Jeremy’s death, Maureen Rickards portrayed a narrative that shifted between self-preservation and denial. She claimed to have last seen her husband a month after the murder and advanced unsubstantiated claims about his mental state, suggesting he may have taken his own life. During her trial at Canterbury Crown Court, evidence emerged from audio recordings that depicted fatal violence in their relationship, with Jeremy pleading for the assault to cease.

Convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum of 22 years, Maureen’s actions and lack of remorse were pointed out by Mr Justice Kerr, who expressed disbelief at her intentions regarding her husband's death. “I don’t know why you killed him. You have shown no remorse,” he stated during the sentencing.

The couple, who originally met in Mali in the 1990s, led complex lives filled with personal and professional challenges. Following their marriage, Jeremy adopted Maureen's daughter, Chima, and later facilitated Maureen’s educational pursuits. Despite these initial commitments, by 2016, their relationship had deteriorated, culminating in separate living arrangements and, ultimately, tragic outcomes.

Witnesses, including a bar worker where Jeremy frequented, described him as kind and non-confrontational, contradicting the violent image created by Maureen. Following her conviction, the case has raised questions about domestic abuse and the hidden struggles that may erupt into violence when such issues are left unaddressed.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/canterbury/news/geologist-suspected-of-being-killed-by-wife-died-from-stab-w-310629/> - Corroborates Jeremy Rickards' death from stab wounds and the circumstances of his discovery in Canterbury. It also mentions his background as a geologist and his recent employment at Rickards Consulting.
* <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/canterbury/news/guilty-wife-murdered-husband-and-hid-body-in-garden-321374/> - Details Maureen Rickards' conviction for murdering her husband and the disturbing manner in which she hid his body. The article highlights the domestic abuse and the lack of remorse shown by Maureen.
* [https://www.google.com/maps/place/St.+Martin%27s+Road,+Canterbury+CT1,+UK/@51.2833043,1.0872858,15z/data=!4m53m41s0x47de88f93983acc7:0x24484397c94385028m23d51.28330434d1.0872858](https://www.google.com/maps/place/St.%2BMartin%27s%2BRoad%2C%2BCanterbury%2BCT1%2C%2BUK/%4051.2833043%2C1.0872858%2C15z/data%3D%214m53m41s0x47de88f93983acc7%3A0x24484397c94385028m23d51.28330434d1.0872858) - Identifies the location of St. Martin's Road in Canterbury, which is where Jeremy Rickards' body was discovered. This supports the claim about the crime scene location.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morila_Mine> - Provides information about the Morila Mine in Mali, known for its significant gold deposits. This supports Jeremy Rickards' professional involvement in the discovery of major gold deposits.
* <https://www.canterburycourts.co.uk/directory/canterbury-crown-court/> - Details the Canterbury Crown Court where Maureen Rickards was tried and convicted for murder. This supports the legal proceedings aspect of the story.