

‘My abusive ex sent revenge porn to my mum’

With a shocking 31 per cent increase in revenge porn offences, Jessica Smith tells Closer how she fought for justice

When Jessica Smith was set up on a date by one of her friends, she thought she'd found her perfect match. At first, Dillan Billany seemed genuine, kind and caring.

However, it wasn't long before the 27-year-old revealed his true colours – and subjected Jessica to a torrent of physical and emotional abuse, shockingly sending an explicit video of Jessica to her mum.

Wanting justice for what she'd been through, she reported him and he was charged and taken to court, where he was sentenced to three years and was given a five-year restraining order. Jessica, 31, says, “I thought Dillan would end up killing me. But I'm a survivor and I won't let him steal my future.”

INSEPARABLE

When Jessica, from Hull, first met Dillan, a groundworker, in February 2022, she was besotted. “He was so charming and we really hit it

off on our first date,” she says. “We became inseparable and the more time I spent with him, the more my feelings grew, and he felt the same.”

But after just three months, things started going wrong. Jessica says, “One night, as we got ready for bed, we started arguing about nothing. He yelled at me and said, ‘No one will ever love you’. He then grabbed a bottle of water from the bedside table and poured it over me. He dragged me onto the floor and kicked me.”

CONTROLLING

When Dillan calmed down, the two of them went to bed without a word. Terrified, Jessica confronted him the next morning. She says, “He said he didn't remember what had happened. I didn't know what to do but I just hoped it was a one-off and I put it to the back of my mind.”

But as time went on, Dillan became more controlling towards Jessica. She says, “He made me delete social media and started isolating me from my family. Then he became violent again. He demanded to go through my phone and when I said no, he pinned me to the bed and pushed his thumbs into my eyes. My eyeballs felt like they were going to explode. He then pressed his fingers hard into my neck. I thought I was going to die.”

When Dillan finally let go, Jessica realised the gravitas of the monster she was dealing with – but kept his abuse to herself, still hoping



The injury to her arm required 37 staples



Jessica's arm bruised as she recovered



‘I FELT LIKE I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT HIM’

police, but I couldn't. I felt like I couldn't live without him.”

But in December 2022, Dillan launched another attack on Jessica. She says, “I was on the phone to my mum when she started yelling. Dillan had sent her a video of us having sex! I was horrified. She could hardly speak and hung up.”

FROM BAD TO WORSE

“I was mortified and texted Dillan asking why he'd done it. Grovelling, he denied it was him at first, before apologising. But that was it for me – I was done. He'd sent an intimate video to my mum. I didn't think I'd ever be able to get over it. For weeks, I was too embarrassed to face her.”

But things got worse for Jessica when she found out that Dillan had shown the video to his friends. She says, “I was humiliated. I arranged to go for a drink with him in the hope I could convince him to get rid of the video. But when we met, he wouldn't delete it. He wasn't backing down, so I got up to leave. As I did, he kicked my leg and spat in my face before running off.”

DESPERATE

Jessica finally called the police and reported him when she got back home. Then, in March 2023, he messaged her, asking if they could sort things out. She says, “I was desperate to get him to delete the video, so I met

him at a local pub where I'd be safe with other people around. But then he started accusing me of being with other men.”

When Jessica realised she wouldn't get anywhere with him, she decided to leave and head home. But Dillan brutally attacked her and took her phone and house keys before running off. Jessica managed to stagger back to the pub, where she screamed for an ambulance.

Jessica was rushed to hospital and, following an X-ray, underwent a three-hour operation where surgeons inserted 12 bolts, three wires and 37 staples into her broken arm.

Five days later, Jessica was discharged and moved in with a



Jessica and Dillan

friend. She says, “That first night, I cried for hours. The pain was unreal. I couldn't do anything for myself, like take a shower or get dressed.”

During that time, Dillan handed himself into the police and pleaded guilty to disclosure of a private sexual film with intent to cause distress, assault by beating, inflicting grievous bodily harm and theft.

In August 2023, he was sentenced to three years in prison at Hull Crown Court and

was given a five-year restraining order. Jessica says, “With the support of Mum and friends, I faced him in court and gave my victim impact statement. I wanted to show him that he didn't scare me anymore.”

“I still suffer pain in my arm, and I'm scarred for life. But I want others to recognise the red flags in abusive relationships. These monsters don't change.”

By Danielle Lett and Lauren Gregory

● If you or somebody you know is in need of help, visit [womensaid.co.uk](https://www.womensaid.co.uk)

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE A VICTIM



- Keep evidence – you should make a record of what has been posted online. Even if legal matters are not your first thought, it could be important later.
- Report the photos or videos to the website (if you can) and the police.
- Tell friends and family – if you can prepare people closest to you for what has happened, they are more likely to respond sensitively.