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Daily

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2008



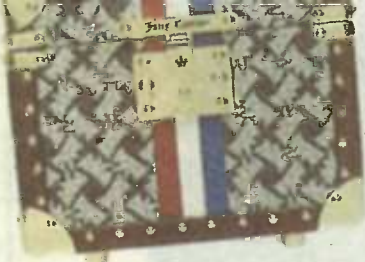
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DAILY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 50p



**Did science
find a way
to make this
severed finger**



Red, white and blue centre stripe
£259, Juicy Couture at
Selfridges, 0800 123 400



Farm animal print £24,
Plain Jane at **Urban Outfitters**,
www.urbanoutfitters.co.uk

10 OF THE BEST... VANITY CASES



Red leather £80,
Penhaligon's, 0800 716 108



Pink with cream star £15, Soap &
Glory at **Boots**, 0845 0708 090



Brown suede £130, Bric's at
Harrods, 020 7730 1234



Blue with floral print £50, **Lulu Guinness**, 020 7823 4828



Pale pink leather £295,
Aspinal of London,
www.aspinaloflondon.com



Fruit print £65,
Jasper Conran
at **Debenhams**,
08445 616161

Words: PRIMMIE BROOMFIELD
Pictures: TOBI JENKINS

Philip was a member of the Rover Club and they holidayed at the second home in Tuscany.

But this picture of an almost idyllic Home Counties life belied a shameful secret. In 2003, after 25 years of marriage, Philip, 61, confessed he was bisexual — admitting to dalliance with both men and women throughout the marriage.

But far from throwing her husband out, Anne, 60, begged him to stay. In fact, they remained together in their marital home for another three years before she finally conceded that she could maintain the facade no longer.

'At the time, I couldn't bear for us to part because my life with Philip was all I'd known,' says Anne, who now runs an internet beauty comparison from her home near Maidstone, Kent.

'Even now, only my closest friends know the truth about Philip. Other friends and family, unable to understand why I left him two years ago, tell me I should give him a second chance.'

'They haven't a clue that he's gay and I haven't felt it's my place to tell them. It's Philip's secret to share if he chooses. It's ironic, because to them Philip is the victim in this.'

The couple first met and dated teenagers, and even though 15 years passed before they re-ignited the romance as newly-divorced 30-year-olds, Anne felt there was nothing she didn't know about her husband.

'We both married other people at 20 and divorced by 30,' Anne recalls. 'We'd remained friends, exchanging cards and the odd phone call. When both marriages ended, the friendship intensified — as you might expect when two old friends find themselves in the same testing situation.'

W

E'D TALK for hours on the phone and laughed at the same thing. When you share a sense of humour, it has the effect of making you believe you also share the same outlook on life.

'Philip was terribly financially savvy, dependable and a terrific friend — the kind who'd listen and offer sound advice to any problems. And he had a vaguely dangerous streak about him, probably born of his love of motorbikes. I found that very appealing.'

'Because we'd known each other for years, we could bypass all that "getting to know you" business. Within three months, I'd moved from my home in Dorset to Kent to be with Philip.'

'Six months later, in February 1971, we married in a register office. There was no grand proposal; we just agreed we would like to get married. So we did — with very little fuss and only our close family members present.'

Both workaholics — Anne was then a computer programmer and Philip an engineering boss employing 50 people — Anne describes their social life as 'low key'. She fell pregnant on honeymoon in the Lake District.

'I was such a career girl that I

Stylist: GEMMA ROGERS
Pictures: AARON TILLY

wonderful wellies