

Posted on Fri, Aug. 27, 2004

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#### HOLLYWOOD

Poet's tormented life ends in night of terror

A 25-year-old mother found dead in her Hollywood home wrote poetry about her turbulent life.

By JONATHAN ABEL

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A Hollywood woman who wrote poems about a stormy, violent relationship was slain early Thursday morning just hours after attending a poetry reading at a popular downtown nightspot.

Police found the body of Lorie Nicholson-Tennant, 25, shortly after 4:25 a.m. in her locked bedroom in the 6700 block of Forrest Street, dead from a "severe trauma to the body," said police Capt. Tony Rode. Friends and neighbors say her throat was slit.

Police have not identified a suspect. As part of their investigation, they contacted the victim's ex-husband, Kevin Nicholson, 40.

Friends and fellow poets gathered at the victim's Hollywood home, grief stricken at the news of her sudden, violent death.

"The girl is an angel in every aspect," said Will Bell, who met Nicholson-Tennant when she joined the poetry scene here two years ago. According to police and friends who talked to the slain woman's mother, Diana Tennant, this is how the victim spent her final hours:

Nicholson-Tennant -- nicknamed Elle -- went to an open-mike event Wednesday night at Ginger Bay Cafe, where she recited her latest poem, Hall Pass.

"It was a funny rant about how her son's too young to have a hall pass," said Ingrid Bazin, a poet and friend.

Friends said Nicholson-Tennant, who lived with her mother, left the club around 12:45 a.m.

Later, around 4 a.m., her mother said she heard a commotion and tried to enter her daughter's room. The door was locked, Rode said.

"Her mother said she heard 'No, don't! Call the police!'" said Morris, a neighbor and friend who picks up Nicholson-Tennant's 5-year-old son from Driftwood Elementary School. Nicholson-Tennant also has a 3-year-old son.

An information technology specialist, Nicholson-Tennant put her computer skills to work for Bell, designing a poetry website, [www.eliterarycafe.com](http://www.eliterarycafe.com), where some of her own writing can be found.

Domestic violence and her tortured personal relationship with a man were recurring themes in her poetry. Some readers say she even foretold her murder.

"From reading her poetry she almost predicted this," said Evens Colas, a Miami musician. "Most of her poetry was about what she was going through in her marriage -- in her life. It was about suffering. It was about joy."

In one poem posted April 27, she described her troubled marriage.

"It was you that hit me because I found [out] about your cheating," reads one line from the poem.

In a working version of another poem titled I Cannot Write, she rages against poetry for failing to capture the pain in her life.

``His hand across my face

You think he was beating me every damn day

When I write Pain  
It's not fixing it  
I'm just accomplishing  
A perpetuating cycle  
Of self prophetess.'

Nicholson-Tennant and Kevin Nicholson married in March 1997. A year later, she filed a domestic-violence complaint against him. It was later dismissed, according to court records. She filed for divorce in March 2003. She and her friends recently celebrated her divorce, Bell said.

'The reality is just setting in,' said Alexander Proctor, a poet and friend who arrived at the murder scene just as Nicholson-Tennant's body was taken away by the medical examiner. ``She's a beautiful creature. I don't want revenge, but I want justice.'

Herald freelance photographer R.C. White contributed to this report.