

Sept 8th 1998

## I N M A T E 3

**Joanna, 27, a secretary from west London, was voluntarily kidnapped by Blast Theory.**

■ "In the days before I got kidnapped, I wasn't aware at any time of being watched. Then on an average mid-week night, my friend took me out to dinner. I now know that she was working with Blast Theory to help nab me. On the way back from a trip to the toilet I was met by Blast Theory. They identified themselves, forcefully instructed me to go with them and bundled me into a car. I was quite shocked because I hadn't had a chance to warn my boss or family.

"I was held for 20 hours by myself before my co-kidnappee, Russell, joined me at the safe house. It was scary at times and I was tempted twice during that period to say the password so I'd be released, but I was determined to see it through.

"At one point I made a measly attempt at bucking authority by placing my bag over the camera that was beaming the pictures to the web. But the kidnappers came rushing in wearing balaclavas and took away my possessions as punishment. I suppose I could've taken off my jumper and put that over the camera, but they'd probably have taken that too and I would have had to spend the rest of the time topless.

"I found the whole experience of being constrained under someone's control fascinating. It was menacing and pretty realistic. It's like that Spanish film, *Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down*, which is the ultimate kidnapping fantasy. A man so obsessive, he'll go to any lengths to win you. For an adventure like that, I was happy to take the chance." □

MAIN PICTURES: PAUL SCHOTT. THIS PAGE: FOTOTHEME

THIS MAN HAS PAID OVER £1,000 TO SPEND A WEEKEND IN PRISON  
GETTING BEATEN UP AND TORTURED. STEPHEN KINGSTON INVESTIGATES  
THE BIZARRE NEW BREED OF HOLIDAYS THAT HURT.

CITUBBED 18-30