

expressyourself Cover story

Violent death, a court drama and a brush with the tsunami

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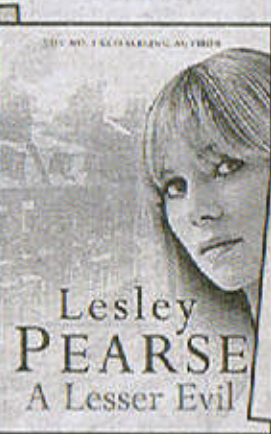
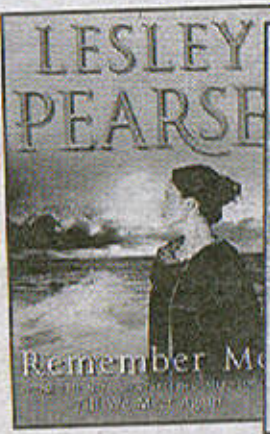
she could almost have penned them herself. In 2002, following an agonising court case, her youngest daughter was acquitted of the murder of her sister's abusive boyfriend. Coincidentally, his murder echoes the plot of Lesley's newly-released novel - she had stabbed him through the heart.

Three years on, Lesley says that her girls are "getting on with their lives".

But, being a member of the Pearse clan dictates that life will never be without its highs and lows.

To celebrate the end of an unusually quiet year in 2004, Lesley took her family to Thailand for Christmas. When the tsunami struck, she was stranded with her grandson in a hotel in the north, believing her daughters had been swept away.

"The last time I saw them they were heading for Koh Samui," she says. "But I knew if they'd met a couple of chaps going to Phuket on the way, that's where they



NOVEL APPROACH: Lesley Pearse has penned a series of bestsellers

would have gone. Those hours were just awful. As I watched the news and read my grandson a story, I thought after everything I've been through, surely I won't have to go back to England without my two babies and be this little boy's mother."

After several anxious hours with no word, she received a text message and was reunited with her girls in Bangkok.

Meanwhile, back in England, local and national press listed the Pearses missing, feared dead, causing panic among their family and friends.

It took the first few months of 2005 to straighten out the confusion. But, if you can ignore the fact her house was struck by lightning in November, it has been an uneventful year by and large.

But Lesley Pearse has never hankered after a quiet life. Roll on 2006 and all the drama it may bring.

● *Lesley Pearse's latest novel, A Lesser Evil, is out in paperback on January 12 (Penguin, £6.99). To order this or other Lesley Pearse novels with free UK delivery, call The Express Bookshop on 0871 434 6091 with your credit/debit card details, or send a cheque payable to Express Newspapers to: The Express Bookshop, PO Box 200, Fulmouth TR11 4WJ, or order online at our website, www.expressbookshop.com*

Briefly...



★ STILA has teamed up with the English National Ballet to create a pretty pink palette celebrating the launch of the ballet's new production of Sleeping Beauty. Containing two pink eyeshadows, a shadow eyeliner and blusher, this beauty collection, £25, is sure to bring out the ballerina in you. Stockists: 0870 034 2566.

★ ELVIS Jesus has been resurrected! Formerly known as Elvis & Jesus Co Couture, this menswear label has been relaunched in time for spring/summer '06.



Featuring hand-applied embellishments it is no surprise that Harvey Nichols, Flannels, Cruise and many more have picked up this cutting-edge label. And with a jeans collection on the cards for next autumn/winter, be sure to watch this space. Prices from £75 to £200. Stockist: 020 7729 7156



★ IF YOU'RE worried about wrinkles but don't fancy being injected with Botox then Natralox could be the answer. This cream from all-natural Australian range Skin Elements claims that it can reduce wrinkles by up to 50 per cent in a month. It contains Argireline, which has been proven to both lessen the appearance of wrinkles while slowing further skin damage, along with vitamin A, vitamin C and soothing jojoba. Stockists: 020 8748 9200.

★ THE F+F clothes label for Men at Tesco has joined forces with Everyman, the leading campaign against male cancer, to champion the fight to build awareness of

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To all owners of a Moulinex silver/glass blender with model number 'DAE2'.



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