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Myspace memorial

ANNA SVIDERSKY'S MURDER CAUSES MORE GRIEF ONLINE

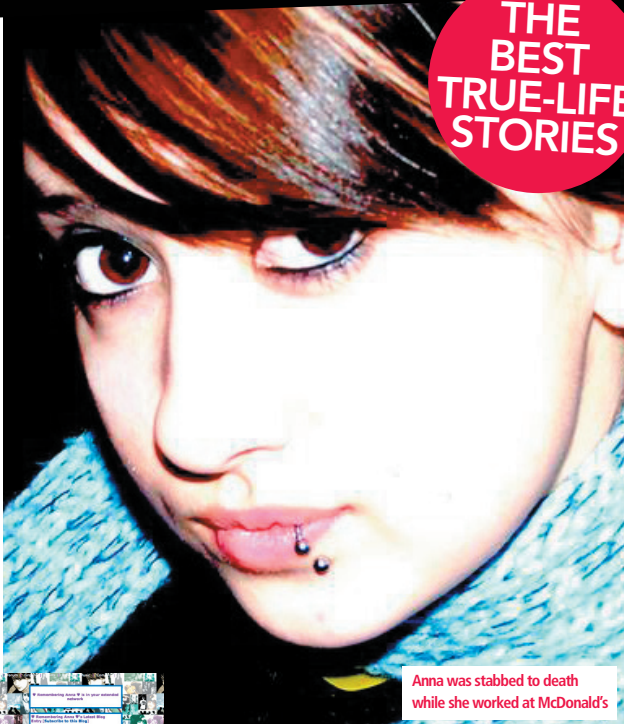
Anna Svidersky, 17, was like any other teenager – into *The OC* and Eminem, about to get her first car, with ambitions to go to college – and had everything to live for. But in April, a man walked into the McDonald's where she worked in Washington, USA, and stabbed her to death in an unprovoked attack. It was six days before her 18th birthday.

Web tribute

Anna was obsessed with Myspace and had over 200 friends on her profile. So as news of her death spread among her friends, they started to set up memorial pages where they posted tributes to her. Then they sent the links to *their* friends – and within days, words had spread across the whole Myspace community. Thousands of messages were posted – by those who knew her and



Anna's Myspace tribute pages received thousands of messages



Anna was stabbed to death while she worked at McDonald's

those that never got the chance. At the last count, one memorial page had been viewed over two million times.

Talking to strangers

The outpouring of grief had a mixed reaction. "For the first time since Anna's death I felt strangely comforted. People – strangers – cared about my baby as much as I did. I wasn't alone in my grief,"

says her mum. However, protective friends of Anna started to resent the messages – arguing they had no real link to Anna. "I don't want any more friend requests or sympathy messages from people," wrote one of Anna's best friends, Shona. "I just want Anna back."

However you look at it, Anna's death has shown that the internet has created a world where we feel closer to strangers than ever before.

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