

# the unusual suspects

After months of speculation that they murdered an Ontario couple at a Mexican resort, Cheryl Everall and Kimberly Kim give **Susan McClelland** an exclusive glimpse into their bizarre plight

IN THE OFFICE OF THEIR THUNDER BAY, ONT., LAWYER, suspected assassins—and single moms—Cheryl Everall and Kimberly Kim offer me limp handshakes before sitting down on a navy-blue leather couch.

“We don’t really like publicity,” says Cheryl, smoothing her hands over her frilly top. “We’re in a state of shock. And on top of it all, there’s all the media,” says the 32-year-old mother of two. While her chatty, outgoing friend does most of the talking, Kimberly is sombre, fingering the gold cross around her neck.

The two haven’t had a moment’s peace since February, when an Ontario couple was found with their throats expertly slashed at a Mexican resort where the two women were also staying. A day after they returned to Canada, the attorney general of the Mexican state of Quintana Roo named them as suspects—an unlikely team to perform this kind of handiwork. Kimberly is a reticent 31-year-old who was working at a hospice and finishing off a psychology degree; Cheryl was about to graduate from the MD program at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont. They seemed like decent women ensnared by a colossal mistake. Abroad they are now notorious; at home they are famous.

During my three-hour interview with the two women, Cheryl tells me the media hound her at the supermarket and stalk her on her cellphone. A filmmaker wants to shoot a film about them. She tells me that in April, while she was waiting at Toronto’s Pearson International Airport for her new beau, Bill, a man approached her and asked if she was the one accused of murder.

“Hi,” the talkative, outgoing blond recalls telling the man. “I’m Cheryl.”

I look quizzically at her when she tells me this.

“What else am I supposed to say to these people?” she says with a measure of huffy sarcasm, followed by some eye rolling. “We never asked for any of this attention, but we live with it now. It’s frightening for everyone, particularly our children.”

She tells me that recently her older daughter came across a newspaper article that >

In it together: Kimberly Kim (left) and Cheryl Everall on the shores of Lake Superior two months after they were named as suspects in the killing of an Ontario couple in Mexico.

