

PETER'S IN PAIN Mournful mob king: 'I feel an angel has been taken from me'

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A shaken Peter Gotti was grieving yesterday for his fallen "angel" - the Long Island mom who committed suicide after publicly proclaiming her love for the married mobster.

"I feel an angel has been taken from me," the crime boss told one of his lawyers after getting the news of his lover Marjorie Alexander's death.

Gotti, 64, who is behind bars at a federal lockup in Brooklyn, told visitors he was stunned that his affair with Alexander, 43, ended so tragically.

"He cared deeply for Marjorie," defense attorney Joseph DiBenedetto told the Daily News after meeting with Gotti. "This is very shocking for him."

Lawyer Donald Madeo, who is representing Gotti in his divorce from his wife of 42 years, described the former city garbageman as "deeply upset."

"He considered Marjorie to be an angel to him," Madeo said after leaving the Sunset Park lockup where Gotti is awaiting sentencing on a racketeering rap. "Over the last two years, she stood by him."

Alexander was found dead Wednesday at the Red Roof Inn in Westbury, L.I. - days after she professed her love for Gotti in interviews with The News.

Police said all signs pointed to suicide: an empty bottle of sleeping pills, the plastic bag taped over her head, "introspective" notes she mailed to family and friends, the apology and \$100 tip she left for the motel maid and a request to be cremated.

"There is no trauma to her. There's no indication of any kind of violence. There's no defense postures. There's no disarray in the room," Nassau Homicide Sgt. Richard Laursen said.

Alexander, a divorced mother of two from Rockville Centre, had a history of emotional problems and was distraught that her lover was facing up to 15 years on a racketeering rap.

In letters to the court, pleading for a federal judge to have mercy on Gotti, she said she was on the anti-depressant Prozac. Gotti defense lawyer Gerald Shargel described her as "vulnerable, depressed."

After being unmasked as Gotti's lady friend by a judge last week, Alexander also bared her soul to The News, calling Gotti her "soul mate."

Gotti apparently was not happy to see his paramour splashed on the front page. One Gotti family member suggested he might have yelled at her for breaking her silence.

"Oh, yeah, he's thrilled," Alexander told The News on Monday, her voice dripping with sarcasm, when asked about Gotti's reaction.

A short time later, Alexander apparently made the decision to take her life.

She left the home she shared with her ex-husband and two sons around 4 p.m. and checked into the motel about 90 minutes later, police said.

She booked a room for two days, requested no incoming phone calls or room service and went upstairs with an overnight bag containing toiletries and a change of clothing, cops said.

Between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m., she left the room, the electronic key log showed. Investigators believe that's when she

mailed two letters, one to a female friend and one to her family .

"The letters were introspective and personal in nature, and there was no individual or single event mentioned," Laursen said.

Alexander also scribbled a note to law enforcement on a yellow legal pad, "basically giving us instructions that she did want to do this and that she wanted to be cremated," he said.

"There was also a note left to the housekeeper apologizing to her, anticipating that she would be the one that would find her," and the \$100 tip, he said.

Then, police believe, Alexander swallowed all the pills in a vial of Flurazepam, a sedative prescribed to insomniacs.

She lay face-up on the bed, wrapped a silver-and-white plastic shopping bag around her head and secured it with duct tape - a common method of suicide among women, cops said.

Her family reported her missing the next afternoon, but Alexander's body was not discovered until 2 p.m. Wednesday, when a housekeeper trying to clean the room could not open the door.

A customer relations manager called the room but got no answer, then let himself into the room and found the corpse.