

I'm braced for fans' fury after killing Tina

Says Corrie's MARC BAYLIS

CORONATION Street star Marc Baylis fears fans' wrath after dramatic scenes last night saw his character Rob Donovan leave gutsy barmaid Tina McIntyre for dead.

Tina had become one of Weatherfield's best loved characters after more than six years on the cobbles.

But ex-con Rob furiously hurled the heartbroken brunette from the builders' yard balcony after she threatened to expose his dodgy dealings AND ruin his pregnant sister Carla's marriage.

Marc told TV Biz: "I think I will swim into work across the canal so no one can see me!"

"I will just have to take all the flack - and all the eggs - on the chin. Or I will have to find new techniques to hide away."

TV Biz revealed last year that Tina, played by Michelle Keegan, was to be killed off in an explosive storyline but the murderer's identity had been kept firmly under wraps.

Marc admits feeling "massively relieved" now the secret is out.

For months he had been bundled to filming locations in various DISGUISES so fans wouldn't rumble his key role in the plot.

He said: "We had been talking about the storyline since October. It has been a lot of hard work keeping my lips tightly sealed."

'Rob knows where to point the finger'

But this week, as Tina fights for her life in intensive care, viewers won't see Rob arrested for the attack. Instead Tina's lover, Peter Barlow (Chris Gascoyne) - who wed Rob's sister Carla in December - is questioned at the cop shop. And the police get more than a little help finding their prime suspect.

Marc told TV Biz: "Rob is not a stupid man so he knows where to point the finger, where to play the innocent and where to play different cards that will protect him and cast shadows on to other characters."

However, Rob didn't plan Tina's death and the strain of staging a break-in at her flat and appearing

normal soon takes its toll on him. At all costs, he is determined to look after his pregnant sister Carla.

Marc said: "This is the beginning of a massive new chapter for Rob so there are a lot of changes."

"The psychological effects of him not planning for this to happen are massive on him."

"It was an accident. When he went into the flat his motive wasn't to kill Tina."

And while Marc obviously doesn't agree with Rob's actions, he understands what motivates the bad boy.

He explained: "At the end of the day, Rob is trying to protect his family, trying to protect his sister Carla from finding out about this affair."

"There was a lot of things this could have been for Rob."

By JEN BLACKBURN

for taking part in an armed robbery to help his mum sort out her debts. Marc said: "The first time Rob was in prison it was through an incident he was doing to support his mother. He is doing this to protect his sister. It is history repeating itself."

However much Marc likes playing Rob, all Corrie killers get caught eventually - and Marc admits he's dreading being written out of the soap.

'It's a privilege to have been picked'

He said: "There is always going to be a bit of trepidation... from an acting point of view this is the longest job I have ever had in 15 years so it is a privilege to have had this opportunity and these experiences no matter how much longer it lasts - depending on how the storyline plays out."

It might be the beginning of the end for Weatherfield's local cash converter but Marc has no regrets.

He said: "Ultimately it is a privilege to be given a storyline like this. We have about 60 regular characters right now. To be the one picked to be a massive part of this storyline is a privilege."

And as Rob was at his happiest just before topping Tina, Marc the actor is at his happiest now. And a lot of that is down to working with Kate Ford, who plays his fiancée Tracy.

Fans have compared the duo to infamous outlaws Bonnie and Clyde and Marc is thrilled. He said: "That's something we discussed within the workplace so if that is coming across, then great."

And he hopes the popular pairing continues.

He said: "Rob realises Tracy doesn't mean some of her barbed-tongue comments. So that is why he will be like, 'Shut up Tracy'."

"Rob is with her because he has seen the other side of her that the audience hasn't necessarily seen."

"In their quiet times she has a loving side with him and it is a genuine relationship and that's why it works."

"We love working together."



CORRIE HORROR
... Rob Donovan peers over balcony after grapple with Tina, top. Above: cops swoop on Peter. Above left, a worried Rob and fiancée Tracy. Left: Carla at scene



STREET SHOCK... motionless Tina

CORONATION STREET
TV, 9pm, tonight

