

Q Is there anything you've written in your book that you think you might regret in years to come?

A These aren't things I've made up. That's what happened in my life, so I don't have any regrets about writing it. When I was asked to write it somebody said to me, "Just write about your career." I said, "How boring is that?" Surely, an autobiography is about the unknown? That's what makes it interesting. We're all nosy. You're not going to go up to someone in the street and ask, "What goes on behind closed doors at your house?" but if they wrote a book about it I'd be the first to buy it.

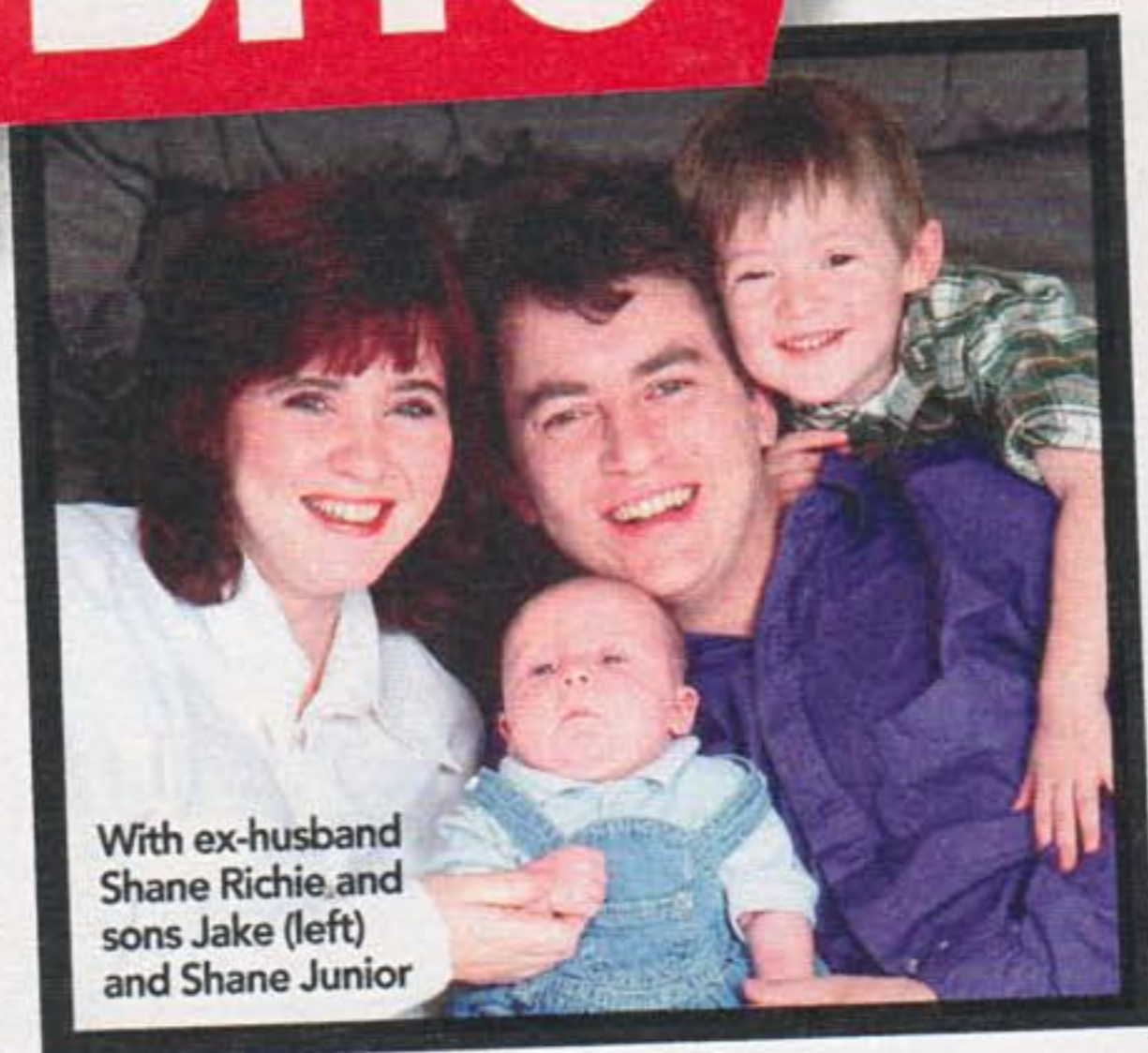
Q Who were you most worried about upsetting with your autobiography?

A I hope I haven't upset my family, but I don't think I would have written it if Mum and Dad were alive. There are things that would have upset them greatly.

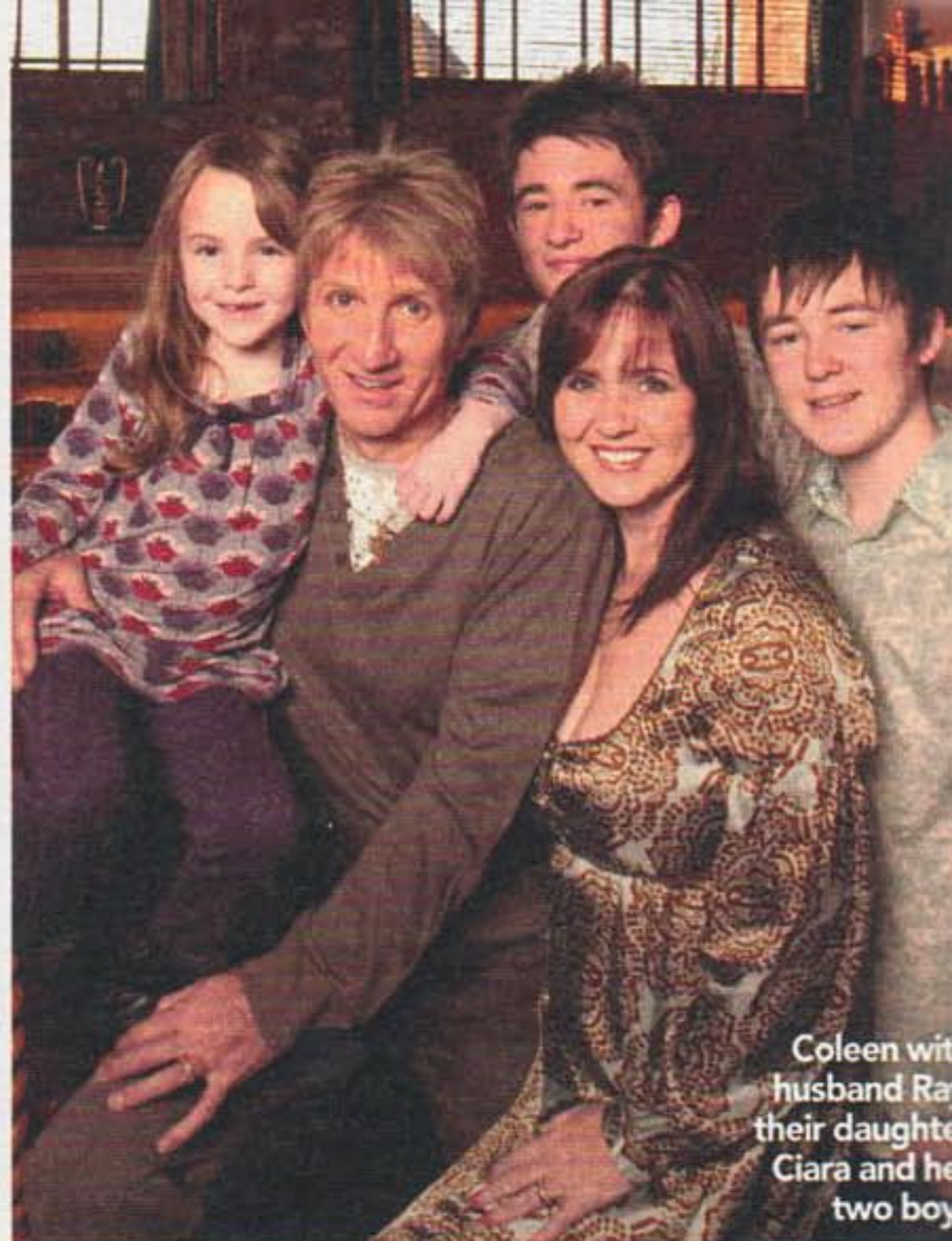
Q What's been Shane Richie's reaction to it?

A I haven't spoken to him since it's been out. When I was writing it he'd ask the boys, "Is your mum ever going to let me read this book?" The answer from me was, "No. Buy it if you're that interested, luv." What I've said in the book is the truth.

I mostly knew what was going to be in Shane's autobiography because his writer kept calling me up about things that Shane couldn't remember. Sometimes you don't want to remember stuff you've done. It's like me writing about the fling I had when Shane and I were married. There was part of me that didn't want to put that in. But I thought I have to. I can't just put in all the things where I'm hard



With ex-husband Shane Richie and sons Jake (left) and Shane Junior



Coleen with husband Rylan and their daughter Ciara and her two boys

My book backlash

Coleen Nolan's autobiography, *Upfront & Personal*, has sent shockwaves through friends and family with its candid revelations. She talks exclusively to *best* about the repercussions, and reveals her motives for writing it...

done by. I've got to put in the mistakes I've made as well.

Q Will your sons cringe when you write about you and their dad being "at it like bunny rabbits"?

A I'm sure they'll be like, "God, Mum, do you have to talk about that?" Jake was with me a lot when I was writing at the hotel after *Loose Women*. When I'd talk about sex he'd leave the room.

Q What's your reaction to people who say you should have kept the

revelation that you had a termination at age 16 quiet?

A It would have been so much easier for me to leave it out, but it happened. I've made mistakes and I've learnt from them. It's not like two years later I was having another one. That would be terrible. But it was a huge thing in my life at the time.

Q How did you feel seeing headlines splashed across the papers about *My drunken, violent dad*?

A Reading that headline did upset me because that is

just one tiny piece of the story blown up. When I saw that I thought, 'Oh my God, my family are going to be so upset.' I haven't had any calls from them. I don't know which I'm more worried about - being bombarded with calls or not having any calls at all.

Some people who have read my autobiography have said that although I say these things about how my dad behaved when I was younger, it also comes across in the book just how much I loved him. And I did. It was just in those early years that he drank.



Q After you discovered that your sister Anne had been abused by your dad, you say your first reaction was to ask yourself, 'Why didn't he do it to me?' Was that hard to write?

A It was such a shocking thing to feel. I was quite disgusted at myself even thinking that, and yet that was my initial thought. It was a really confusing thought. It wasn't that I wanted him to do it to me. It's just that kid thing of, do you not love me as much? I haven't had a response from any abuse victims since I wrote that, but I would be interested to hear if that's a common reaction.

Q What does your husband Ray think of the book?

A There were bits of it that he found difficult to read. It's hard for men. It doesn't bother me about Ray's past relationships because it's long before he met me, but I think with a man

there's an ego that comes into it. There were bits where Ray was like, "I really don't want you going on about how gorgeous this guy was." I just replied, "Well, tough - he was gorgeous. Get over it!"

Q You reveal that you've fallen out with your sisters Anne and Denise. Is this book an olive branch to mend that family break-up?

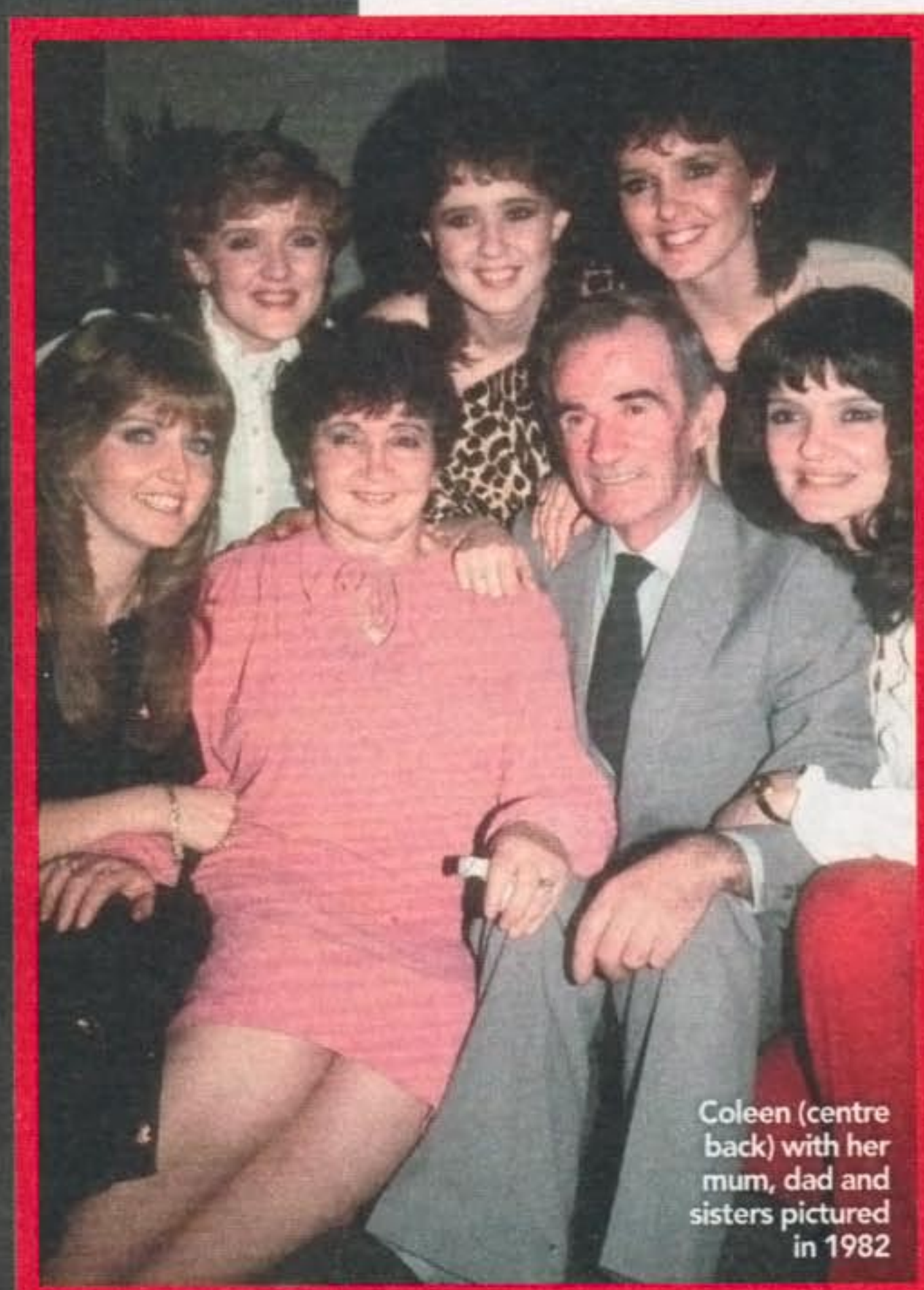
A I don't think the book is an actual olive branch. Ray and I still need an apology from them, and they won't give one. Initially, it was just a small row between Ray and Anne. Ray just said it made him sad that Anne's daughters weren't making the most out of their singing talents. But then other people got involved and now it's escalated into a whole family feud. Denise, especially, has said things that I don't know how you move on from. They weren't all said in anger either.

It's so ridiculous, it's almost funny. But to be fair, Ray has almost had a nervous breakdown over the whole thing. He said, "It feels like I'm on death row and I'm getting closer to the chamber and nobody's listening to me." The wedding nearly didn't happen because of it. Now I just think that Ray and my kids are my immediate family, and I can't let this feud destroy what we have. We've walked away from it and we're so much happier now.

Q Will you be writing a volume two?

A No, there won't be a volume two coming along in the future. I feel that I've done it, it's out there and I can have closure on so many things because of it. Now I can get up to all sorts of things, because I know that I'm never going to have to write about it again!

Paul Simper



Coleen (centre back) with her mum, dad and sisters pictured in 1982

★ Coleen Nolan
Upfront &
Personal
(Sidgwick &
Jackson, £16.99)
is out now

