



Name: Orla Ward
Age: early 40's
Stats: 5' 6" 133lbs
Hair: Auburn thick/long
Eyes: Brown

Background:

Born 9 miles outside of Cork, in a small village of Upper Cloghroe not far from Blarney Castle, with one school and two pubs; a grass track as a main road, where a visit to the big city was an adventure. She was born to Catholic parents and was surrounded by her extended family of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins in the village .

When not attending Sproid Naomh primary school, she spent most of her time outdoors, usually with the neighbours children, all piling into her garden to play rounders, tip the can, chasing, hide and seek, climbing trees and competing with boys. A lot of activities revolved around the farming community e.g. building forts with bales, silage pit games and hiding in maize fields. It was in these formative years that a passion for motorbikes grew, and she learnt not only how to ride but also to strip them down with speed and efficiency.

After primary school her family moved to England when she passed the eleven plus entrance exam to get a place at Rose Hill Road Grammar School in Birmingham.

From school she joined the WRENS, before applying for selection at the 14th Intelligence Company (or the DET as it is colloquially known). She had been trained by the best of the best in the Det, and then the SRR. She had survived because of her observational abilities, noticing when something was amiss or out of the ordinary. As an Irish Catholic, she had been an unusual recruit into the DET and she specialised in Undercover Surveillance and Close Quarter Battle (CQB).

Orla is a quiet and softly spoken woman, which belies her determination, bravery and tenacity to see a job through – at all costs. She has a natural Celtic beauty of which she seems totally unaware – turning heads whether in combats or evening dress.

It was while on selection at The Det she started a secret affair with Don Ward who was part of the Directing Staff. They seemed an unlikely couple, but Orla was attracted to Don's intellect and his laissez-faire attitude that was the complete opposite to her own modus operandi. They had both risked everything because not only was Don married, but any sort of relationship between the DS and the recruits was forbidden. Don introduced Orla to Rufus and the friendship grew out of mutual respect and admiration for seeing a task through to successful completion. Don and Orla married whilst on holiday in St Lucia with Rufus Stone and Steve Hessayon (a close friend and CIA agent) as their witnesses.

Joining Don and Rufus at 22Red was an obvious move as her expertise in surveillance is a natural compliment to the skill set.