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Accused weeps over lover's last moments

ANGEL LAU

A socialite accused of stabbing her lover to death wept in court yesterday as she recalled his last moments and how she had begged him not to die.

Fashion designer Maria Remedios Coady, 43, said Gregoire Daniel Weil had been drinking heavily during a night out together.

They returned to their Wan Chai flat and Coady went to bed while Weil stayed in the living room.

She said she was awakened by a loud noise and found Weil, 42, slumped in an armchair and bleeding from a stomach wound.

"I was talking to him all the time - don't die, don't die," she told the Court of First Instance.

She said Weil's last words were: "Don't forget, I love you. I love you."

Coady, on the witness stand for the second day, started sobbing and said: "These were the last words he said to me."

She then composed herself and recalled her state of confusion at the time: "Everything was just dark. I was shocked."

She said it took her some time to call the emergency services because she did not know the number. She dialed 111, 222, and so on until she reached 999.

She was confused and could not remember the faces of the police officers or ambulancemen who arrived at the flat, she said. If she had said anything to them she could not remember it, the court was told.

The couple were taken to hospital and Coady was told Weil had only a few hours to live.

I was talking to him all the time - don't die, don't die

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She denies murdering Weil on December 20, 1997, and claims he inflicted the fatal wounds himself.

"I was very sad, very sad . . . He was like a member of my family. He was like my brother," she said before shedding tears a second time.

On Monday, she told the court Weil was an alcoholic and drug addict. They had lived together in Geneva where Coady testified that Weil started to become violent.

The couple continued their relationship in Hong Kong after arriving separately in 1997.

The trial continues before Mrs Justice Verina Bokhary this morning.



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