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| **Stephen Hawking**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Stephen William Hawking was born on 8 January 1942 (300 years after the death of Galileo) in Oxford, England. His parents' house was in north London, but during the second world war, Oxford was considered a safer place to have babies. When he was eight, his family moved to St. Albans, a town about 20 miles north of London. At the age of eleven, Stephen went to St. Albans School and then on to University College, Oxford; his father's old college. Stephen wanted to study Mathematics, although his father would have preferred medicine. Mathematics was not available at University College, so he pursued Physics instead. After three years and not very much work, he was awarded a first class honours degree in Natural Science. | Picture | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | |

Stephen then went on to Cambridge to do research in Cosmology, there being no one working in that area in Oxford at the time. His supervisor was Denis Sciama, although he had hoped to get Fred Hoyle who was working in Cambridge. After gaining his Ph.D. he became first a Research Fellow and later on a Professorial Fellow at Gonville and Caius College. After leaving the Institute of Astronomy in 1973, Stephen came to the Department of Applied Mathematics & Theoretical Physics in 1979 in Cambridge, England. He held the post of Lucasian Professor of Mathematics from 1979 until 2009. The chair was founded in 1663 with money left in the will of the Reverend Henry Lucas, a Member of Parliament, for the University. That post was first held by Isaac Barrow, but in 1669 by **Isaac Newton**.  Stephen is still an active part of Cambridge University and retains an office at the [Department for Applied Maths and Theoretical Physics](http://www.damtp.cam.ac.uk/). His title is now the Dennis Stanton Avery and Sally Tsui Wong-Avery Director of Research at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics.   
  
**Stephen Hawking has worked on the basic laws which govern the universe. With Roger Penrose he showed that Einstein's General Theory of Relativity implied space and time would have a beginning in the Big Bang and an end in black holes.** These results indicated that it was necessary to unify General Relativity with Quantum Theory, the other great Scientific development of the first half of the 20th Century. One consequence of such a unification that he discovered was that black holes should not be completely black, but rather should emit radiation and eventually evaporate and disappear. Another conjecture is that the universe has no edge or boundary in imaginary time. This would imply that the way the universe began was completely determined by the laws of science.  
  
His many publications include The Large Scale Structure of Spacetime with G F R Ellis, General Relativity: An Einstein Centenary Survey, with W Israel, and 300 Years of Gravity, with W Israel. Among the popular books Stephen Hawking has published are his best seller A Brief History of Time, Black Holes and Baby Universes and Other Essays, The Universe in a Nutshell, The Grand Design and My Brief History.   
  
Professor Hawking has twelve honorary degrees. He was awarded the CBE in 1982, and was made a Companion of Honour in 1989. He is the recipient of many awards, medals and prizes, is a Fellow of The Royal Society and a Member of the US National Academy of Sciences.   
  
Stephen was diagnosed with ALS, a form of Motor Neurone Disease, shortly after his 21st birthday. In spite of being wheelchair bound and dependent on a computerised voice system for communication Stephen Hawking continues to combine family life (he has three children and three grandchildren), and his research into theoretical physics together with an extensive programme of travel and public lectures. He still hopes to make it into space one day.

**Stephen William Hawking** [CH](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Companion_of_Honour) [CBE](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commander_of_the_Order_of_the_British_Empire) [FRS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fellow_of_the_Royal_Society) [FRSA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fellow_of_the_Royal_Society_for_the_encouragement_of_Arts,_Manufactures_and_Commerce) is an English [theoretical physicist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theoretical_physics), [cosmologist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosmologist), author and Director of Research at the [Centre for Theoretical Cosmology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centre_for_Theoretical_Cosmology) within the [University of Cambridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Cambridge).Among his significant scientific works have been a collaboration with [Roger Penrose](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Penrose) on [gravitational singularity theorems](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penrose%E2%80%93Hawking_singularity_theorems) in the framework of [general relativity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_relativity), and the theoretical prediction that [black holes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_hole)emit radiation, often called [Hawking radiation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawking_radiation). Hawking was the first to set forth a [cosmology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosmology) explained by a union of the [general theory of relativity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_relativity) and [quantum mechanics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_mechanics). He is a vigorous supporter of the [many-worlds interpretation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Many-worlds_interpretation) of quantum mechanics.

Hawking is an [Honorary Fellow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honorary_Fellow) of the [Royal Society of Arts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Society_for_the_encouragement_of_Arts,_Manufactures_%26_Commerce), a lifetime member of the [Pontifical Academy of Sciences](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pontifical_Academy_of_Sciences), and a recipient of the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_Medal_of_Freedom), the highest civilian award in the United States. Hawking was the [Lucasian Professor of Mathematics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucasian_Professor_of_Mathematics) at the University of Cambridge in England between 1979 and 2009.

Hawking has achieved success with works of [popular science](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Popular_science) in which he discusses his own theories and cosmology in general; his [*A Brief History of Time*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Brief_History_of_Time)stayed on the British [*Sunday Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sunday_Times) best-sellers list for a record-breaking 237 weeks.

Hawking has a [motor neuron disease](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motor_neuron_disease) related to [amyotrophic lateral sclerosis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amyotrophic_lateral_sclerosis) (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's Disease, a condition that has progressed over the years. He is almost entirely paralysed and communicates through a [speech-generating device](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speech-generating_device). He married twice and has three children.

**Brief History of his first Marriage** Jane Hawking was devoted to her first husband Stephen until he left her for his nurse. Her view of where the marriage went wrong:

A few weeks ago a little package of time past was posted through the door of Jane Hawking's neat detached house on the edge of Cambridge. It contained a video of the BBC's forthcoming dramatisation of the courtship and marriage of Jane and her first husband Stephen Hawking in 1963, when sexual intercourse had just been invented. She had been involved in the early stages of making the film, which is based in part on her book about their marriage, but still so far she has only managed to 'watch a few bits of it'. She can't, she says, quite bring herself to sit through the whole thing, 'given what's gone on'.

That 'given what's gone on' could take in any number of things from the 40 years since the events the film describes. It could refer to ways in which that early romance eventually hardened into something complicated and angry. It could include a reference to the acrimonious separation and divorce that followed, when Stephen left to live with his nurse, now his second wife, Elaine Mason, and Jane married her choirmaster and long-time family friend Jonathan Hellyer Jones.

But specifically it seems an allusion to the recent months of headlines and anxiety that have focused on the police investigation into alleged mistreatment of Hawking, who was left out in the sun in his wheelchair on the hottest day of last summer, suffering severe sunstroke to add to the cuts and bruises reported by nursing staff. In January Jane Hawking was saying: 'The police can't be allowed to drop the investigation.' Last week, though, the police dropped the case, moved apparently by Stephen Hawking's refusal to make any complaint. The nurses who made the allegations are no longer employed by the scientist and his wife. And Jane Hawking, who seems slightly in a state of shock about the turn of events, is quietly adamant, 'for legal reasons', that she does not want to go over that ground at all in this interview, so we sit in her conservatory and talk about that bit of time past.

'Last September I went over to watch some of the BBC filming taking place in Trinity Hall,' she says. 'And they were doing a good job. I was very impressed, overwhelmed in fact at the sight of all these huge vans and hundreds of people blocking up the streets of Cambridge, for what exactly? For this drama about these two years in the lives of Stephen and me.'

Jane Hawking is precise and bright, but as she talks about these things she can't help but give the impression that her life with Hawking has left her a legacy of deep regret and, though she tries to hide it, of bitterness. The film is dominated by the brilliant physical impression Benedict Cummerbatch gives of Stephen. 'It was uncanny,' Jane says. 'He'd worked so hard in researching the exact progression of motor neurone disease. It brought back that period so very strongly.' She smiles a little. 'I think the young lady playing me, however, was much more feisty than ever I was. I was always extremely determined but I was also quite timid. So in that sense many of the things that appear in the film are not quite historically accurate.'

What the drama does capture is the extraordinary optimism that she and her young husband found with each other. He was just 21 when they met, trying to find a subject to direct his brilliant mathematical intelligence towards. Almost immediately after they got together he discovered that he was gravely ill, and not long after that, that he had only a couple of years at best to live. 'That is what should be most important about the film,' she says. 'That sense we had that, despite it all, everything was going to be possible. That Stephen was going to do his physics, and we were going to raise a wonderful family and have a nice house and live happily ever after.'

Certainly, as the film shows, she went into their marriage knowing the worst was almost certainly around the corner. 'Yes, but at that stage I did not want to think about that. Also, we had this very strong sense at the time that our generation lived anyway under this most awful nuclear cloud - that with a four-minute warning the world itself could likely end. That made us feel above all that we had to do our bit, that we had to follow an idealistic course in life. That may seem naive now, but that was exactly the spirit in which Stephen and I set out in the Sixties - to make the most of whatever gifts were given us.'

Jane took much of her dramatic hope at the time from her faith, and still sees something of the irony in the fact that her Christianity gave her the strength to support her husband, the most profound atheist. 'Stephen, I hope, had belief in me that I could make everything possible for him, but he did not share my religious - or spiritual - faith.'

The story of Stephen Hawking's survival in those years, and his triumphant inquiry into the origins of the universe, was, in many ways, as she recalls it, the result of a spectacular fission of their opposed philosophies. 'Stephen's belief was that if you were free to do your absolute best work you would be rewarded. My belief was that if you gave all of yourself, to what you believed was right, then that would be enough.'

I wonder, given all that has gone on, and all that continues to go on, if it is possible for her to separate how he was then from how he is now.

'

Yes I can. I can remember vividly the euphoric sense we had about us, that we were doing something exceptional. Once I had written my book, Music to Move the Stars, and I had exorcised some of the worst times; now I feel I can get back to that.'

The worst times, which her book detailed, revealed the way in which her husband, in her terms, became remote and impossible, an 'all-powerful emperor' and a 'masterly puppeteer', making a good deal of their life together a misery. Given Hawking's almost saintly public profile it is odd to have to face this portrait of him. Most difficult perhaps is the assertion that he could not begin to come to terms with his illness.

'All along I suppose I tried to imagine his feelings,' Jane says, 'because he would never ever talk about how he felt - he would never mention his illness. It was as if it did not exist.'

This refusal, she suggests, also prevented him from taking any palliative steps that might have made their early marriage a little easier. 'I had two tiny babies, I was running the home and looking after Stephen full time: dressing, bathing, and he refused to have any help with that other than from me. I thought that to coerce him into taking these measures would have been too cruel.

One of the great battles was getting Stephen to use a wheelchair. I'd be going out with Stephen on one arm, carrying the baby in the other, and the toddler running alongside. Well it was hopeless because the toddler would run off and I would be unable to chase. So that kind of thing made life rather impossible.'

That refusal to countenance the disease, does she think it has helped him survive it?

She says she is not sure about that and mentions instead recent research which suggests that 'it seems motor neurone disease does far more damage to the parts of the brain that concern emotional reactions and conscience and personality than was ever thought, in some patients anyway'.

Things, for her, went from bad to worse after the publication of A Brief History of Time. 'Fame and fortune muddied the waters,' she says, 'and really took him way out of the orbit of our family.' Just before their marriage broke down after 26 years she revealed to a journalist that her role with her husband no longer consisted of promoting his success but of 'telling him that he was not God'.

Does she still feel it was like that? 'Certainly that he felt he was omnipotent, you might say.'

In response, not surprisingly, Jane Hawking felt she had to create a life of her own. 'Living here in Cambridge you had to have an identity. It was not enough to be a wife. So I did a PhD in medieval Spanish poetry. Stephen did not have too much time for that. I guess when you are thinking about the origins of the universe these things do not matter much. But I still find it all absolutely enchanting. It hasn't led to a career, of course, although I have done some sixth form teaching, and some university teaching, and in a sense the frustration is greater now than it ever was because I feel I have had a great deal to offer but I have nowhere now to go.'

She continues to find, she says, several times, great love and support and happiness from her second husband and the three children she had with Stephen. 'Without Jonathan, I would have gone under,' she wrote in her book. 'I would have been at the bottom of the river or in a mental institution.'

Does she still see Stephen? 'I used to see him. I never set foot in his house, of course - that is very much forbidden territory. But I used to go and see him in his office, and we used to have a good time, talking about the children and then about William, our grandchild. But I don't even know now whether he is in hospital [where he has recently been treated for pneumonia] or back at home. The children don't know either. So that,' she says sadly, 'is where we are.'

Does she feel she will ever be able properly to start the new life she promised herself?

'Well of course I don't think any of the past will go away. The thing is, with me and Stephen for many years I put every spoon of food into his mouth, dressed him and bathed him. You do not forget that experience.'

Still, the idea of her writing her book five years ago was to get it all out and hopefully be able to get on with things. She laughs bleakly at the idea. 'I thought it was terribly important to document that life with Stephen. I did not want someone coming along in 50 or 100 years, inventing our lives. Already that has begun to happen a bit with this film, but at least I think it is true to the spirit of it.'

That spirit, of a young couple lying on their backs on the green grass of Cambridge, looking up at the stars, is no doubt hard to reconcile with the reality of the 40 years that have followed, and that is what Jane Hawking lives with, the extraordinary ways in which their dreams went right and wrong. 'We were,' she says, 'great ones for taking a chance on life, I suppose.'

**Nurse claims Hawking's wife 'is abusing him'**

A nurse who cared for Professor Stephen Hawking claimed last night that she saw his wife abusing and mistreating him.Elaine Hawking called her disabled 62-year-old husband a cripple, bathed him in water that was too hot and allowed him to wet himself, it was alleged.

The nurse was reported as saying: "She gets angry and has thrown him on the bed where he kicks his limbs or hurts himself. She allowed him to slip down low in the bath so the water goes in the hole in his throat.

"She has left him in the garden without his computer mouse so he cannot talk and call for anyone. She gives him lots of verbal abuse and calls him a cripple and an invalid, which depresses him.

"She would withhold the bottle he used to go to the toilet so he wet himself, which he does not like because he is a very dignified person and a very private person. The verbal abuse is unbelievable. Her mouth is like a sewer. We (his nurses) got so used to it we forgot it was not normal behaviour.

"She throws things around the kitchen to frighten people and has temper tantrums.

"During one visit to hospital she was asked to leave because she was throwing things around."

**Statement given by nurse**

The nurse, who spoke to The Times on condition of anonymity, is one of ten former carers of Professor Hawking said to have been interviewed by police investigating claims of assault against him.

Professor Hawking, who became a global figure after writing his best-selling book A Brief History of Time, was struck down by motor neurone disease at the age of 20. It left him paralysed and only able to speak through a computerised voice box.

The nurse is reported to have given one statement to police about a specific alleged attack and will speak again to detectives next week. She said other nurses were ready to echo her allegations. She claimed Professor Hawking was in denial about the alleged assaults. Elaine Hawking is the professor's second wife and one of his former carers.

**Abuse 'despicable' says son**

Professor Hawking's 24-year-old son by his first wife Jane said yesterday he felt certain his stepmother was behind a string of alleged assaults on the academic. Tim Hawking described his father's alleged abuse as "completely despicable and unacceptable".He added: "I believe quite strongly that it's true, based on what I have been privy to in the past. "It makes me feel sick, as I'm sure anyone would be in my position. I feel completely helpless. He denies it every time I speak to him and I would hope he would respect me enough to tell me the truth." Tim's mother Jane said: "The situation is far worse than any of us imagined." Cambridgeshire Police confirmed they will be speaking to a nurse about allegations of assault on the academic.

**Professor 'left with broken bones'**

In a report in the Daily Mirror, a nurse alleged: "We all witnessed assaults. Everyone was in fear of the woman and in fear of causing problems for Stephen." She claimed the professor had been left with gashes, broken bones and bruises.

Four years ago police decided to take no further action over claims that he was being assaulted after speaking to him at his Cambridge home. A second investigation was launched towards the end of last year. He has issued a statement from Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge where he is being treated for pneumonia, denying he has been attacked.

**Stephen Hawking to divorce second wife**

19 October 2006

Professor Stephen Hawking and his wife Elaine are to divorce.

Mrs Hawking, 55, has already moved out of the home she shared with the world's most famous scientist, and divorce papers have been lodged by both parties at Cambridge County Court.

Their 11-year marriage has been dogged by allegations that Elaine physically abused her wheelchair-bound husband, who has suffered from motor neurone disease since he was 22.

Police have twice launched criminal investigations into how Prof Hawking, 64, received unexplained injuries, including broken bones, but on both occasions he was unwilling to say how he had been harmed and the inquiries had to be dropped.

Both he and Elaine have publicly denied in the past that she had hurt him. The grounds for the divorce remained a mystery yesterday, with neither party prepared to comment, but sources close to the couple said the decision to separate was 'mutual'.

Mrs Hawking could be in line for a seven-figure payout from Prof Hawking's estimated £5million fortune, largely built up from the success of his 1988 book A Brief History of Time, which sold 10 million copies.

Yesterday she cycled to Prof Hawking's large detached home in Cambridge, where she was understood to have attended a meeting with solicitors handling the divorce.

Prof Hawking later left the house with his carers for a medical appointment at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

A source close to the family said: "Yes, they are getting divorced. It was a mutual decision and no-one else is involved.

"Elaine has moved out of the house and it is all in the hands of the solicitors." Prof Hawking, who is Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University, divorced his first wife Jane Wilde in 1990 after 26 years of marriage. They had three children, Robert, 39, Lucy, 36, and Timothy, 27.

In 1995 he wed Elaine Mason, a long-serving carer of his, whose ex-husband David had designed the electronic voice synthesiser which Prof Hawking relies on to communicate.

Jane Hawking later claimed that Elaine had deliberately driven a wedge between her and her husband, while friends claimed the nurse effectively 'brainwashed' her charge.

**In November 2000 a police investigation was launched after Prof Hawking made a number of visits to the accident and emergency department of Addenbrooke's, with injuries including a broken arm, a broken wrist, a gashed face, black eyes and a torn lip.**

Prof Hawking declined to explain exactly how his injuries had come about, except to say that on one occasion he had fallen out of his wheelchair after colliding with a wall. The investigation fizzled out, but in August 2003 another was launched after his daughter Lucy phoned police. He had been left outside in his wheelchair for so long that he suffered severe heatstroke and sunburn, and had also suffered more unexplained bumps and bruises. Once again, Prof Hawking refused to make a complaint to police.

Lucy Hawking later said that she believed it was Elaine who had broken her father's wrist in 2000 and suggested Elaine had only married Prof Hawking in the hope of inheriting his money.

In 2004 Prof Hawking's former personal assistant Sue Masey described Elaine as 'a monster' and said she quit her job because "I could no longer carry on without feeling that I was colluding in what was happening".

Another former carer claimed new nurses were subjected to a bizarre 'initiation' by Elaine, in which they were called to the bedroom to find Prof Hawking and his naked wife having sex. This was, said the carer, "to make it clear that they had a sexual relationship" despite his chronic disability.

A team of nurses who give him round-the-clock care are required to sign a confidentiality agreement, giving an air of secrecy to the goings-on inside the Hawking family home.

Asked whether Prof Hawking would be making any comment on his divorce, his secretary Judith Croasdell said: "He is far too busy. This is just a distraction which is really annoying. We don't have any time for any of this. "We have no interest in any of the gossip that is going on." His youngest son Timothy said: '"t's not really my business to discuss - I'm not the one getting divorced."

Despite his disability, Prof Hawking, who is the world's longest suffering survivor of motor neurone disease, regularly lectures at Cambridge University and travels the world delivering lectures.

Last year, because of a further deterioration in his health, he lost the ability to control his computer with a hand-operated switch, and he now controls it by blinking.

**Hawking and second wife agree to divorce**



Stephen and Elaine Hawking on their wedding day in 1995

20 Oct 2006

Prof Stephen Hawking is to divorce for a second time. Papers have been lodged at Cambridge county court to end the 11-year marriage of the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University to Elaine Hawking, 55. It is understood that the couple both want to divorce following the breakdown of the marriage.

The author of the best-selling A Brief History of Time was said to be "too busy" to comment yesterday on the end of the marriage to the woman whose first husband invented the voice synthesiser that he uses.

"This is just a distraction, which is really annoying," Judith Croadsell, his secretary, said of the divorce. "We don't have time for any of this."

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**Hawking's nurses questioned over 'assaults'**

20 Jan 2004

A second inquiry has been launched into alleged assaults on the scientist Stephen Hawking. Four years ago detectives investigated claims that the Lucasian professor of mathematics at Cambridge had suffered similar attacks, resulting in minor cuts and bruising. But the inquiry was dropped after the millionaire scientist declined to discuss the matter with them.

Now a similar investigation by police is underway following an allegation that Prof Hawking, 62, who has suffered from motor neurone disease for the past 40 years, had been assaulted at his Cambridge home.

Detectives have interviewed nursing staff who provide him with 24-hour care but have yet to speak to Prof Hawking or his second wife, Elaine.

"It is one thing to receive a complaint of assault," a police source said yesterday, "but quite another to try to prove it if the alleged victim even refuses to substantiate that it has happened. Sometimes the very fact that the police are investigating can help resolve matters."

# Hawking defends his wife after assault claims

24 Jan 2004

Stephen Hawking defended his wife last night at the end of a week of claims that the renowned scientist had been repeatedly assaulted in his own home. In a defiant statement issued by Prof Hawking from his bed at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, the crippled physicist described reports that he had been attacked as "completely false" and said he owed his life to his current wife, Elaine. "I firmly and wholeheartedly reject the allegations that I have been assaulted," he said. "The stories in the media are completely false and I am profoundly disappointed by the circulation of such personal and inaccurate information.

"My wife and I love each other very much and it is only because of her that I am alive today. I request that the media respect my privacy and allow me to focus on recovering from my illness." It was the second statement that Prof Hawking, 62, who has been in hospital for the past month with a lung infection, had issued after police confirmed that they had opened an investigation into the alleged assaults.

[**Hawking's nurses quizzed**](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1452121/Hawkings-nurses-questioned-over-assaults.html)

20 Jan 2004

The current police inquiry will continue though it was conceded yesterday that it was being hampered by "misplaced loyalty" to the scientist, who has motor neurone disease. Though former members of his nursing team have come forward this week, alleging that they have witnessed assaults on him, detectives have encountered a reluctance by many others connected to Prof Hawking to speak.

A source close to the inquiry revealed that the current investigation, the second in four years, had been going on for more than four months and that current and former employees and nurses, who care for Prof Hawking 24 hours a day, had been interviewed. The source added: "The problem is that Prof Hawking generates a terrific loyalty among those who surround him. In this case, it is a misplaced loyalty as all the investigation is aimed at doing is ensuring he suffers no harm.

"But the fact that he himself denies being the victim of any assaults results in others denying it, too. Prof Hawking defends his privacy fiercely and he has influential friends who can also put pressure on."

Even the nurse who reported to police in the summer an allegation that he had been virtually abandoned in his wheelchair in the scorching sun, unable to summon help and suffering painful sunburn, later attempted to withdraw her complaint.

Nevertheless, the pace of the inquiry is likely to speed up next week when police will interview at least one former nurse who claims to have seen the Cambridge University professor attacked.

Tim Hawking, 24, the physicist's youngest son from his first marriage, said his father had repeatedly assured him that the stories of maltreatment were false.

[**Brief history of a bad time**](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1452515/Is-this-the-brief-history-of-a-troubled-marriage.html)

25 Jan 2004

# Is this the brief history of a troubled marriage? Over the past week, Stephen Hawking has strenuously denied that he has been the victim of regular beatings, but as police confirm that they want to interview him 'alone', family and friends are urging him to tell all.

They were the loving words of a loyal and, seemingly, devoted husband: an apparently resolute assurance that his wife, for whom he had given up so much, was guilty only of dedicating herself to his welfare.

Frail from a bout of pneumonia Prof Stephen Hawking, one of Britain's most formidable intellects and a man who has overcome enormous physical disabilities to amass a £10 million fortune, spoke slowly and deliberately. His trademark synthesised tones masking the emotion he must have felt, Prof Hawking gazed steadfastly ahead and said slowly and deliberately: "My wife and I love each other very much, and it is only because of her that I am alive today.

"I am profoundly disappointed by the circulation of such personal and inaccurate information. I firmly and wholeheartedly reject the allegations that I have been assaulted."

For a man who, though feted as possibly the world's most famous living scientist, must rely on others to help him perform even basic human functions, it must surely have been the final indignity: to be forced to deny that he is a battered husband, to deny that such is his vulnerability that, allegedly, he can do nothing to defend himself from a daily violent onslaught.

Although Prof Hawking's renown relies solely on his cerebral superiority, as a man it must, nonetheless, be the cause of considerable humiliation to him that he is deemed so frail as to be unable to defend himself against a female assailant. "And perhaps it was that, the very indignity of it, that has made him so insistent that Elaine is not assaulting him," an acquaintance of the professor's said yesterday.

Shaking his head as he looked at the pile of recent newspaper clippings on his desk - each one alleging that Elaine, 53, Prof Hawking's second wife, has systematically and brutally beaten, bullied, humiliated and degraded the eminent scientist since they married eight years ago - he grimaces. "This isn't easy to say of a friend, but someone with Stephen's brilliance must, inevitably, also possess an element of arrogance. Stephen has always striven against the odds - both physically and intellectually. "When he makes a decision he becomes single-minded about it, about convincing the world of its validity. And so, I feel, it is with Elaine: having made his bed - against much advice - I believe he feels he must lie in it. And lie in it without complaint**. For a man like Stephen Hawking to admit that he has made a big, big mistake would be the ultimate humiliation."**

Several of Prof Hawking's friends, some of whom have known him more than 20 years, say they cautioned him that Elaine, his former nurse, may not always have had his best interests at heart. "Let's say Elaine was never one to ignore opportunities in life," one says.

Whatever his private thoughts, Prof Hawking, 62, denies utterly any suggestion that his catalogue of injuries over the past few years were inflicted upon him by his current wife: he insists that behind the closed doors of his luxurious Cambridge home there exists an idyll of domestic harmony. The scientist and author who has 12 honorary degrees and holds a CBE has, time after time, defended his wife saying she has done no wrong.

It is not, however, the picture portrayed by scores of others - from family, friends and **no less than 10 nurses who have come forward in the past week to allege that the second Mrs Hawking is vicious, violent and verbally abusive to her husband.**

So persistent have been their claims that, for the second time in three years, police are investigating just why Prof Hawking, since his remarriage, has turned up at his local accident and emergency unit suffering from so many unexplained broken bones, gashes and severe bruisings. He has consistently refused to say how he came to suffer the injuries or to be interviewed by police.

Silence, however, may no longer be enough to stave off an investigation. Yesterday officers confirmed that they intend to speak to the professor "alone, and without his wife present" this week, and that they will also be questioning Elaine.

For his first family - Jane, his wife of 26 years, and their children Robert, 37, Lucy, 31, and Tim, 24 - the allegations have been devastating. **This week they have listened to former nurses allege that their father's second wife fractured his wrist by slamming it on to his wheelchair; humiliated him by refusing him access to a urine bottle, leaving him to wet himself; gashed his cheek with a razor; allowed him to slip beneath the water while in a bath, ensuring water entered the tracheotomy site in his throat; and left him alone in his garden during the hottest day of the year for so long that he suffered from heatstroke and severe sunburn.**

For Jane, who met the professor when he was a 22-year-old cosmology research student and she was two years younger and studying languages, the thought of her ex-husband suffering injury at the hands of another, after his courageous battle against illness, is unbearable.

Prof Hawking had already been diagnosed with motor neurone disease and given only 14 months to live when she married him in 1964. It was considered a happy marriage until, in 1985, Prof Hawking underwent a tracheotomy which left him unable to breathe unaided and in need of round-the-clock care.

Elaine Mason - the wife of David Mason, the engineer who created the computer-generated voice box which enabled him to communicate in his instantly recognisable robotic tones - was appointed as his nurse and, according to family friends, she immediately set about ingratiating herself with the professor.

Slowly, she won his approval and then his affections. **Over time, she convinced him that she, and she alone, had his best interests at heart. He, in turn, became infatuated with her.** "It was," one friend recalls, "as though he was enthralled by her. Elaine, in his eyes, could do no wrong. No matter how suspicious of her motives we were, to Stephen she was an angel."

Soon Elaine was accompanying him on foreign trips and when his book A Brief History of Time became a bestseller in 1988, she seldom left his side during his gruelling lecture tours. Before long Jane became suspicious of the pair's relationship. At the time she told a close friend of how, when he was abroad, she phoned her husband, only to be told by Elaine: "How dare you call. This is my personal time with Stephen."

Although Jane was having an affair with Jonathan Hellyer Jones, a choirmaster to whom she is now married, she was, nonetheless, devastated when her husband announced he was divorcing her and intended to marry Elaine. Jane remarried two years later, in 1977, but maintained her friendship with her former husband for the sake of their three children.

Jane first became aware of allegations that Prof Hawking was being assaulted three years ago but has been shocked by the news, last week, that the attacks have been going on for almost eight years. The most recent allegations have come from one nurse who cared for Prof Hawking for several years. The professor, she claims, has been terrified of his wife for some years. "Once, when I was on duty he motioned for me to come over to his computer and typed on it the words, 'I cannot be left alone with her . . . can you get someone to help cover the shift?' " She was in no doubt that he was referring to his wife.

"He insisted on many, many occasions that we should get extra staff if he knew there was the slightest possibility that he would be left alone with Elaine," she says. Another nurse, who spent several years with the family, told how, on one occasion, Elaine bumped her husband's wheelchair down the staircase shouting, "You thicko," at him.

She claims, too, that she witnessed Elaine shaving the professor. "He winced in pain when she left a three-inch gash across his face," she says. "She calls him a cripple and an invalid, which depresses him. The verbal abuse is unbelievable.. We nurses became so accustomed to it that in the end we forgot it was not normal behaviour.

"She would tell him no one cared about him. She is a very strong woman and can pick him up by herself. She does that a lot, and she can be very rough. It was all about humiliation, verbal abuse and rough handling. She would lift him up then drop him heavily into his chair. If I stepped in to help she would scream: 'Get away.' "

Jane and her children have begged the professor to reveal the name of his tormentor but each time he has insisted his injuries were the result of accidents. Though they spoke to police three years ago when Prof Hawking was admitted to hospital with a broken arm, a broken wrist, black eyes, facial cuts and a torn lip, their concerns could not be investigated because the professor insisted that he had simply fallen from his wheelchair. Unable to elicit any more information from him, officers had no choice but to drop the case.

Now, however, such has been their concern that they have spoken publicly of their fears for the first time.

"It is so much worse than any of us imagined," Jane said this weekend. "Stephen is so very vulnerable. I don't think he is in control of the situation. These reports have made me feel physically sick." Such are her fears for her former husband's safety that she believes he should not be discharged from hospital until the situation has been resolved.

Tim, her youngest son, has confessed to friends that he is at a loss to know how to help his father. "I believe quite strongly that these allegations are true, based on what I have been privy to in the past," he says. "It makes me feel sick . . . and completely helpless. I'm caught in the middle. He denies it every time I speak to him about it . . . but I would hope he would respect me enough to tell me the truth."

This weekend Prof Hawking remains in Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. He continues to insist that no one, least of all his wife, has assaulted him and says when he is well enough he will return to his family home.

Yesterday, Elaine arrived carrying a shopping bag of fruit and chocolates, visiting him as she has done each day since he was admitted in December. "My husband is better than he was," was all she would say - other than to deny she knew anything of a police investigation.

Her stepchildren, meanwhile, can do nothing. "No one can, not until Stephen talks to someone, tells us what is happening," says a friend. "He may have a brilliant mind, an enormous intellect. That doesn't mean he is immune to misplaced loyalty or, perhaps, being capable of protecting someone who does not deserve his devotion. The most clever among us are, after all, merely mortal when it comes to affairs of the heart."

**Hawking to see police after leaving hospital**

09 Feb 2004

Prof Stephen Hawking was discharged from hospital at the weekend and will be interviewed by police over allegations [that he has been assaulted in his home](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/01/25/nhawk25.xml).

The 62-year-old physicist, who suffers from motor neurone disease, has been treated at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge for a bout of pneumonia since his admission shortly before Christmas. He was released on Saturday afternoon and returned to his Cambridge home.

Since last summer, Cambridgeshire Police have been investigating reports that Prof Hawking had been repeatedly assaulted in his home. It represents the second time in four years that detectives have launched such an inquiry.

The Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University has always denied the claims and, a fortnight ago, he issued a statement defending Elaine, his wife. "I firmly and wholeheartedly reject the allegations that I have been assaulted," he said. "The stories in the media are completely false, and I am prof oundly disappointed by the circulation of such personal and inaccurate information."My wife and I love each other very much, and it is only because of her that I am alive today. I request that the media respect my privacy, and allow me to focus on recovering from my illness."

However, a police source said yesterday that detectives would be interviewing Prof Hawking. "We will be making contact with Prof Hawking with a view to speaking to him," he said. "We don't expect to speak to him straight away and will only do so once he is well enough." Prof Hawking's nurses and staff have already been interviewed by police.

[**Police drop Hawking inquiry**](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1458063/Police-drop-inquiry-into-assaults-on-Hawking.html)

30 Mar 2004

A source close to the family strenuously denied a tabloid report that the break-up was caused by Prof Hawking, 64, having an affair. "That is complete and utter libellous rubbish," he said.

Prof Hawking, who was struck down with motor neurone disease when he was 22, married Elaine in 1995 after he had left Jane Hawking, his wife of 26 years and mother of his three children. His marriage to Elaine produced some bizarre headlines, not least in 2004 when it emerged that former nurses looking after the scientist reported their suspicions to police that [Mrs Hawking was physically and emotionally abusing her husband](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/01/20/nhawk20.xml).

Jane Hawking issued a statement saying that "the revelations have made me feel ill". She added: "He is a special man and vulnerable man but, when his children see the aftermath of these events, they can only tell him he must do something about it."

Cambridge police confirmed that they were investigating allegations of assault and would be speaking to his wife. In the midst of the inquiry, Prof Hawking, who was in hospital with pneumonia, issued a statement through Cambridge University saying that the allegations were completely false. In the wake of this, and in the absence of any other evidence, police dropped the case.

However, stories continued to emerge with another nurse claiming that, when new staff were employed at the house in Newnham to care for the professor, his wife would call them into the bedroom while the couple were having sex.

Mrs Hawking has moved out of the large detached house the couple shared in the heart of Cambridge, although she returned briefly yesterday for a meeting with lawyers over the divorce case.

Prof Hawking, who receives 24-hour care from a team of nurses, later kept an appointment at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

He still works full time at the university's department of applied mathematics and theoretical physics and is to star in a film about his ideas on the origins of the universe. Since its publication in 1988 A Brief History of Time has sold 10 million copies and is believed to have earned Prof Hawking about £4 million.

# Hawking's nurse reveals why she is not surprised his marriage is over

20 October 2006

"Well I’m not surprised," said the voice on the end of the line when informed yesterday that Professor Stephen Hawking is divorcing his wife Elaine. "Not surprised at all - I just wish it had happened a long, long time ago." The voice belonged to a nurse who used to care for Prof Hawking; she parted company with him, reluctantly, after Elaine became the second Mrs Hawking in 1995. "She is the reason I left. It’s the reason everyone leaves. It’s impossible to reconcile the way she treated Stephen with the ethics of our profession. I don’t want to say anymore because it brings back painful memories."

It is a sentiment shared by almost all Prof Hawking’s friends and family; relief that he is now finally free of Elaine, and distress that it has taken so long; the couple have been together for 17 years.It is a relationship that, almost from the beginning, has provoked a storm of controversy - and suspicion - the wheelchair-bound Prof Hawking, 64, who has suffered from motor neurone disease since the age of 22, and the "controlling, manipulative and bullying" (the words of another former employee) Elaine.

Because for years there have been shocking rumours of violence and abuse against the vulnerable scientist - mental as well as physical - supported by his own children no less.

There is unlikely to be any reference to these allegations in divorce papers lodged by both parties at Cambridge County Court, however. Prof Hawking has publicly denied such claims in the past. For a fiercely proud man who, though feted as possibly the world’s most famous living scientist, must rely on others to help him perform basic human functions, it surely would have been the final indignity: to be forced to deny that he is a battered husband.

Next month, he will receive the Royal Society’s most prestigious prize - the Copley Medal - won by such luminaries as Charles Darwin, Benjamin Franklin and Albert Einstein. Conspicuous by her absence at the ceremony, of course, will be Mrs Hawking, 55, who is thought to have already moved out of the marital home.

So why after all these years have they split up? There have been suggestions that he has found a new girlfriend but a source close to the family has strenuously denied to the Mail that the break-up was caused b

What's more, it is also rumoured that Mrs Hawking has become "close" to another man, a former carer, believed to have been appointed by Elaine, who used to look after her husband. "I met 'him' once," said someone who worked for Prof Hawking. "It was a few years ago before they supposedly became involved and I can't really remember anything about him."

Mrs Hawking - or Elaine Mason, as she was formerly known - was also married when she joined Prof Hawking’s nursing team back in the Eighties; she subsequently left her husband of 15 years, leaving him to bring up their two young sons. But what of her now? She will leave her second marriage considerably wealthier than she did her first. The couple’s townhouse in Cambridge, purchased in 1992 and now worth £750,000, is in their joint names. Moreover, he has amassed a vast personal fortune. More than 210,000 copies of his book A Brief History Of Time have been sold in the past eight years alone, netting more than £2 million. He has also made lucrative sums from other books.

On Thursday, Mrs Hawking, who has always denied marrying for money, cycled to the (former) marital home where she was understood to have attended a meeting with solicitors. "I have been told that - surprise - one of the stumbling blocks in the divorce is money," said an old family friend. Under different circumstances, this would be hardly worth mentioning. But, in the light of all the other allegations, it is, you might think, particularly telling.

Today, as the details of their divorce are thrashed out by solicitors, those who know Prof Hawking provide a chilling insight into his private life over the past decade. In 2000, detectives launched an inquiry after Prof Hawking made a number of visits to Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Cambridge, suffering from cuts and bruises, and another inquiry was opened in 2003 after his daughter Lucy rang police. Prof Hawking declined to explain how his injuries had come about. A number of his former nurses, however, were in no doubt.

They alleged that over the years his wife inflicted a catalogue of injuries on the vulnerable scientist: fractured his wrist by slamming it on to his wheelchair; humiliated him by refusing him access to a urine bottle, leaving him to wet himself; gashed his cheek with a razor, allowed him to slip beneath the water while in the bath, ensuring water entered the tracheotomy site in his throat; and left him alone in his garden during the hottest day of the year so long that he suffered heatstroke and severe sunburn.

It is these allegations that police investigated.

But a woman who worked for him at Cambridge University says the "unexplained injuries" began "many years before" the police became involved. "He used to regularly come in with bruises and cuts," said the source. "I remember once he turned up with a black eye. I asked him; 'How did that happen Stephen?' He replied: 'I bumped into a door.' That was obviously my cue to shut up, so I did."

"It was common knowledge that Stephen was very, very unhappy long before all the allegations appeared in the papers." "Before they were married they went on holiday to Israel and we heard later that they had a furious row and their hotel room was damaged [former nurses claimed that Elaine would 'throw things around the kitchen' during tantrums]." "I remember asking Stephen why he and Elaine stayed together and he said: 'any relationship was better than none'." "In the end I left Stephen because I couldn’t stand it. I felt very strongly that I could no longer carry on without feeling that I was colluding in what was happening."

"The police interviewed me a few years ago as part of their investigation."

Elaine, once described as a 'churchgoing mother of two' was, perhaps unsurprisingly, never particularly popular with the Hawking family - primarily his first wife Jane, the mother of his three children, Robert, 39, a software engineer, Lucy, 36, a journalist, and Timothy, 27. Elaine was, as we know, originally Prof Hawking’s nurse and joined the staff after he had a tracheotomy operation in 1985 - the result of a previous pneumonia infection which nearly killed him.

The operation left him unable to breath unaided and in need of round-the-clock supervision.

It was Elaine’s former husband, engineer David Mason, who made the voicebox which created the robot-like vocal tone for which Prof Hawking is now famous.

From the start, say friends, she set out to ingratiate herself with him, and, over a period of time, the family noticed the mesmeric hold the 'new nurse' was beginning to exert over her charge, and felt deeply uneasy.

"She brainwashed him to think that she was the only person who could possibly look after him," one friend recalled. "She was also really jealous of his children and the close relationship they had with him."

Matters were complicated when his wife of 26 years began having an affair in the Eighties - with, apparently, Hawking’s tacit approval - with a choirmaster, whom she had befriended after his wife died of leukaemia.

Elaine began accompanying Prof Hawking on trips abroad. Prof Hawking and Jane divorced in 1990.

He finally married Elaine in 1995 but neither Jane or their three children attended. "I think he has been very ill-advised," his former wife said at the time.

But how could she - how could anyone - predict the events that followed? First, say sources, Elaine began dispensing with the nurses who cared for her husband and replacing them with carers. They were cheaper certainly, but that, according to those who knew the family, was not the point. "It was much more about control," one long-standing family friend told the Mail. "Elaine was a nurse herself, although she had allowed her registration to lapse." But she didn’t just want to be on the same level as those who looked after her husband. It was very important to her that she was superior to them which is why she began employing less qualified staff."

Another former member of Prof Hawking's "care team" added: "Anyone who has ever cared for someone who is elderly or disabled would understand how difficult it is, but, on the other hand, I was worried about his well-being which is why I eventually left." "I just couldn’t stand by and watch him being hurt."

"Why, then, if this is indeed true, did Prof Hawking cover up for his wife?"

"Someone with Stephen’s brilliance must, inevitably also possess an element of arrogance," said a friend.

"Stephen has always striven against the odds - both physically and intellectually." "When he makes a decision he becomes single-minded about it, about convincing the world of its validity. And so, I feel, it is with Elaine: having made his bed - against much advice - I believe he felt he must lie in it without complaint."

"For a man like Prof Hawking to admit that he made a big, big mistake would be the ultimate humiliation."

There would also have been the humiliation, in his eyes at least, that his vulnerability left him unable to defend himself even against his wife. For that, it seems, Prof Stephen Hawking has paid a terrible price.

Normally, the break-up of a marriage is the cause of immense sadness and regret. But today, the family and friends of Prof Stephen Hawking - indeed for everyone who knows and admires him - those emotions have been replaced by a profound sense of relief.

# The Other Side of Stephen Hawking: Strippers, Aliens, and Disturbing Abuse Claims

**In *The Theory of Everything*, the “master of the universe” is depicted as a gentle man and loving—albeit conflicted—husband. The reality is a bit cloudier**.

Stephen Hawking is not only a bona fide genius, but also one of the most resilient men on the planet. Diagnosed with ALS at 21 and given just two years to live, he’s survived for 51 years with the debilitating disease and achieved numerous breakthroughs in the field of theoretical physics pertaining to black holes and the origins of the universe. Since ALS has left him almost entirely paralyzed, to speak, he has an infrared sensor mounted on his eyeglasses that picks up twitches from a muscle in his cheek and transmits them to a screen with scrolling letters, stopping at each desired letter. He averages about a word a minute.

In James Marsh’s biopic *The Theory of Everything*, in theaters Nov. 7, [Eddie Redmayne](http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/11/03/eddie-redmayne-s-time-has-come-on-his-heartrending-turn-as-stephen-hawking-and-benedict-bromance.html) delivers an awe-inspiring performance as Hawking, from his days courting Jane Wilde (Felicity Jones), an English student whom he met (and later married) whilst at Cambridge just prior to his diagnosis, through to his physical decline, subsequent marital struggles, and staggering scientific achievements. It is, by and large, a hagiography painting an overwhelmingly positive picture of a truly complex figure, and is based on Jane Hawking’s revised memoir, *Travelling to Infinity: My Life with Stephen*, which was released in 2007.

Eight years prior, Jane Hawking had released a decidedly less harmonious memoir, *Music to Move the Stars*. It was 610 pages to *Infinity’s* abridged 450, and recounts in grim detail her miserable marriage to the “Master of the Universe,” and her determination to stay married to him even as his disease—and ego—began to consume him in equal measure. She details how he, for many years, wanted no one but her to wash, clothe, and feed him. How he was so reluctant to use a wheelchair that she’d be balancing him on one arm and a toddler with the other.

How her role became more “maternal rather than marital,” and branding Hawking an “all-powerful emperor” and “masterly puppeteer.” Later, she wrote, “It was becoming very difficult—unnatural, even—to feel desire for someone with the body of a Holocaust victim and the undeniable needs of an infant.”

“He’s a man who lives within his brain and still manages to feel the overwhelming power of sex.”

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n a fun aside, during this period, Hawking would enjoy running over the toes of people he didn’t like with his wheelchair. So in 1976, when Hawking was invited to attend Prince Charles’s induction into the Royal Society, he gave him the business. “The prince was intrigued by Hawking’s wheelchair, and Hawking, twirling it around to demonstrate its capabilities, carelessly ran over Prince Charles’s toes,” according to the biography*Stephen Hawking: An Unfettered Mind*. “One of Hawking’s regrets in life was not having an opportunity to run over Margaret Thatcher’s toes.”

But in society and scientific circles, Jane felt like a second-class citizen, often forced into the wives’ corner while the male “geniuses” talked shop, rendering her “little more than a drudge, effectively reduced to that role which in Cambridge academic circles epitomized a woman’s place.” She began to suffer from huge bouts of depression and was reduced to "a brittle, empty shell, alone and vulnerable, restrained only by the thought of my children from throwing myself into the river, drowning in a slough of despond, I prayed for help with the desperate insistency of a potential suicide.” She was effectively trapped in the marriage. “I couldn’t go off and leave Stephen,” she wrote in *Music to Move the Stars*. “Coals of fire would have been heaped on my head if I had.” In the mid-1980s, Jane met an organist, Jonathan Hellyer Jones, and—with Hawking’s permission—began an affair, but continued to love Hawking and stayed married.

In the late 1980s, Hawking began to grow close to his redheaded, controlling nurse, Elaine Mason. By Feb. 1990, he left the family home to be with Mason, officially divorced Jane in the spring of 1995, and married Mason that September. The following year, Jane married Jones.

Despite Jane’s [assertion to](http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/features/2004/06/hawking200406) *Vanity Fair*that “in 25 years of living with me, he had not one unexplained bruise,” shortly after his marriage to Mason, the professor began suffering a series of mysterious injuries. A fractured wrist. A broken arm. A split lip. A broken femur. Three slash marks on his face. The media, Hawking’s two children, and Jane all blamed Mason. Several nurses even came forward with testimony of Mason’s rages, including one incident where Hawking typed, “I CANNOT BE LEFT ALONE WITH HER. PLEASE DON'T GO. GET SOMEONE TO COVER THE SHIFT.” Hawking’s former assistant, Sue Masey, claims that Mason’s behavior drove her to quit. “I left Stephen because I couldn’t stand it,” she told *Vanity Fair*. “Elaine is a monster.” The injuries, she says, only happened when Hawking and Mason were alone.

Things came to a head in Aug. 2003, when one of Hawking’s nurses called his daughter, Lucy, to report that he’d been badly burned after being left out in the scorching sun in his garden all day. Police opened an investigation, interviewing 10 of the scientist’s current and former nurses, but due to a lack of concrete evidence, couldn’t press charges without Hawking’s testimony. “I firmly and wholeheartedly reject the allegations,” Hawking said from a Cambridge Hospital. “My wife and I love each other very much, and it is only because of her that I am alive today.” According to the *London Times*, Mason was at one point asked to leave that very hospital during a visit because she was “throwing things around the room.”

Up until 2004, when she granted [a rare interview](http://www.theguardian.com/theobserver/2004/apr/04/features.review17) to *The Guardian*, Jane and her two children with Hawking weren’t on speaking terms with the genius.

“I used to see him. I never set foot in his house, of course—that is very much forbidden territory,” Jane said. “But I used to go and see him in his office, and we used to have a good time, talking about the children and then about William, our grandchild. But I don't even know now whether he is in hospital or back at home. The children don't know either. So that,” she says sadly, “is where we are.”



**Then, in 2006, Hawking and Elaine divorced, and neither of them spoke about the marriage**. After that, Hawking became closer with Jane and their two children, and then the abridged memoir was released.

Hawking also harbors some controversial views, including supporting an academic boycott of Israel—a position he [reaffirmed last May](http://www.jpost.com/Diplomacy-and-Politics/Stephen-Hawking-reaffirms-support-of-Israel-boycott-312505) after dropping out of the President’s Conference in Jerusalem. He also believes in aliens, which he divulged on the Discovery Channel special *Into the Universe with Stephen Hawking*. “If aliens visit us, the outcome would be much as when Columbus landed in America, which didn't turn out well for the Native Americans,” he said on the program. “Such advanced aliens would perhaps become nomads, looking to conquer and colonize whatever planets they can reach. To my mathematical brain, the numbers alone make thinking about aliens perfectly rational. The real challenge is to work out what aliens might actually be like.” Hawking also believes that we may create a virus that destroys us, and that creating space colonies will be our only hope.

“In the long term, I am more worried about biology,” he [told](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1359562/Colonies-in-space-may-be-only-hope-says-Hawking.html) *The Telegraph*. “Nuclear weapons need large facilities, but genetic engineering can be done in a small lab. **You can’t regulate every lab in the world.** The danger is that either by accident or design, we create a virus that destroys us. I don’t think the human race will survive the next thousand years, unless we spread into space. There are too many accidents that can befall life on a single planet. But I’m an optimist. We will reach out to the stars.”

On a lighter note, Hawking is also said to be a *big* fan of strip clubs. “He’s a man who lives within his brain and still manages to feel the overwhelming power of sex,” his pal Peter Stringfellow, who runs Stringfellows strip clubs, [told](http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/interview-id-love-to-be-stephen-hawking-from-his-fourinabed-childhood-to-dancing-girls-every-night-peter-stringfellow-knows-all-about-how-to-turn-fantasy-into-reality-1385277.html) *The Independent*. “Isn’t he the answer to people who attack the sexual side of our human-ness? They’re all charging at windmills, you know. It’s there.” Hawking became [a regular](http://www.stringfellows.co.uk/professor-stephen-hawking/) at Stringfellows strip club in London, and the proprietor recalls a hilarious run-in with the professor one night.

*“I went and introduced myself and said, ‘Mr. Hawking, it’s an honor to meet you. If you could spare a minute or two, I’d love to chat with you about the universe,’” Stringfellow*[*recalled*](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/peter-stringfellow-picks-stephen-hawking-814471)*.* *“Then I paused for a bit and joked, ‘Or would you rather look at the girls?’* *“There was silence for a moment, and then he answered, ‘The Girls.’”*

Hawking has also reportedly been [spotted](http://nypost.com/2012/02/24/acclaimed-physicist-hawking-a-regular-at-calif-strip-joint/) numerous times getting lap dances at the California strip club Devore, and was [even said](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/28/stephen-hawking-said-to-frequent-sex-club_n_1307625.html) to have frequented Freedom Acres, a swinger’s club in California.

“I have seen Stephen Hawking at the club more than a handful of times,” a member said, [according to](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/28/stephen-hawking-said-to-frequent-sex-club_n_1307625.html) the *Huffington Post*. “He arrives with an entourage of nurses and assistants. Last time I saw him, he was in the back ‘play area’ lying on a bed fully clothed with two naked women gyrating all over him.”

Tim Holt, University of Cambridge press officer, later confirmed that Hawking had frequented the swinger’s club, but claimed that he wasn’t a regular. “This report is greatly exaggerated. He visited once a few years ago with friends while on a visit to California,” Holt [told](http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/Stephen-Hawking-visited-sex-club/story-22358096-detail/story.html) the *Cambridge News*.

**They don't call him the "Master of the Universe" for nothing.**

 