

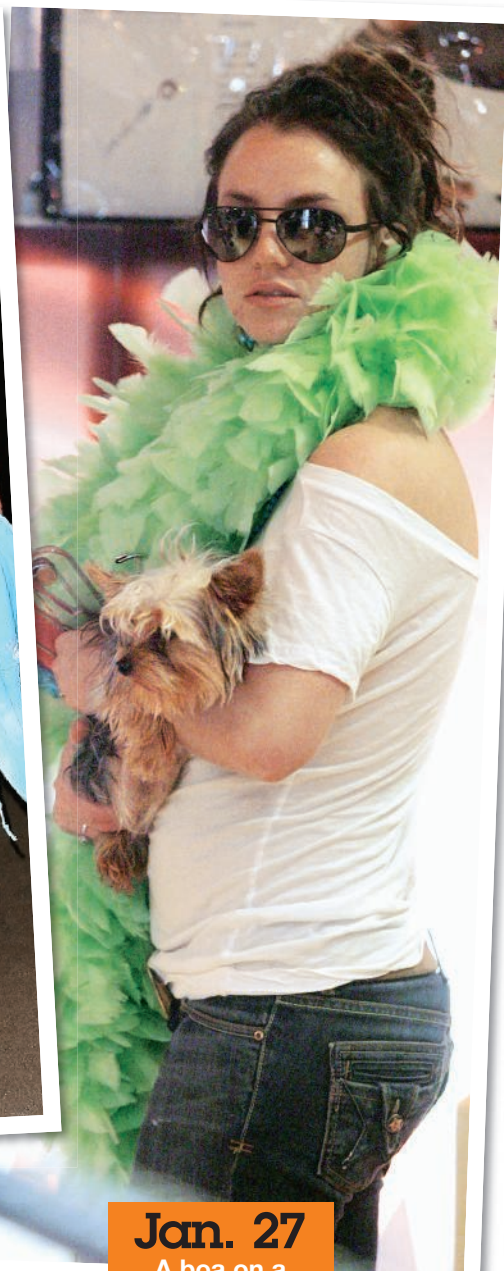
Britney addicted to CRYSTAL METH

ENQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

AT LAST:
The story behind her madness!



Jan. 26
The next day she looks slim and put together



Jan. 27
A boa on a shopping trip? Only Britney

“I’m in hell – and no one can save me.”

Hopelessly hooked on the lethal drug crystal methamphetamine, Britney Spears left that pathetic message for her ex-husband Kevin Federline – and now an extensive ENQUIRER investigation reveals the tragic story behind her drug-addled descent into madness.

The 26-year-old mother of two has been getting high on the drug for years – and a three-day crystal meth binge triggered the bizarre behavior that led to a police standoff at her home in early January, sources say.

HER ADDICTION IS NOW SO SEVERE that family and friends fear the “Toxic” singer has only a year to live – and an expert on drug addiction warns she could die at any time!

“Britney was high on crystal meth and naked all day leading up to the incident with police,” revealed an insider.

“Earlier in the day she got high before she went to a deposition with Kevin’s attorney Mark Vincent Kaplan. She’d been high for two days before that and she hadn’t slept.

“When she came home after the deposition, she wanted more crystal meth, but her assistant tried to calm her down by giving her Prozac.”

Instead of calming down, Britney flipped out – and locked herself in a bathroom with her son Jayden, 1, rather than hand him over when her supervised visitation ended.

Police broke in and rescued Jayden during the Jan. 3 incident, which ended with Britney being hospitalized.

Her behavior is typical of a meth addict on a binge, says an expert.

“In heavy doses, the drug causes nervousness, paranoia, complete loss of judgment, hallucinations and extremely bizarre behavior,” said Dr. James Cocores, a nationally-known expert on drug ad-

diction, who has never treated Britney.

“Meth users lose their grip on reality and will sacrifice their careers, kids and families to keep using the drug.”

The day after Britney’s meltdown, a judge revoked her visitation with Sean, 2, and Jayden, and granted sole custody to Federline – a ruling that sent Britney into a tailspin.

“After the boys were taken from her, Britney went on a drug binge, using crystal meth almost every day for an entire week,” said the insider.

“Britney kept leaving Kevin eerie phone messages. One said: ‘I’m in hell and no one can save me.’

“Britney used meth before and after both her pregnancies. Even when losing her boys became an issue, she didn’t stop,” said the insider.

Britney stashes the drug in a glass vial that she keeps in her purse. When she wants to get high, she drops the vial into her cowboy boot and heads for the nearest bathroom – a stunt she pulled even when the court-ordered custody monitor was with her,

said the source. “Britney says she uses because

she can’t handle her situation with the boys. She says: ‘I have no life without my babies,’” the insider revealed.

Now family and friends fear that if Britney doesn’t get help, her addiction will kill her. “People around Britney believe that she’s horribly addicted to meth. Her family and friends are worried that she won’t last a year,” said the insider.

SADLY, IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE.

“Britney Spears appears to have an extremely serious problem – something that could kill her at any time,” said Dr. Cocores, a Boca Raton, Fla.-based psychiatrist and medical director of Southcoast Psychotherapy and Education Associates, who has treated thousands of drug addicts.

“People who use crystal meth every few days are reaching the final stages of addiction. They’re totally out of control – and often don’t live very long.”

by **ROBIN MIZRAHI** and **REGINALD FITZ**
● Jamie Lynn running away, see page 37

