

EXCLUSIVE
Star
PHOTOS TELL
TRAGIC STORY

CHARLES BRONSON'S SAD LAST DAYS

At 81, screen hero is waging battle for his life

RAVAGED by Alzheimer's disease, beloved actor Charles Bronson has been reduced to a shadow of the tough guy he played in the Death Wish movies.

As *Star's* exclusive photos show, the 81-year-old star, revered by millions, looked especially frail as he was wheeled out of a Malibu, Calif., emergency medical center cradling his injured right arm in a blue sling.

"He had the saddest look in his eyes," says a witness.

"He looked dazed. This is not the way you'd like to remember such a vibrant man."

Bronson spent 90 minutes at Malibu Urgent Care, says the source.

His wife, Kim, and a medical-center employee then had to help him from a wheelchair into a waiting car.

"His legs seemed like dead weight," says the source.

"It looked like he simply didn't have the will or strength to help himself. He seemed unaware of what was going on around him and as a fan, it was very hard to watch."

But Bronson's rep insists that the actor is doing fine, despite *Star's* heart-breaking photos.

"Charlie did not hurt his arm at all," says publicist Lori Jonas.

"His health is not failing."

Bronson was once the hardest of the movie heroes. Sadly,

he now seems as vulnerable as the people he protected as vigilante Paul Kersey in the five Death Wish films.

HEALTHIER DAYS

Bronson and wife Kim

The movie legend last busted the bad guys in the 1999 TV movie *Family of Cops III*.

His health then began to slide. By late 2001, it was revealed he was suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

His memory is now so ravaged, he doesn't always appear to recognize his three adult children and two stepsons. He is under constant nursing care at his Malibu home.

Bronson lives with third wife Kim, 41, whom he married in December 1998. He started dating her after his second wife, actress Jill Ireland, died of breast cancer in 1990.

Some of his family and friends were initially against their May-December union. But her devotion to him as his health deteriorates has won most of them over.

She's now Charlie's real-life angel, tending to his needs.

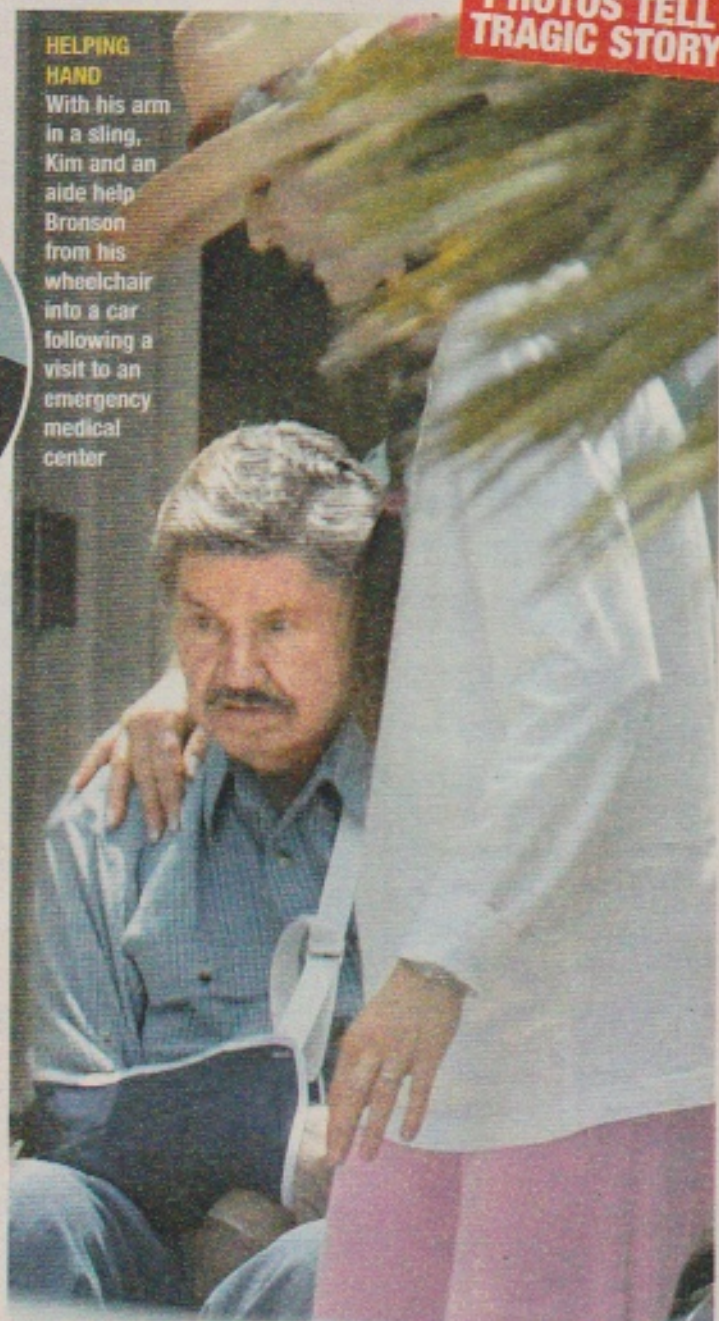
"She shows her love for him in every move she makes," says a source.

"Charlie's a very tired man, and Kim is constantly giving him a helping hand. Without Kim, Charlie wouldn't be able to get through the day."

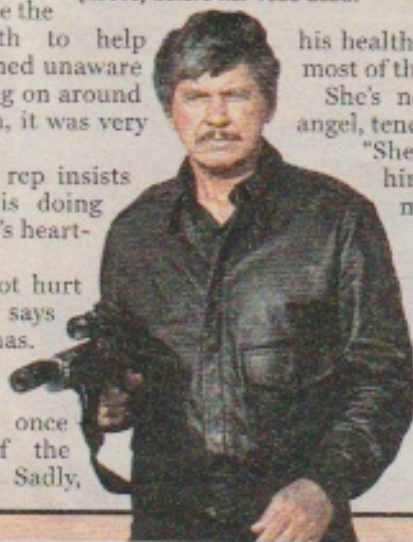
— ROBIN MIZRAHI ★



HELPING HAND
With his arm in a sling, Kim and an aide help Bronson from his wheelchair into a car following a visit to an emergency medical center



FIGHTING DAYS The macho Death Wish crime-buster often worked with his second wife Jill Ireland (above) before her 1990 death



BRAVE STRUGGLE
His gray hair long and ragged, Bronson finally makes it from the wheelchair into the car