

JESSICA MELTDOWN

Setbacks send singer into tails

By **ROBIN MIZRAHI**

A series of emotional and career setbacks overwhelmed Jessica Simpson and left her friends worried that she was close to a meltdown. The singer has had to deal with one staggering blow after another.

Her love affair with rocker John Mayer — her first real romance since divorcing Nick Lachey — blew up because John couldn't stand the intense publicity, said a close source.

Critics panned her new CD and sales have been disappointing.

And to make matters worse, a vocal cord injury hampered her singing during the all-important first week of promotional appearances.

"Her 'Today Show' performance was disastrous — she barely got through two numbers of a three-song set," said the close source, who reveals pals are worried Jessica has been headed for a total meltdown.

Meanwhile, ex-husband Nick's new album took off faster than Jessica's — and he ended up soaking her in their divorce settlement.

NO LONGER ON TOP: First, Jessica lost Nick. John Mayer and CaCee Cobb soon followed



While she initially offered him \$1.25 million, he ended up with about \$10 million in cash and assets, according to an insider.

As Jessica faced one of the darkest periods of her young life, the support group she had come to rely on was no longer available in force.



"Jessica isn't as close to CaCee Cobb, who was her best friend, since she let her go as her personal assistant in May," explained the close source. "Jessica's sister Ashlee has been in London. Her good friend Dane Cook has been off working, and publicist-pal Rob Shuter was let go

because of the John Mayer thing. Jessica really feels she friend because of the close to her blew the out of proportion in the as it was in its first stage.

The ENQUIRER has disclosed how Jessica is battling her well-known controlling father — who

Jessica really she lost a boy ... She never more alone

interferes with her love life. "She never felt more the close source.

Despite the setbacks fighting back and has focus on the positive.

"Jessica has a renewed personally, professional even as far as her love life revealed the close source.

● **Nick and Vanessa inseparable** — See page 4