

WORLD EXCLUSIVE MELANIE GRIFFITH'S

I'M AN ALCOHOLIC, MAJOR DRUG ADDICT AND PILL POPPER'

Actress back in AA after relapse in 30-year fight with demons

Melanie Griffith has suffered a shocking setback in her long and agonizing battle with booze and pills. In a tearful confession, the 48-year-old star, who has repeatedly battled substance abuse for three decades, has checked out of rehab at least twice in the past. She says she is now attending up to three AA meetings a day in her effort to get her life back on track. Melanie told friends: "I am an alcoholic and major drug addict and pill popper, and it's time I finally admitted that to myself. I go to meetings at 10am and 12 noon and even one in the evenings if I can make it. I should know all the steps and the rules to get sober and it should be easy for me. You just stay away from drugs. Simple. But for some reason it's so hard for me."

USE BATTLE: Melanie Griffith joking and joking as she leaves an AA meeting on March 8

By **ROBIN MIZRAHI**
and **JOHN SOUTH**

Asked about her drug battle, the Working Girl star told The National Enquirer: "It's true - I did have a drug relapse."

The troubled beauty, dressed in a black leather pantsuit, spoke as she left an AA meeting in Hollywood on March 10.

However, she denied claims that

an overdose of the painkiller drugs Vicodin and Xanax frightened her into asking for help.

According to a close friend, Melanie - who has been married to Spanish actor Antonio Banderas, 45, for a decade - is constantly on the verge of tears.

Said the pal: "Melanie has a lot of supportive friends around her, and Antonio is an incredibly loving husband."

"She's also a very devoted mother,

and she knows she has to stay sober for the sake of her family.

"She's been through the AA program before, and she can recite practically by heart the rules of staying sober - but somehow it just hasn't sunk in enough for her to stay sober for very long."

Another pal revealed: "My heart goes out to her - and I believe it is harder for her than other people. She doesn't risk losing her money and home, and ending up on skid-row

EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS MELANIE'S AA MEETING CAUGHT ON CAMERA!

