

desperately needs rehab-say pals

EHAB is the last chance to save Nicole "Wrong Way" Richie from destroying herself, according to a pal.

After her shocking DUI arrest for driving against traffic on a busy Los Angeles freeway, pals say the 85-pound star of "A Simple Life" is a danger to not only herself, but anyone else she encounters!

"Nicole could have crashed her SUV head-on and taken out a car full of innocent people," a close pal told The ENQUIRER

"Somebody's got to get her off the streets and into rehab before it's too late!"

Nicole, the daughter of Grammywinning singer Lionel Richie, was behind the wheel when her black SUV was spotted going the wrong way on the 134 Freeway in Burbank, Calif., in the early morning hours of Dec. 11.

California Highway Patrol Officers stopped her in the carpool lane and found her talking on her cell phone.

Though she denied being under the influence of alcohol, 25-year-old Nicole admitted she'd taken the painkiller Vicodin and smoked pot.

"Nicole's weight issue has been the talk of show business for the past year," said another source.

"Now she's arrested for DUI and tells cops she's sober, but cruised down a freeway carpool lane against traffic after smoking pot and popping Vicodin. "Think she's got a proble Hello!"

Nicola is scheduled to be taping her FOX-TV show "I Simple Life" in March, "but no way she'll be ready to g front of the cameras the wis now." said the source.

"She is a very troubled you lady who needs profession Desperately!"

> by ROBIN and RICK E

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