

# SHELLEY LONG IN REHAB AFTER BREAKDOWN

## 'Cheers' star sinks deeper into depression

**F**ORMER "Cheers" star Shelley Long landed back in a Los Angeles hospital after suffering yet another emotional breakdown in her ongoing battle with depression.

The once-perky actress was admitted to the behavioral unit at Aurora Las Encinas Hospital in Pasadena, Calif., in mid-November – exactly two years after *The ENQUIRER* first reported exclusively that she overdosed on pills and was rushed to UCLA Medical Center.

"Shelley suffers from severe depression, but fortunately this time she was sensible enough to seek treatment for it," said a friend of the 57-year-old actress.

According to the source, Shelley cooperated fully with staff members and took part in hospital programs, including yoga and tennis, before being released Dec. 4.

"It was nice to see her begin to interact with the other patients," said the friend. "Shelley watched television with them in the main lounge. She even laughed out loud watching her former co-star Ted Danson's new show 'Help Me Help You.'"

The *ENQUIRER* first reported Shelley's mental anguish back in December 2004, when the actress was rushed to the hospital after a potentially fatal drug overdose. She had been suffering from a deep depression stemming from the breakup of her 22-year marriage to investment banker Bruce Tyson, with whom she has a 21-year-old daughter, Juliana.

Their divorce papers – filed by Tyson in August 2003 – cited "irreconcilable differences," but Shelley's friends say that her marriage crumbled because she was so obsessed with resurrecting her

Shelley leaves rehab at Aurora Las Encinas Hospital's behavioral unit (inset)



acting career. The once-bubbly actress ended her five-year stint on "Cheers" in 1987. She had big-screen dreams, but they never panned out. After several disappointing movie roles, Shelley's show business career consisted mostly of guest spots on TV shows.

"It's very sad," said the friend. "She once had a nice family, but now her husband is gone, her daughter's grown up, and she feels all she has is her work."

Before checking into the hospital, Shelley had stayed in bed for days, neglecting even to eat.

"She's so very delicate – you could blow her away like a feather," said the friend. "But she's determined to keep acting, and it is probably the best medicine in the world for her."



Shelley with Ted Danson on 'Cheers'

by ROBIN MIZRAHI