

# Kaley's SHOCKING SPLIT!

The *Big Bang Theory* sweetheart **Cuoco** fell for **Ryan Sweeting** instantly. But his secret addictions destroyed their marriage **BY SARAH GROSSBART**

**W**hen you know, you know. That's how Kaley Cuoco explained her decision to wed tennis pro Ryan Sweeting just six months after meeting on a blind date. Within hours — hours! — of that first dinner in July 2013, the Florida-based athlete had moved belongings into the actress' L.A.-area spread. By the next day, the star had begun imagining herself as Mrs. Sweeting. "I thought, I don't want to spend a day without him!" she told *Us* this January. "It was just a feeling inside of me and a look in his eyes. I knew there was no one else I wanted to be with." In her gut, she figured there was no problem they couldn't solve. "I knew when I met Ryan, no matter whatever came along that I didn't love or that I loved, it was

always going to be OK with me," she said. "I was always going to make it work."

Until one issue proved insurmountable. Multiple sources tell *Us* the *Big Bang Theory* vet, 29, told friends that she filed to end her 21-month marriage September 28 because she could no longer tolerate Sweeting's abuse of alcohol and prescription pills. The 28-year-old pro — once ranked No. 64 in the world — "developed a dependency on painkillers" after a series of injuries, claims a Cuoco source. (Within months of meeting her, the ATP World Tour competitor had back surgery.) Another insider close to Cuoco says the Bahamian-born athlete — who, as a University of Florida freshman in 2006, was arrested for DUI and possession of a drug with intent to sell — also struggled with alcohol. The bubbly blonde knew about Sweeting's issues when she accepted a 2½-carat square-cut ring from him





"Everything I do is fast," Cuoco (with Sweeting Jan. 6) told *Us* earlier this year of her courtship. "I make quick decisions. I don't wait around."

ON THE COVER: DANIEL ROBERTSON/STARTRAKSPHOTO.COM; INSETS, FROM TOP: MINDY BCHAUER/ THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER VIA AP, GILBERT CARRASQUILLO/FILMMAGIC; BRUCE BEIKAS/ FILMMAGIC; ERIC CHARBONNEAU/INVISION FOR SONY PICTURES/AP PHOTO

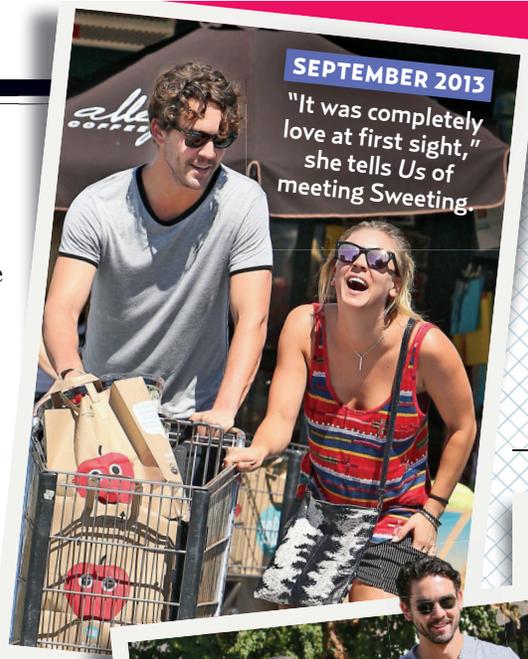
after a three-month romance. “She supported him,” claims the insider, “but she said he couldn’t make the commitment to get sober.” According to Cuoco, says the source, “he’d tell her he was working on it, and instead go get wasted.”

A reported last-ditch effort to enter a Boston rehab in September did little to sway his wife. “She didn’t want to get divorced, but felt she had no choice,” says a third Cuoco confidant. “She couldn’t fix him. He wasn’t the man she thought he was.”

#### ▶ A SECRET BATTLE

Nor was their marriage the picture of domestic bliss the actress often described. Though the TV star loved to rave about her role as a wife (she told *Redbook* in 2014, “I cook for Ryan five nights a week. . . . I like coming home and serving him”), the two regularly lobbed shots at each other. One source says their early spats were about starting a family. Two months after their secret New Year’s Eve 2013 vows (“The coolest thing ever,” Cuoco described to *Us*), she said they were on the same page with children. “I can’t wait!” she told *Us*. “And my husband wants them too.” But the insider adds the timing of “having kids was a source of fighting.” Another point of contention: her relationship anxiety. “She had a lot of insecurities,” says the source. The biggest blowouts, however, were about his sobriety. “He was clean when she met him and honest about past troubles, but then he’d relapse,” the source says Cuoco told pals. “She got tired of the ups and downs.”

The final dip came after another injury earlier this year. “Kaley told



SEPTEMBER 2013  
“It was completely love at first sight,” she tells *Us* of meeting Sweeting.



OCTOBER 2013  
Engaged in 12 weeks, she says, “It didn’t happen fast enough for me.”

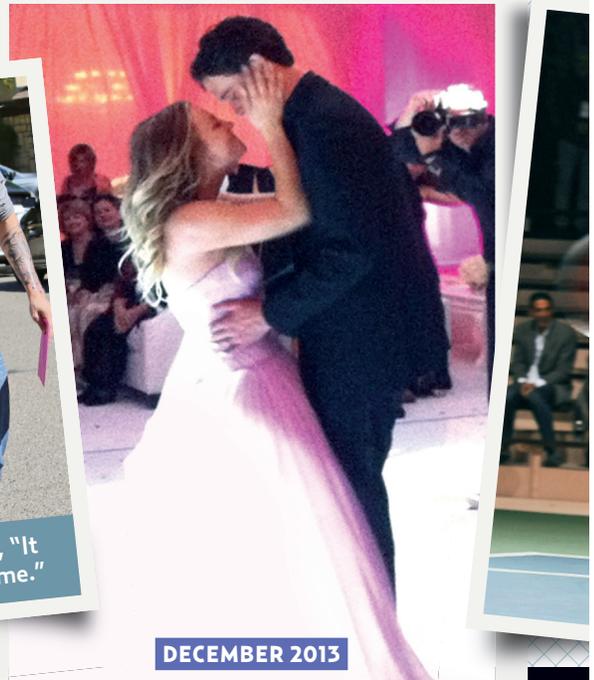
friends doctors prescribed something that he was taking too much of,” says the source. “That was when it went downhill again.” As a tabloid reported on troubles, Cuoco denied issues, writing in a since-deleted April 5 Instagram post that such talk “only makes us stronger.” But at home, says the confidant, they were crumbling: “He’d lash out at her. He had a major problem and she couldn’t do anything about it.”

#### ▶ THAT’S A WRAP

By early September she was tired of trying. “She decided to pull the plug,” says the insider. As she gamely made the rounds promoting season 9 of her CBS hit — on *Watch*

# A Whirlwind Romance

From blind date to bling in three months flat! *Us* relives the couple’s passionate relationship



DECEMBER 2013  
The star wears Vera Wang to wed Sweeting in front of friends and family at a New Year’s bash: “It was perfect!”

*What Happens Live* September 20, she even gushed that costar and ex Johnny Galecki “loves” Sweeting — she privately took steps to end her union. The night before her September 25 announcement, the star (who commands \$1 million per episode) packed away her wedding rings. The next day, she’d scrubbed Sweeting’s presence from her social media, deleting dozens of cute selfies. “She isn’t wasting any time with ending the marriage,” says the insider, adding that she and Sweeting have a prenup. “She’s ready to move on.”

For now, that means putting on a brave face in public. Hours after



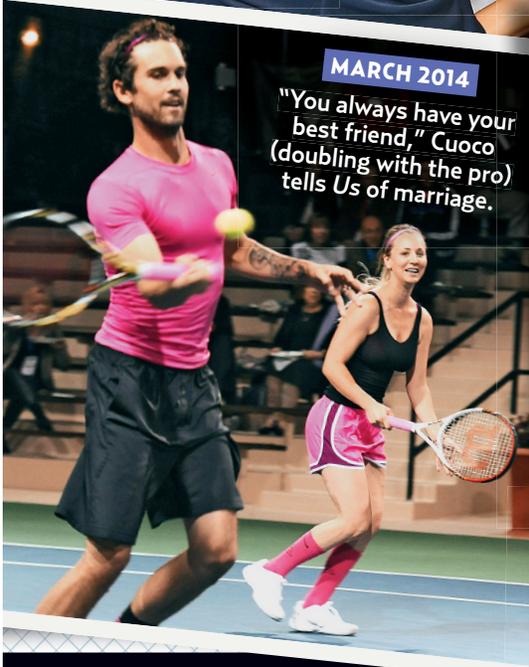
**JANUARY 2014**

Postvows, the newlyweds (at the Screen Actors Guild Awards) get tattoos of their wedding date.



**MARCH 2014**

Doomed digs? The duo move into Khloé Kardashian and Lamar Odom's 8,400-square-foot former pad.



**MARCH 2014**

"You always have your best friend," Cuoco (doubling with the pro) tells *Us* of marriage.



**APRIL 2015**

She blasts rumors on Instagram, writing: "We are totally getting divorced, can't you tell!?"



**SEPTEMBER 2015**

One true love: Post-separation, the actress puckers up with her mare Netty Pie.

the news went viral, Cuoco treated sister Briana, 26, and a group of friends to pizza and wine at the Village gastropub in L.A.'s Studio City. Says an onlooker of the group, "They clinked glasses several times." A day later, the avid equestrian literally got back in the saddle, competing with her horse Netty Pie at the Flintridge Autumn Classic in La Cañada Flintridge, California. "I've never felt more surrounded by love," she later posted on Instagram. The star rounded out her weekend by keeping her commitment to appear at the Bryan Bros. Foundation tennis event in Camarillo, California. In between snapping photos with fans, she entertained a pal's baby. "She was dancing with her to 'Proud Mary,'" says an eventgoer,

"and kept turning to the baby and going, 'Rollin'! Rollin'!"

### ► SUPPORTING CAST

Despite her own best intentions to, er, keep on rolling, pals say Cuoco is grappling with grief. One friend says the star, who endured a broken engagement to addiction specialist Josh Resnik in 2012 and a failed fling with *Man of Steel* star Henry Cavill weeks before meeting Sweeting, is temporarily swearing off men. "She says she's never dating again," asserts the source. "She is so down about any kind of future relationship." The Cuoco source adds that the pain is real. "Kaley is devastated," says the insider. "She can't believe this is happening. She really did think it would be forever." **US**

## Ex-cellent Pal

» Cuoco called her ex Galecki "one of my dearest friends" September 20 — and he's living up to the title! "Johnny said he's there for her," a source confirms of the 40-year-old costar she split with in 2009. But it's unlikely they'll ever get back together. Adds the source of the duo, now playing newlyweds on TV: "That's so not where her head is right now."



March 18