

Heard accuses **Depp** of violence. His lawyer claims she's out for cash. *Us* reveals details of the shocking split

BY SARAH GROSSBART

Johnny & Amber

INSIDE THEIR

NASTY



Depp (Jan. 9) once called Heard "brilliant."

Johnny Depp was an emotional wreck. The afternoon after his mother, Betty Sue Palmer, died May 20, the actor unloaded in a heartbreaking conversation with close friend Doug Stanhope and his girlfriend, Bingo. "He opened up in the most vulnerable of ways," Stanhope, a comic, wrote in a May 29 op-ed for the *Wrap*. The main topic of conversation wasn't his beloved mom. Rather, says Stanhope, who met Depp while the actor was filming 2015's *Mortdecai*, he confessed that his wife of 15 months, Amber Heard, was planning to leave him.



The actress left court May 27 after a judge granted a temporary restraining order against Depp.



Heard presented this image of her bruised eye as evidence.

DIVORCE

“He still pronounced his love for Amber, but was presciently aware that she was going to pull off some kind of ruse to f--k him over,” wrote Stanhope, noting that Depp confessed his anxiety had kept him from sleeping. “You’d call him paranoid if you didn’t know better.”

Two days later, the marriage publicly imploded. Heard filed to end her union to the Oscar-nominated actor, requesting spousal support. Depp responded by lawyering up — with high-powered divorce attorney Laura Wasser — and issuing a statement from his rep May 26 that twice emphasized the brevity of the union. But within 24 hours, what seemed to be another cut-and-dried Hollywood divorce took a swift and shocking turn. Heard arrived at Los Angeles Superior Court bearing a bruised face that she alleged came from Depp, 53, hurling an iPhone at her. Requesting a domestic-violence restraining order, she claimed the man she met while filming 2011’s *The Rum Diary* “has been verbally and physically abusive” throughout their four-year romance. The restraining order was granted, but Depp’s legal team deemed it unnecessary. According to court documents, Wasser claimed the 30-year-old was using abuse allegations “to secure a premature financial resolution.” Surprisingly, the actor, worth a reported \$400 million, and Heard do not have a prenup.

Depp’s attorneys aren’t the only ones speaking out. Relatives, industry friends and even his exes have come forward to defend the notoriously private movie star. French actress Vanessa Paradis, who had kids Lily-Rose, 17, and Jack, 14, with Depp during their 14-year romance, wrote a letter calling Heard’s claims “outrageous,” while Stanhope said Heard’s actions were akin to blackmail. “Anyone who knows him will tell you he is not capable of this,” says a Depp insider. But Heard’s pals label him as a serial abuser. L.A. neighbor



Lily-Rose (as a baby) called her father “the sweetest” in a May 29 post.



“Johnny would have worked it out with her, but she couldn’t resist creating this spectacle.”

A SOURCE CLOSE TO DEPP



Heard hugged pal Raquel Rose Pennington after meeting with her legal team May 28.

Raquel Rose Pennington says Heard confessed to her about Depp’s constant attacks. As each side lobs accusations, only one fact is clear: The duo’s split will be as contentious as their romance. Sums up a Depp pal, “They had a horrible relationship.”

HER ACCUSATIONS

Heard used stronger terms in her May 27 filing. The Texas native wrote she “endured excessive emotional, verbal and physical abuse from Johnny, which has included angry, hostile, humiliating and threatening assaults to me whenever I questioned his authority.” The issue, wrote Heard, was Depp’s “short fuse” and his drug and alcohol use. Though



On May 29, Depp performed with his band, Hollywood Vampires, in Herborn, Germany.

Depp told *Rolling Stone* in 2013 that he had been sober for 18 months, the Depp insider admits he had taken to drinking “a glass of wine here and there” in recent years.

He had imbibed, claimed Heard, prior to returning to their downtown L.A. penthouse condo April 21, the night before her 30th birthday. In her court filing, Heard said she had been celebrating at their three-unit spread when Depp showed up drunk and high. After her friends left, they began arguing over why he skipped the bash. Heard wrote that Depp threw a magnum of champagne at the wall and a wineglass at her, “then grabbed me by the shoulders and pushed me onto the bed.” After several minutes of screaming, said Heard, he stormed out, “breaking nearly everything in his path.”

The pair didn’t see each other for a month, claimed Heard, with Depp

even skipping a planned appearance at the May 2 Met Ball. But on May 21, hours after his conversation with Stanhope, Depp arrived home at about 7:15 p.m., said Heard, who claimed he was once again drunk and high. As Heard tried to comfort him over his mother’s passing, she wrote, “suddenly, he began obsessing about something that was untrue and his demeanor changed dramatically.” Heard — who dated photographer Tasya van Ree before Depp — claims he began to rant “in an aggressive and incoherent manner.” He insisted they phone their friend iO Tillett Wright — a photographer and LGBT activist, who tabloids hinted had an affair with Heard — “to prove his paranoid and irrational accusations.” As the phone rang, says Heard, Depp snatched the iPhone and threw it at her, “striking my cheek and eye.” He lunged at her,

STARS CHOOSE SIDES

Celebrities speak out to support Depp and Heard

PAUL BETTANY The 45-year-old, who co-starred with Depp in three movies, called him “the sweetest” in a May 28 post. He added, “All I’m saying — Domestic violence is a serious allegation. Trial by twitter is unhelpful.”



RAINN WILSON “Here’s what I learned today: there’s a 100% antibiotic resistant bacteria, bees killed a hiker, Cpt Jack Sparrow is a wife beater,” the actor, 50, tweeted May 27, referencing Depp’s *Pirates of the Caribbean* role.



EVAN RACHEL WOOD

On May 27, the bisexual star, 28, retweeted a note from an LGBT activist that said Heard’s “sexuality is only relevant in that bi women are at a far greater risk of experiencing intimate partner violence.”



ANDY RICHTER The 49-year-old comedian posted a scathing tweet about Depp May 28. He wrote, “One of the things you can pay a publicist to do is make your ex look bad in the press after you’ve been accused of abuse.”



MICKEY ROURKE

On May 27, Depp’s *Once Upon a Time in Mexico* costar, 63, told TMZ that the actor “doesn’t seem like a very violent man to me. . . . He’s always been really low-key and a gentleman, and not violent.”



THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: RIGHT: CINDY ORD/GETTY IMAGES; ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES; FOR UP/HAITIAN RELIEF ORGANIZATION; EVAN AGOSTINI/VISION/AP; MATT WINKELMEYER/GETTY IMAGES; TODD WILLIAMSON/GETTY IMAGES; BREWER/MCMANUS/SPLASH NEWS; COURTESY OF DEPP/INSTAGRAM; ANDREAS RENTZ/GETTY IMAGES



They met filming *The Rum Diary* in 2009. She gushed, "He's a dream."

she said, "pulling my hair, striking me and violently grabbing my face."

Heard had sent a text to neighbor Pennington. She let herself into the condo, Pennington said in a court filing, where she saw Depp screaming at Heard. She placed herself in between the couple, she says, then watched as Depp swung around a magnum of wine "to smash everything he could." (A Depp source counters, "Johnny was only there briefly to get his stuff. He absolutely didn't touch her.") Heard called the police, and LAPD officer Jane Kim tells *Us* they responded but didn't find evidence of a crime. Kim adds that Heard "did not insist on a report." A Heard source says she declined to request one out of fear: "She felt scared and embarrassed."

That reaction is common, says Ruth Glenn, executive director of the National Coalition Against

“
This is not about the money for Amber. She's standing up because of what he did to her.”

A SOURCE CLOSE TO HEARD

Domestic Violence. "Very frequently, domestic violence goes unreported," Glenn tells *Us*, noting that victims often worry that no one will believe them. Accusing a beloved actor such as Depp only amplifies that fear, says Glenn: "I'm sure that much of America is having a difficult time believing that someone like him would commit domestic violence."

▶ DEPP'S DEFENDERS

To Depp's friends and family, it's downright impossible. In a letter dated May 27, Paradis insists her ex — who revealed to *Rolling Stone*

that he was hit while growing up with his parents, Betty Sue and John — "has never been physically abusive with me and this looks nothing like the man I lived with for 14 wonderful years." In a May 29 post, their daughter echoed that the soft-spoken actor

"is the sweetest most loving person I know."

Costars also spoke out about his even-keeled demeanor, with Paul Bettany labeling Depp — his castmate in *Transcendence*, *The Tourist* and *Mortdecai* — "the kindest, gentlest man that I've ever known." But no one was more forceful than Stanhope. In his May 29 editorial, the comic, who once developed a project with Depp, said Heard threatened to lie about Depp "in any and every possible duplicitous way" if he didn't agree to her terms for the divorce. (Heard's



"In many ways, I am everything she wouldn't want to be with," Depp (Jan. 12) has said.

Vampires, in Europe. "Then she didn't like the criticism she got over filing right after his mother died, so she reacted out of anger and to save her image." Adds another Depp source, "Nobody around Johnny has ever seen him behave like that with a woman."

But Depp's past temper has made headlines. In the mid-1990s, the movie heartthrob earned a bad-boy rep. Fresh off his *Edward Scissorhands* and *What's Eating Gilbert Grape* fame, Depp got into a scuffle in a London bar with photographer Jonathan Walpole in 1994. Walpole told the *London Evening Standard* that Depp "pulled both my ears very hard" after Walpole

mistakenly picked up his glass from the bar. A week later, he allegedly fought with then-love Kate Moss — trashing their \$1,200-a-night room at the Mark Hotel in New York City. (He was arrested on charges of criminal mischief.)

Still, the Depp source insists the actor never resorted to violence with Heard. "They fought, but she was always the aggressor — he was always just defending himself," says the source, who claims Heard is after a large payout. "Amber is doing all of this out of revenge and to get

money. She knew the world would react this way. She planned it."

THE BATTLE CONTINUES

Victims of domestic abuse can net more in court, says L.A.-based attorney Robert W. Stanley of Jaffe and Clemens Family Law. "If the finding of domestic abuse is proven to be a fact, then that could affect support," Stanley tells *Us*, noting it can also "put pressure on litigants to settle things so that neither side has to go through the process."

But those close to Depp, whose latest film, *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, had a disappointing \$34.2 million opening weekend, say he has no intentions of handing over his cash. The actor, owner of a \$25 million 37-acre spread in Plan-de-la-Tour, France, and a \$3.6 million 45-acre private island in the Bahamas, "is going to do all he can to protect his assets," says another source. Not to mention his good name. Due back in court June 17, Depp plans to vigorously deny any claims of violence against Heard. "He's going to defend himself, then give her what is ordered," says the Depp insider. "He was hoping to resolve this quickly and amicably until she made this decision. Now it's in the hands of the court." **US**

If you or anyone you know have been the target of domestic abuse, report it by calling 911. Or you can reach the National Domestic Violence Hotline confidentially at 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

lawyer Peter Sample calls these claims "unequivocally false.") Painting him as a wife beater was part of her plan, he said. "Johnny doesn't abuse anyone," he wrote. "And he told me the day ahead of time that she'd pull some kind of s--t like this. Johnny Depp got used, manipulated, set up and made to look like an a--hole."

Stanhope's shocking claim was echoed by director Terry Gilliam, who worked with Depp on 2009's *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*. On May 30, he posted a link to the editorial on Facebook, writing, "Like many of Johnny Depp's friends I'm discovering that Amber is a better actress than I thought. If only the 'bruise' would stay in one place."

A Depp insider says Heard is fabricating the abuse to save face. "Everything was going to be resolved quickly and efficiently," the insider says of Depp, who has remained quiet on the issue while touring with his band, Hollywood

THEIR TRIAL BY TWITTER

Depp and Heard will face off in court June 17 — but social-media users are already rendering verdicts. "I don't believe Amber. . . . She just wants \$," one wrote May 27. Ruth Glenn of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence warns against victim shaming: "I think any time we blame a victim, we lay the fabric that says you won't be believed, so why should you come forward?" Still, many are defending Heard, using the hashtag #imwithamber and calling for boycotts of Depp's films. Glenn believes Twitter users on both sides of the debate should reserve judgment. She says, "Allow the courts to work this out."