

bitter battle

The split turns nasty as Alex Reid refuses to move out and she parties abroad...



NO RING!

Alex steps out without his wedding band for the first time last Tuesday...



...but it's back on his finger by Friday

RING!

'Alex will get a pay-off'

Leading London lawyer Rodney Hylton-Potts told new! that Alex should expect a chunk of Jordan's earnings.

"In all divorces, the starting point is 50:50," he said. "But that doesn't always apply in shorter marriages, as we saw with Heather Mills – who got half what Paul McCartney earned during the four years they were together."

"There's money from magazine and TV deals, which arose because Katie met Alex. With a good lawyer, he'll get half her net earnings after tax for the entire period they were together."

"Either Katie is a very clever girl or she has been taking clever advice. The longer it goes on, the more he gets, so she wants the world to know it's over as evidence, because that will determine the relationship in financial purposes."

"She may argue that the marriage never worked and that their quality time together as a couple only amounts to six months."

"In terms of the children, Alex could apply for a court order for contact but he will have to prove the depth of their relationship – do they call him 'Daddy'? Has he got texts or emails that show this? He won't get very far if Peter Andre objects."

The couple's 18-month relationship had grown increasingly volatile since they returned from a make-or-break new year holiday to the Maldives. On January 5, Jordan tweeted that her marriage was "in crisis".

Last week, Alex reportedly told friends their marriage had been over for a while.

"I haven't stopped crying for a month," he told his mate. "She has treated me like an unwanted dog."

"I feel like one of those puppies brought into the house for Christmas and chucked out on the streets a few weeks later."

He also revealed the couple hadn't had sex "for a good few months".

But his pals say that he is most heartbroken over the reality that he won't have access to her children.

"I will probably never see them again and it's sad," he told friends.

The pair wed in Las Vegas on February 2, 2010, which means that Jordan can't start divorce proceedings just yet. The earliest a UK couple can legally file for divorce is the day after their first wedding anniversary.

ELLIE PIOVESANA

split to be amicable, Alex's friends say he still blames Jordan's "obsession" with her ex, Peter Andre, for contributing to the marriage split. "She was obsessed with him and spoke about him all the time, even in front of me," he told a pal. "I could never live up to him. It tore me up."

But Jordan had previously tried to put Alex's mind at rest, maintaining in her book *You Only Live Once* that she was no longer in love with her ex. A glum-looking Alex

was pictured without his wedding ring last Tuesday, but by Friday it was back on his finger. "Maybe I'm a hopeless romantic," he said. "I want to work on our marriage. I would sacrifice anything to spend time with her. She has always been my priority."

However, a Jordan insider said, "Alex is living in utter denial. Katie has been moaning to friends that she doesn't understand how many times she has to tell Alex that she doesn't love him any more."

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