



CLOSE:
Beaming Joanne
with Katie in
November 2004

A kitten called Pete left to die, abandoned dogs and the chihuahua she kept in a cage... groom reveals the cruel truth of Jordan's menagerie of vanity

by **Antonia Hoyle**

THERE was a depressing predictability in glamour model Katie Price's request that her privacy be respected after she walked out on her pop-star husband Peter Andre. This, after all, is a woman who has made millions from putting the tawdry minutiae of her life on public display, from botched breast implants to bedroom secrets. As her alter ego Jordan, she has peddled a false reality where naked modelling and sleazy

kiss-and-tell somehow go hand-in-hand with being a devoted mother in a loving marriage. Such is her lust for publicity that she even turned her failing marriage into a reality television show.

But what the cameras failed to show was just how ruthlessly she treats those around her. Indeed,

it is telling that her response to the fierce public reaction to her break-up was to sack her agent, rather than assess her own behaviour.

Joanne Hillman knows better than most just how heartless Katie Price can be. While Katie, 30, attempts to improve her image by presenting herself as a dedicated horsewoman and animal lover, Joanne, who worked for her as a groom, nanny and cleaner, today reveals that she rode her horses only when the cameras were around.

And when Joanne left her job after two years, Katie reported her to the police for theft and benefit fraud – Joanne was cleared of both – and threatened to sue if she ever talked about their time together.

It is only now that the legal case has been settled that Joanne is able to speak about the reality behind Katie Price's plastic facade.

'Katie made my life hell,' says Joanne. 'Working for her was a nightmare. In my view she cared as little about her horses as she did about her friends and family. In the two years I worked for her she used them for photo opportunities and ditched them when the cameras weren't around. They were simply a means of enhancing her brand and making her more famous.'

'She worked me so hard for so little money that I nearly had a nervous breakdown. I'm glad people are beginning to realise just how scheming and cold she can be. The only person she's interested in is herself.'

Joanne first met Katie nine years ago at a Brighton stables where both kept horses.

At the time, Katie had achieved tabloid notoriety as Jordan, the surgically enhanced topless model whose lurid escapades with a procession of footballers and low-rent pop stars were rarely out of the red-top papers.

'She was wearing white linen trousers,' remembers Joanne. 'She kept falling off her horse. But she smiled and chatted to me.' Two years later, Joanne applied to work as a groom to look after

'The only person she is interested in is herself'

Jordan's three horses at the model's home outside Brighton. Although Joanne didn't get the job, her experience and enthusiasm impressed Katie. Five months later, in early 2003, Katie asked Joanne to come and help out the groom she had appointed.

'I was paid £150 a week in cash to cover my expenses,' says Joanne. 'After I'd paid for petrol, the horses' equipment and entrance fees for show-jumping tournaments, I was often left out of pocket. But I love animals and saw working for Katie as a privilege.'

It is an admission that explains much. Though 36 and a single mother to nine-year-old Jenna, Joanne is in thrall to the glossy, gossip-fuelled celebrity magazines that litter her one-bedroom flat in Brighton.

From unremarkable beginnings – her father was an electrician, her mother a care-home helper – she left school at 16 and went to work as an administrator for a local children's hospital. No wonder she was bowled over by life at Katie's electric-gated mansion.

'I'd get up at five to muck her horses out,' she recalls. 'Then Katie and I



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Katie cared for her horses like she did her friends and family – she used them to make her famous... then ditched them when the cameras went away

NEW IMAGE: Katie Price performing a dressage routine at last year's Horse of the Year Show

would eat boiled eggs and soldiers for breakfast. Her kitchen was full of sweets; trays of fondant fancies and chocolate buttons.' And Katie knew how to deal with the unwanted effects of her sweet habit. Joanne reveals: 'Katie got any fat taken out with liposuction.'

She adds: 'Just like on her television show, her house was a mess. She left her underwear and tiny Iceberg designer dresses lying around, and bought every single newspaper and magazine to see what had been written about her.'

But although the pair seemed to get on well, Joanne soon realised Katie's declarations of a passion for her three horses – two mares and a stallion named Storm, Sally and Tyke – were not all they seemed.

'Katie had no interest in riding, cleaning or feeding them,' she said. 'In the two years I worked for her, I only saw her ride them six times. As soon as the camera crew left, so would she. Her attempts at the time I knew her to reinvent herself as a horsewoman were laughable.'

After five months, Joanne found

herself in sole charge of Katie's horses when the previous groom left.

'I looked after them every single day. I worked Christmas, missed my friend's wedding and even drove back from a holiday in Bognor Regis every day to feed them. I knew Katie didn't.'

Soon, Katie asked Joanne to clean her house and babysit for Harvey, her son by footballer Dwight Yorke,

'I only saw her ride six times in two years'

often for days at a time when Katie was working away. 'Friends said I was being taken for a mug but I loved Harvey and the horses and was flattered she trusted me,' she says.

Her time as Jordan's Girl Friday spanned her boss's fateful 2004 appearance on the ITV reality show *I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!* when she met Peter, now 36. After the show, he moved into Katie's

house and they were married at Highclere Castle, Berkshire, in September 2005. They now have two children, Junior, three, and Princess, one. Harvey is now six.

Joanne says that in the early days the couple's relationship was genuine. The three became friends. Katie and Joanne dyed their hair together – Katie went blonde and persuaded Joanne to dye her blonde hair black. She says: 'I think Katie knew it would look awful. She hates other women to feel good about the way they look.'

Joanne was taken to dinner and to West End clubs where tables groaned with bottles of Smirnoff vodka and Coca-Cola. Peter got on so well with Jenna that he had asked her to be a bridesmaid at the wedding.

But Joanne was soon becoming deeply concerned about Katie's treatment of her animals.

Katie had six dogs during the time Joanne knew her. After Katie and Peter moved to a new five-bedroom home in the village of Maresfield, East Sussex, Katie left one, a Dogue De Bordeaux called Smurf, behind



PHILIP IDE / MARK CHILTON

MOVING ON: Joanne at home last week. She is only now recovering after her years with Katie, which left her a 'paranoid wreck'

for 14 weeks. 'She believed he made too much mess, so left him locked in her old house,' Joanne says.

'I visited him twice a day but other than that he had no interaction with the outside world.'

Katie also insisted her labrador and chihuahua dogs were locked in cages overnight in case they sullied the new house. When Smurf was finally allowed to join the family, he went missing for six days before he was returned. Joanne says: 'Katie didn't seem bothered.'

She also recalled that Katie spent £600 on a Shar Pei dog called Hooch, despite the fact that its previous owners had warned it was too aggressive to be with young children. The previous owner, who didn't wish to be named, said: 'The Beckhams had just bought a Shar Pei and I think Katie saw it as a fashion accessory.'

'She had no idea of the work they entailed. She called me demanding a refund. I gave her £400 and took the dog back.'

Meanwhile, Katie kept Scooby, a Great Dane, outside. 'He lost so much weight that I tried to keep him warm with my jumper,' Joanne says.

'When I told Katie that Great Danes were supposed to be kept inside, she ordered me to get rid of him. I had to rehouse her dogs under my name so she didn't get the negative publicity.'

The last straw for Joanne came in late 2005 when Katie instructed her to buy three eight-week-old kittens, then promptly lost interest.

Joanne says: 'Jenna named them – one was Jenna, another Kate and the third Pete. After six days of being confined to Peter's study in a corner of their house, Katie announced that they stank and they were moved to a shed.'

Joanne says that the following morning she discovered Pete lying dead on the shed floor. Sobbing, she telephoned Katie with the bad news.

Her reaction was, Joanne recalls, typical. 'I was sobbing my heart out. Katie wasn't crying. In fact, to me she seemed rather indifferent.'

Joanne had had enough. 'I was exhausted. I was being paid £170 by this time but I still wasn't making money from the work and I couldn't stand Katie's treatment of her animals,' she says.

Two days after leaving, Katie texted Joanne and asked her to come to the house. The message added: 'I have a surprise for you. It's great. You'll love it.' Rather than thank her

for all her hard work, Katie met her on the driveway, handed her a letter and stormed off in silence.

The letter accused Joanne of stealing cash, personal photographs and various pieces of equestrian equipment. The parting line read: 'And I know you're on benefits.'

Joanne says: 'I was horrified. I was claiming unemployment benefit, but Katie only paid me expenses and never formally employed me... and I wouldn't dream of stealing.'

'I think that once someone leaves her life, she tries to ruin their reputation before they can ruin hers.'

Katie reported Joanne to the police. But when detectives visited Joanne's flat, she was able to tell police where

'Posh had a Shar Pei, so Katie got one too'

the model had mislaid the items Katie had accused her of stealing. The charges were dropped and she received an apology from the police. Her file was transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions, which investigated the alleged benefit fraud.

In October 2007, Katie arrived at Lewes Crown Court to give evidence against Joanne.

'She wore shades, refused to look at me and pranced around as if she was in an episode of *Law And Order*. She refused to stop talking and made so many claims and allegations that were nothing to do with the case that the jury was disbanded and the hearing adjourned.'

In February, the case was dropped due to lack of evidence. 'I cried with relief for two hours,' says Joanne. 'Katie's behaviour towards me made me a depressed, paranoid wreck, and because of the criminal proceedings I couldn't get a job.'

Joanne has been able to put those dark days behind her and is now working as a groom at a local racing stable. She says: 'I wasn't going to talk about Katie. But she treated me so badly that I want to speak out. She doesn't care about her animals and she didn't care about me.'

'For her to now demand her privacy is unbelievable. I want the world to know what the Katie that Katie doesn't want us to see is really like.'

A spokeswoman for Katie Price said she would make no comment on the allegations.