

best BITS

Peter Andre's had a hell of a couple of weeks. First, he had the shock of discovering that his ex-wife, Katie Price, had remarried in a quickie Las Vegas ceremony to *Celebrity Big Brother* winner Alex Reid. Then he was reduced to tears during an interview with Sky reporter Kay Burley when he was questioned about how he would feel should

This mysterious girl put a smile on Pete's face. Is it you? Let us know...



Superfan Sam Gray gets her star snap



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SWEEPS THE NA



Pete's army of supporters turn out in force for their man

Life seems to be a constant emotional rollercoaster for Peter Andre and his family. But as he starts his nationwide tour, we meet the girls putting the smile back on his face...

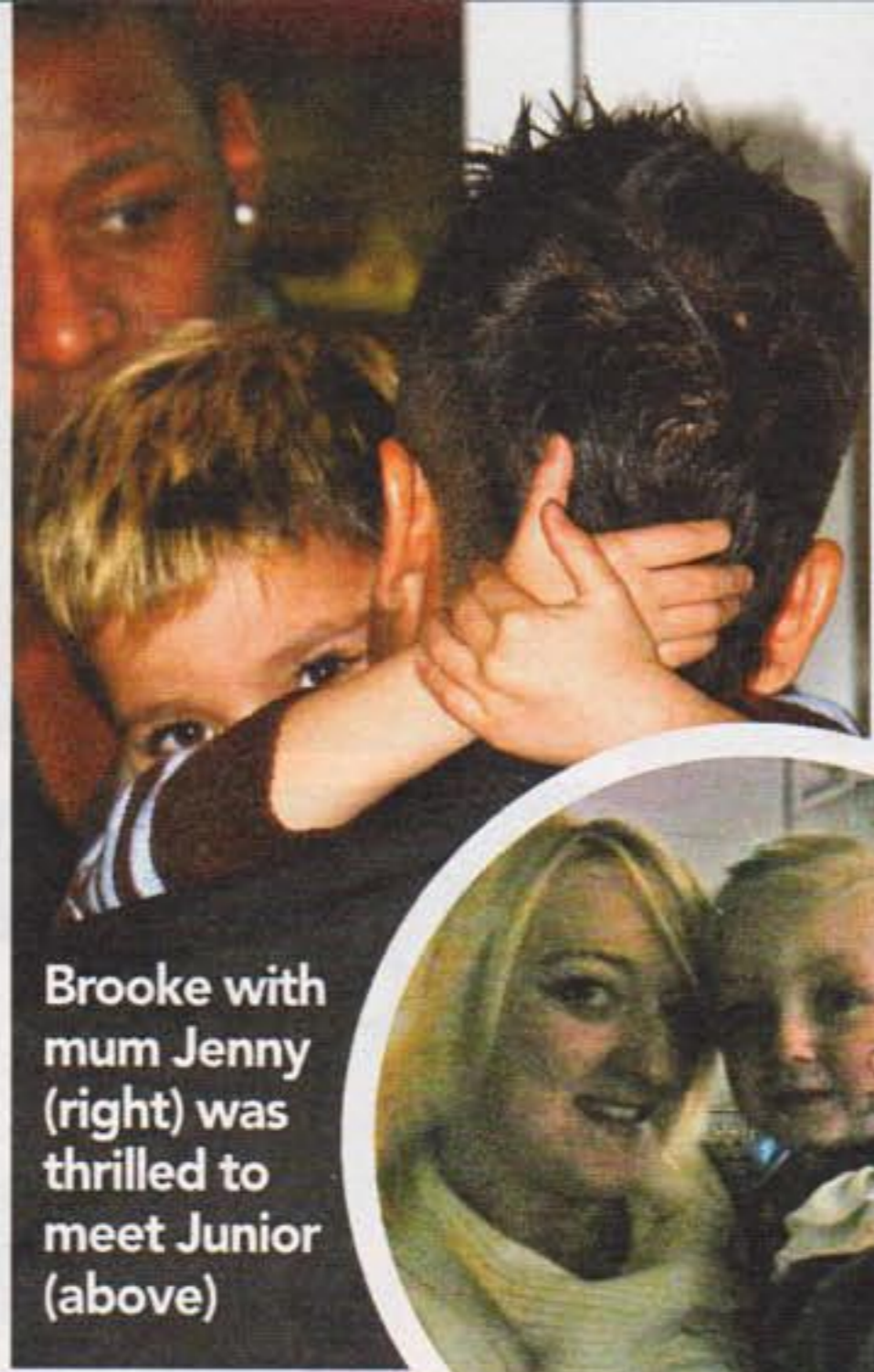
Alex attempt to adopt his kids. And in between, he's been covering the length and breadth of the country meeting, greeting and signing for the people who mean most to him outside of his immediate family – his fans.

There have been perfume signings, CD signings and even a morning spent serving coffee to fans at Costa. But it's Pete's devotion – signing for every last fan as the queues stretch around the block – that makes him special. And for one fan, Pete has literally been a life-saver.

Five years ago, 24-year-old Cat Hedger, from Worthing, was staring death in the face after she had her drink spiked.

"I wasn't expected to live," says Cat, who is third in the queue at

FEATURE: PAUL SIMPER. PHOTOS: MARK DOUGLAS/WENN; PAUL SIMPER; ALPHA; REX; WENN



Brooke with mum Jenny (right) was thrilled to meet Junior (above)



Cat finally gets to meet Pete after queuing for seven hours

Tesco in Shoreham-by-Sea, where she's been queuing in her wheelchair with thousands of others for hours, to meet her hero.

"I was left with severe spinal damage and epilepsy. I suffered depression when I was told I couldn't have children. But when I saw Pete on his TV show *Going It Alone*, picking himself up again after being in the depths of despair, it gave me strength."

Like many of the fans present, Cat was horrified by how Peter was interviewed on Kay Burley's Sky show. The singer was shown a clip of Dwight Yorke, the father of Katie Price's first child Harvey, talking about the possibility of Peter adopting him. She then asked Peter how he'd feel if Katie's new husband Alex tried to do the same with Pete and Katie's children, Junior and Princess, although Alex has never suggested it.

Cat came straight from hospital to show her support. "My doctor advised me not to," she says, "but

watching the interview left me in tears, so I had to be here. Being here today is to tell him it's not about Katie or Alex, all that matters to us, the fans, is Pete."

Mum-of-two Sam Gray, 35, from Portsmouth, agrees. "Some might say I'm over-sensitive, but in my opinion Kay Burley should be sacked. She could see that Pete was getting upset and she pushed him. But we don't want to talk about that today – days like this are about Pete and his fans.

"This is the first time we've been first in the queue. At one signing in Havant in Hampshire, we queued from 2am, and were still only 13th from the front.

"But Pete's so friendly. He doesn't make you feel like you're 'just a fan'. When he did a signing in Basildon the other day, he stayed till 10.30pm so he could sign for every person. He doesn't want to let anyone down."

The star, whose new album *Unconditional Love Songs* is high in the UK charts, appeals to all ages. Three-year-old Brooke Wren came with her mum Jenny, 22, and was thrilled when Pete introduced her to Junior.

"Brooke loves Junior," says Jenny. "Pete said he liked her princess dress and when he saw she had Junior's name on her cheek, he asked us to wait so she could meet him. Junior gave her

a big kiss on the lips. It was lovely – she felt very special."

Even the police force, there for crowd safety, have been swept up by Petemania. Sgt Darren Pickering and PC Annabel Shepherd confess to being fans.

"I was given his CD for my birthday," says PC Shepherd. "The police are here today to make sure everything is safe," says Sgt Pickering, "but as my wife is a super-fan of his, it's just as well I'm here!"

And Pete has added another string to his bow. Last week, he presented the Friday edition of *This Morning* and he's going to be backstage at the Brits. "He looks a hot favourite to take over Paul O'Grady's old Channel 4 slot too," says one TV insider.

Back in Shoreham, Cat Hedger is wiping away tears of joy when best sees her after the signing.

"He told me off for not being in hospital," she says, "But words can't explain how I feel now. Pete has given me my life back."

Pete is overwhelmed at the reaction he's been getting. "I've got the best fans in the world," he says. "We did a signing at five in the afternoon and I ended up signing until 11.30. Thousands turned up. The crowds are incredible. The support is amazing. They're just fantastic."

* Catch Peter on his UK tour from 19 Feb – www.peterandre.com
* *Unconditional Love Songs* is out now

MANIA TION



In happier times with ex-wife Katie



Pete breaks down on live TV