

‘Liam, I’ll tell Bear stories of how amazing you were’

As updates flood in following Liam Payne’s tragic death, his loved ones try to come to terms with his passing

Since One Direction star Liam Payne fell to his death from a third-floor balcony of a hotel in Argentina earlier this month, tributes and messages from fans, family and friends have been flooding in from around the world. But while his loved ones come to terms with the tragic news

of his passing aged just 31, emotional details about Liam’s struggles with drugs and alcohol have also emerged.

The *Teardrops* singer – who leaves behind seven-year-old son, Bear, from his previous relationship with Cheryl – had been open in the past about his issues with addiction, candidly revealing last summer that he was celebrating 100 days sober following a stint in rehab. It’s been reported that Liam had checked into a rehab clinic again in July this year, in another bid to overcome his demons.

Sadly, it’s alleged the singer left the 28-day programme after just two days. Now it appears Liam found himself struggling once again, as in the days after his passing, photographs emerged of his hotel room seemingly littered with drug paraphernalia.

Moments before his death – which happened two days after his girlfriend, Kate Cassidy, 25, left their Buenos Aires hotel to return to America – hotel staff



Liam with his One Direction bandmates on *X Factor* in 2010



Cheryl and Liam had a whirlwind two-year romance

phoned emergency services to raise their concerns for a guest who was ‘overloaded with drugs and alcohol’ and ‘trashing [their] entire room’.

In the aftermath of his tragic passing, the star’s heartbroken friends and family were quick to maintain that Liam had been sober leading up to his death. It was revealed by insiders that Liam had entered Argentina at the end of September to renew his expired US visa, which involved passing a drug test to confirm his sobriety. ‘He was completely clean the Thursday before he died,’ an insider shared.

Last week, hearts broke across the globe as Liam’s dad Geoff, 66, set off to Argentina. In emotional videos, Geoff was seen reading the thousands of cards and notes nestled among a sea of bouquets, all left outside the hotel.

There has been a constant outpouring of grief from family, friends and fans alike, as they struggle to come to terms with the devastating loss and vow to help

look after Bear.

Girls Aloud star Cheryl, 41, shared a sweet photo of Liam and his son, and wrote movingly, ‘As I try to navigate this earth-shattering event, and work through my own grief at this indescribably painful time, I’d like to kindly remind everyone

that we have lost a human being. Liam was not only a pop star and a celebrity, he was a son, a brother, an uncle, a dear friend and a father to our seven-year-old son. A son that now has to face the reality of never seeing his father again.’

Liam’s grief-stricken elder sister Nicola also paid tribute to her brother, writing, ‘You were truly too good for this earth, you are an angel who just lived for making people smile and happy.’

His sister Ruth added, ‘You just wanted to be loved and to make people happy with your music.

You never believed you were good enough, and I hope you can now see this

before his younger sister Félécité overdosed in 2019 aged just 18 – led the tributes, describing himself as ‘beyond devastated’.

The singer shared, ‘Liam, I want you to know if Bear ever needs me, I will be the uncle he needs in his life and tell him stories of how amazing his dad

was. I wish I got the chance to say goodbye and tell you one more time how much I loved you. Payno, my boy, one of my best friends, my brother, I love you mate. Sleep well.’

Reflecting on his many memories, too, was Simon Cowell. The music mogul first met Liam when he auditioned for *The X Factor* aged 14, before later placing him in 1D.

In a touching post for the ‘kind, talented and humble’ singer, Simon, 65, wrote, ‘Liam, I am truly devastated. Heartbroken. And I feel empty. I want you to know how much love and respect I have for you. Every tear I have shed is a memory of you.’

Rest in peace, Liam.



The singer became a dad to Bear in 2017



With his family



Fans left tributes at London’s Hyde Park

By: Charlotte Roberts. Pictures: Getty, Shutterstock, Instagram