

**DRAMA** Her suicide storyline left Nicole Faraday in shock. By Nick Fiaca

# It's Snow joke!

**Bad Girls**  
Thursday ITV1

**S**nowball Merriman's drug-overdose suicide pact with boyfriend Ritchie failed after she was saved yet he died. She was distraught, but the tormented Larkhall lag is reunited with her man in this week's *Bad Girls* when she hangs herself.

Her suicide will shock fans but it was a bigger surprise for Nicole Faraday, who plays the ex-porn star!

"I didn't actually want to leave. The producer told me in the car park, which was a bit rough," says Nicole. "He said, 'Just to let you know before the scripts come out, you hang yourself.' I thought he was joking because we used to laugh about how something horrible happens to Snowball every week. He said, 'No. Really.' I was shocked."

Snowball has blown up G-Wing, had her hair set alight by a fellow inmate and accidentally shot and paralysed Ritchie during an escape attempt. Now, she wants out – for good. "Her sole focus is, 'I have to die, because I have to be with Ritchie,'" explains Nicole, 26.

With help from Yvonne – Ritchie's mum, who blames her for her son's death – Snowball gets her wish.

Romantic gestures are something

Nicole knows all about. She fell for a "Brad Pitt-lookalike" who was touring Britain in a grunge band in 1994. Although they'd dated for just 10 days, he invited her to Seattle.

"I was so madly in love, I thought, 'I'm going to make a new life in America!'" says Nicole, who last year played *Casualty's* flirty Dr Heather Lincoln. "I saved up but when I got there, he was sleeping with someone else!"

Nicole, who has been offered the part of *Bad Girl* Shell Dockley in the forthcoming stage musical, used to be a real-life bad girl. She was expelled from posh Talbot Heath School in Dorset after planting a fake bomb in a new music block which was going to be opened by the Duchess of Kent.

Nicole and friends put a ticking clock inside a box, added BluTac and wire and left it in the staff toilets with a note. But their joke backfired.

"A bomb expert decided that it was real and was going to do a controlled explosion and blow up the music block," recalls Nicole, who lives in Greenwich, south London, with her actor boyfriend Dean Lepley, 37.

"I was the only one that owned up. I had to go and get it because the police didn't believe it was a joke. They thought I was trying to get them blown up."



Fellow inmate Yvonne (right) blames Snowball for her son Ritchie's death and agrees to aid her old adversary's suicide attempt. Left: Snowball hangs herself from a high walkway