



and I broke down.

'I simply couldn't work at all. The year before I had sold out Wembley and suddenly I couldn't get through a morning.

'I moved to Los Angeles where I met a girl called Jacqui (Rachel Hunter's sister), who I told about the attacks, the breakdown, the medication. She told me about this therapist, Claudia Newman. I started seeing Claudia and she switched all the lights back on in my head: she took me off medication and just made me talk about myself, my background, my thoughts, my fears and guilt and everything. She made me look at myself, understand who I was and build myself up again.'

Andre's upbringing was far from conventional. His Cypriot parents moved to England and converted from Greek Orthodoxy to Jehovah's Witnesses after a doorstep encounter in the late Sixties. Andre was born in Harrow then moved to Australia then back to Harrow again, before finally settling on the Gold Coast with his four brothers and sister in 1982.

'We ended up in a part of the world where we least fitted in,' says Andre.

'We were this bunch of dark-haired, dark-eyed, Greek Jehovah's Witnesses living in the middle of blue-eyed, blond-haired surfer dudes. The only constant thing in my life was music. I was obsessed by Michael Jackson and George Benson (both born into the Jehovah's Witness faith) and the UK charts. But even that made me stick out because all the kids at school were into surfer music and rock. I guess I was an outcast from the start.'

His family were incredibly devout.

'I did do witnessing door-to-door with my parents for about a year when I was 15,' says Andre. 'I never actually felt that comfortable about it. Being a Jehovah's Witness is about reading the Bible and taking those words literally. It's not about interpretation. My grandfather did three-mile walks every day, witnessing door to door, until he was 93 years old.'

'I never rebelled against it. My great-

est fear was to become an apostate (one who deserts the faith) but that didn't happen. What happened was that around the age of 17 I began to question a few things, to sit on the fence. It's very clear that you can't sit on the fence; you have to believe or not believe.

'So I simply stopped practising. There was no family row. No bad feeling. The other aspect of my family is the very traditional Greek side. We love each other - we'd die for each other. My parents and my family have always been, and remain, the most important people in my life.'

'But they didn't want me to get into the music industry. Sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll are basically the three things they fear the most. I used to say how George Benson was an elder in the church and he had a career. But they were petrified.

'Once I signed a deal and my career took off the whole sex thing for me exploded. I didn't do drugs but I had a lot of sex. I took advantage of all those offers and I had a lot of fun. It was against the religion but being a Jehovah was still a huge part of me.'

'Sex aside, I had a very strong moral code and to be honest I'm glad I had all those relationships. I got it out of my system. It was no longer the same obsession. By the time I'd come through everything, the whole journey, I realised what I wanted most was to settle down.'

You have to ask yourself why on earth would he then fall for Katie Price, a former topless model with a reputation for doing and saying the wrong thing.

'I fell in love with her,' says Andre. 'My problem is that I have always had this thing for wild girls. I think at the time I thought I understood her, and that underneath everything there was this girl who was a mother, who wanted a family. And I thought she was gorgeous.'

What does he think now?

'I'm not going to go there. What I think is I will always love her as the mother of my children. But that is it. I'm not in love with her.'

He stops. Andre is very careful not to say anything that would provoke yet another media onslaught from his ex. The last time we met, back in July,



Andre looked a broken man. He'd lost almost three stone in weight, couldn't eat, couldn't sleep and berated himself for crying in moments of weakness, such as in the car park at Ikea where he'd been to buy new beds for his children in the rooms he was decorating in his new home near Brighton.

'People think I went into that marriage for fame, for money, for all the wrong reasons. None of it is true. I never took a penny of her money. I had property in Australia and Cyprus when we met, which was earning me a decent living.'

'When we decided to marry, I sat in a lawyer's office with Kate having a screaming row because I was insisting on a pre-nuptial agreement. I didn't want a penny of her money and still don't. She was screaming because she thought it meant that I wasn't committing to her. I was upset that she didn't get that what I was trying to say was that this was about love not money.'

'I wanted to have what my parents have - a marriage that has lasted forever. The hardest thing for me about my split was not walking away from Kate but picking up the phone to tell my parents. I felt like I'd failed. I'd been brought up in a faith that didn't acknowledge divorce unless for extreme reasons.'

'The hardest thing for me is to accept things are getting better for me. I know how quickly it can turn. I know my bad points. Yes I'm vain, yes I can be ridiculous at times but I know who I am and I know the importance of humility, the importance of never believing the hype and getting carried away with your own ego.'

'At the end of the day people can just decide they don't want you around any more and then it's all over. That day will come to all of us. You're an idiot to think it won't. Now, I'm just trying to make the most of what I have.'

