



According to the Daily Mail, Sir Paul McCartney and Heather Mills are understood to have thrashed out a divorce deal in which she will receive almost £70 million.

Miss Mills, who split from the former Beatle in May last year after four years of marriage, is believed to be in line for a lump sum of £15 million.

If the deal goes through she will get another £3.5million every year until their daughter Beatrice, who will be four in October, reaches her 18th birthday.

The divorce settlement - which would be the largest in British legal history - will include a clause ensuring that neither party ever speaks publicly about what led to the breakdown of their marriage, the Daily Mail has learned.

Commentators believe that the plan to stagger the bulk of the payment reflects Sir Paul's concern that Miss Mills, who has courted the media as a reality TV star in the U.S. since the split, should maintain a dignified silence.

In divorce papers leaked last October, Miss Mills accused Sir Paul of assaulting her at least four times, once slashing her arm with a broken wine glass. She also said he was drunk regularly and smoked cannabis during their marriage and that he prevented her from breastfeeding Beatrice.

Someone else the Daily Mail reports as having a bit of problem is the gorgeous Lindsay Lohan. Apparently accompanied by her attorney, the 21-year-old actress surrendered at the Beverly Hills Police Department earlier this year to be fingerprinted and photographed, following a car crash. Police had discovered "a usable amount" of cocaine in Lohan's car on the night of the crash and tests later revealed she had the substance and nearly twice the legal amount of alcohol in her system. Lindsay was let out

of the drug rehabilitation in July, after six weeks, with an alcohol-detection bracelet on her ankle.

The news columns have also been full these past months with that other bracelet wearer, Paris Hilton, who was initially released wearing a tracker-bracelet. Officials had originally let her out early and decided to confine her movements to her Hollywood Hills house but as the Sydney Morning Herald reported "she screamed and cried" when taken back to jail to serve the rest of her sentence. Hilton was finally freed on the 26 June after serving just 22 days in detention despite the original 45 day sentence. By the way, I notice that in a pole conducted by Associated Press and AOL, Hilton was voted the second "Worst celebrity Role Model of 2006" .

Something else that's been let out early is the latest in the Harry Potter series. True fans waiting for the 21 July release were planning their all night vigils at stores across the UK while embargo breaking stories were published in the New York Times and the Baltimore Sun.



"A handful of characters die and many others are tortured in a bone-chilling ride before the Harry Potter series comes to its eagerly awaited end with "good old-fashioned closure". said one American critic, whilst another praised Rowling for the conclusion that possesses "convincing inevitability". Mitchiko Kakutani writing in the New York Times said "The world of Harry Potter is a place where the mundane and the marvellous, the ordinary and the surreal, coexist. It's a place where cars can fly and owls can deliver the mail, a place where paintings talk and the mirror reflects people's innermost desires. It's also a place utterly recognisable to readers, a place where death and the catastrophes of daily life are inevitable, and people's lives are defined by love and loss and hope - the same way they are in our own mortal world."

And it's catastrophe to where we turn our attention next. According to the latest UN population figures Humanity will make the historic transition from a rural to an urban species some time in the next year. The shift will be led by Africa and Asia, which are expected to add 1.6 billion people to their cities over the next 25 years.

The speed and scale of inevitable global urbanisation is so great most countries will not be

