

★ Star COUPLE

The latest hookups, breakups and more

SHE'S stronger than she's been before. That's what spies told *Star* after **Ariana Grande** made her first public appearance since her ill-advised engagement to disheveled *SNL* comic **Pete Davidson** inevitably went down the drain.

Two days after news broke that the singer, 25, and her funny fiancé, 24, called it quits, Ariana took the stage in New York City in a green minidress and matching sparkly lip to perform in an NBC special honoring the 15th anniversary of the Broadway musical *Wicked*.

"She walked out with her left hand in her pocket, like maybe she was trying to hide her ring finger. But sure enough, her hand was bare when she took it out," a mole inside the taping for the Oct. 29 special tells *Star*, adding that the pop princess "gave a flawless performance" despite her \$100,000 diamond being M.I.A.

Backstage, Ariana was "keeping herself to herself," adds another insider, noting that she "wasn't so distraught that she would have had to cancel — which producers feared."

That kind of professionalism may be news to Pete, who backed out of a scheduled comedy gig in Philadelphia on Oct. 17. Ariana, meanwhile, isn't letting the personal heartbreak (or her nerves) get the best of her.

"Can't believe I almost let my anxiety ruin this for me today," she wrote in an Instagram story following her recent performance to a packed house of encouraging fans. "Not today satan! Not tomorrow or the next day either." ★



Ariana

**BREAKS
FREE**

Star's sources say the pop princess is putting on a brave face after ending her engagement!

★ **Congratulations!** Days after tying the knot, *Big Brother* stars Cody