



**BURNING DESIRE?** Nicole (left) and Adelia Cooper leave the 81st Precinct station house yesterday after their arrest. N.Y. Post: Gary Miller

# LOVE TRIANGLE SPURRED ACID ATTACK: COPS

By CHRISTOPHER FRANCESCANI, ROCCO PARASCANDOLA and JACKIE ROTHENBERG

A Brooklyn love triangle turned violent when a spurned woman hurled burning acid in the face of her rival, police said yesterday.

Richard Brown — the man in the middle — has been living with the victim, Selima Irby, for three years but admits he was also seeing the alleged attacker for the past six months.

"I was just having, you know, a fling," a remorseful Brown said yesterday of his affair with Nicole Cooper, 18. "She wanted me more than I wanted her."

When he broke things off with her last week, he told The Post, she began harassing Irby.

The affair came to a disastrous end about 8 p.m. Tuesday when Cooper and her sister approached Irby outside her Bedford-Stuyvesant home at 511 Halsey St. and threw acid on her face and chest, cops said.

Some of the acid — a mix of liquid Drano and hair straightener — splashed on Irby's 14-month-old son, Clifton, who was in a stroller.

"Why would she do something like this?" Brown said. "You shouldn't pour acid on anyone, not even your dog."

Irby, 20, was in serious but stable condition at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center last night with second- and third-degree burns over 14 percent of her body, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Her son was in stable condition

with minor burns.

Brown, 35, says he's standing by his injured live-in lover and the child he fathered.

"I'm gonna stay with her, hell yes, after what she's been through."

"I don't know if she'll ever be the same again," he said. "She's upset. She's mad. She's frustrated. She's angry. You name it."



**SELIMA IRBY**  
In serious condition.

Cooper, who told cops that Irby had threatened to kill her, was arrested on assault and weapons possession charges. Her 17-year-old sister, Adelia, who was with her during the attack, was arrested on the same charges.

One 7-year-old witness said Irby was holding a brick behind her back right before the attack, "and then she went to hit them

with it."

Cooper then threw the acid at Irby, who ripped her shirt off and went running down the block topless, screaming, "Oh, my God! I'm burning!"

Ronald Stewart, who was in his car near Stuyvesant Avenue and Halsey Street, said he saw two teen-age girls run by, followed by a frantic Irby minutes later.

Stewart, an off-duty city sanitation worker who flagged down an ambulance for the victims, said Irby ran up and down Halsey Street screaming.

When EMS workers arrived, he said, she fell to her knees, clutched her bare chest and asked for help.

"She was hollering," he said. "She was in pain."