

# William and Kate – Christine Lindop

Prince William comes from a very old and important family. His mother was Princess Diana and his father is Prince Charles - the next king of England. William is going to be king one day, too. On 29 April 2011, the world smiled on the now married Duke and Duchess of Cambridge - William and Kate.

## 1. The big day begins

In the morning, in the Goring Hotel in Belgravia, a young woman - Kate Middleton is getting ready for a very special day. At the same time, not far away, a young man - Prince William - one day the king of the United Kingdom, is getting ready too. He and his brother put on their uniforms — red for him, black for his brother. Today is their wedding day. And on this day, two very different families come together - the royal family, and the Middleton family.

## 2. Two families

William comes from a very important family, and his grandmother is Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of fifteen other countries. She is married to Prince Philip, and they have four children: three sons and a daughter. The Queen's oldest son, Prince Charles, is William's father. His mother was a very famous woman too. She was Princess Diana. William was born in 1982. He was Charles and Diana's first child. They had a second son, Prince Harry, in 1984. Because he is part of the royal family, William is always in the public eye.

Kate comes from a very different family. Her parents are Michael and Carole Middleton. They met when they worked for British Airways. Kate is their oldest child, and she has a sister, Pippa, and a brother, James. When Kate was six years old, Carole Middleton began a business called Party Pieces, and later Michael Middleton worked in the business with her. It made a lot of money for the Family.

Two young people - one is from a royal family, and the other is not. Many years ago, a marriage like this could not happen. But more royal weddings in countries around the world are like this now. Today's princes and princesses do not always marry people from royal families.

## 3. A young prince

William Arthur Philip Louis was born in London on 21 June 1982. He lived at Kensington Palace with his parents, Prince Charles and Princess Diana. William's brother Harry was born two years later, in 1984. Young children in the royal family usually had lessons at home, but Princess Diana changed things. When William was three years old, he began to go to school in London with other young children. When he was eight, he went to Ludgrove School. He lived at the school, and only went home once a month. In 1995, William went to the famous Eton College. It is near Windsor Castle, so William could go there and see his grandmother, the Queen, from time to time. William worked well at school, and was good at football and other sports. Then on 31 August 1997, there was terrible news for William. His mother, Princess Diana, was dead after a very bad car accident in Paris. On 6 September, William walked behind his mother's body through the streets of London to Westminster Abbey. Prince Harry, Prince Charles, Prince Philip, and Diana's brother Earl Spencer walked with him. Everyone felt sorry for the two young princes. It was a terrible day for the British royal family. William left Eton in the summer of 2000, but he did not go to university at once. He had a gap year - a year between school and university. He did a lot of different things in his gap year. He went to Chile for ten weeks and worked as a teacher. After work every day, he cleaned the rooms

and cooked with the other teachers. He also helped to make new buildings. Later, he also worked in England on a farm with animals; he got up very early in the morning, and he did not get very much money for his work. At the end of summer 2001, William was ready to go to university. He wanted to learn about art history. On a sunny September day in 2001, Prince Charles drove his son not to Oxford or Cambridge, but north to Scotland. He was now a student at the University of St Andrews.

#### **4. Kate's early years**

Catherine Elizabeth Middleton (very often called Kate) was born on 9 January 1982 in Reading in the south of England - so she is five months older than William. Her sister Pippa was born the next year. In 1984, her father's work took him to Amman in Jordan, so Michael and Carole Middleton went to live there for two years with their two young daughters. In 1986, they came back to England to their home in Berkshire in the village of Bradfield Southend. Kate began school here. Her brother James, the last of the Middletons' three children, was born in April 1987. Kate did well at her school work, but she also enjoyed doing sport. She was good at tennis and hockey and she liked running too. In 1995, her family moved to a new home near Bucklebury, but Kate was not there for very long. She went away from home to Marlborough College in Wiltshire. She played in hockey and tennis teams for the school, and she did very well in her lessons too. She left in July 2000. Like William, she did not go to university that year. She had a gap year too. First she went to Florence, in Italy, for three months. Florence is famous for its art, and Kate went to see a lot of pictures in the city. She also learned Italian, went out with friends, and enjoyed taking photographs. After Christmas at home with her family, Kate went to Chile - just like William. His visit was from October to December 2000, and she went there in January 2001 — so they did not meet. She helped to make a new building and she also worked as a teacher for a time. And then, Kate got ready to go to St Andrews as a student of art history.

#### **5. St Andrews**

The little town of St Andrews is next to the sea in the east of Scotland. It is very famous for golf. People began to play golf there in the 1500s, or perhaps earlier. The University of St Andrews is very old. It first opened in 1413, and it is the oldest university in Scotland, and the third oldest in the UK after Oxford and Cambridge. It has more than 8,000 students. The beginning of the university year was very different for Kate and William. Kate was soon busy with student life, and she enjoyed Raisin Weekend. This is a special weekend at the university. On these two days in November, a new student meets their student 'mother' and 'father'. But William's first weeks at the university were very quiet. William and Kate lived in the same building, were students of art history, and had some of the same friends. In March 2002, Kate was in a fashion show at the university, and William and some friends went to watch. Girls in wonderful dresses walked up and down. Kate came out in a beautiful coloured jumper at first, but then she walked out in a very exciting black dress, and she looked wonderful! Soon, William and Kate were friends. Later, William said, 'We were friends for over a year first.' In their second year, many students do not live at the university. They find a flat or house in the town and live there together. William and some friends did this in 2002. The four friends cleaned the flat and did some of the cooking. Sometimes William began to cook dinner for Kate there - but often things went wrong, and then Kate finished cooking for them. In the summer of 2003, Kate was twenty-one, and William went to a party at her parents' house in Berkshire. Other friends from St Andrews were there too. Later, Prince Charles had an 'African' party for William's twenty-first birthday at Windsor Castle. It was not an official party, with suits and speeches. The guests wore African clothes, and African musicians played for them. Kate was one of the guests at the party. In September 2003, they began their third year at university. Now, William moved to a house in the country called Balgove House. It was not far from the town and the university, but it was a quiet place, away from photographers and reporters. Then in March

2004, William and Kate were in the news - together. They went to Klosters in Switzerland on a skiing holiday with some friends, and William's father Prince Charles. Soon, newspapers all over the world had a photo of William with Kate. Now everybody wanted to know 'Who is Kate Middleton?' The newspapers started to write about 'Will and Kate' as a couple. September 2004 was the beginning of their last year at St Andrews. There were often photos of William at weddings and parties without Kate. She was not part of the royal family, so she could not always go with him. But they were boyfriend and girlfriend. Then in June 2005, they graduated from St Andrews. The Queen, Prince Philip, and Prince Charles all came up to Scotland for the special ceremony. Kate's mother and father were there too, but the two families did not meet. It was the end of William and Kate's happy university life.

## **6. Together and after**

Now a new life began for William and Kate — a more public life. Soon after graduation, William went to New Zealand for the second time. It was his first official visit to a country, and he stayed there for eleven days. Then it was time for a holiday. William went to Lewa Downs in Kenya and stayed there for a month. Later, Kate and some of their friends went there for a holiday with him. William began to have a very busy time. He worked in the City of London and learned about banks. He also worked at the Football Association and at Chatsworth House, a big country house in Derbyshire in the north of England. In December, he spent two weeks with a mountain rescue team. After a skiing holiday at Klosters in January 2006, Kate and William said goodbye. William went to Sandhurst to learn to be an army officer, and stayed there for forty-four weeks. Like all the other officers, William needed to do a lot of work, and he did not see Kate very often. Things were not easy for Kate. She needed to find work - but she was the girlfriend of a prince. Photographers ran after her in the street and waited near her house. For a lot of the time she worked in her parents' business; there she could get away from the newspapers. In November 2006, she began work with a women's clothes business called Jigsaw — it has shops in many bigger towns in the UK. The next month, William graduated from Sandhurst, and Kate and her parents were at the ceremony. But in 2007, things did not get better. At twenty-four, William was not ready to get married. He was very busy in the army in Dorset, and Kate worked a hundred miles away in London. Sometimes there were pictures in the newspapers of William with other girls too. In April 2007, the news came at last. William and Kate were not boyfriend and girlfriend any more. Kate went back to live at her parents' house, away from London and the cameras.

## **7. Together again**

Kate soon was back in London and William wanted to have a concert for his mother on 1 July. And there was an important guest at the concert too - Kate Middleton. She did not sit next to William, but she was not far away. And she had a happy smile on her face. After two months, they were back together again. Next month, Kate and William flew to the beautiful islands of the Seychelles for a week, and they were soon back to the busy world of work. William spent twelve weeks with the Royal Air Force (RAF) and learned to fly. Kate was at the ceremony when he graduated. Then he had two months with the Royal Navy. In autumn 2008, he went to the RAF again, and this time he learned to fly a helicopter. His father Prince Charles, his brother Prince Harry, and his father's brother Prince Andrew can all fly helicopters, and William wanted very much to do so too. Kate worked for her parents' business and sometimes took photographs for them. In January 2010, William finished his helicopter training. He then went to the beautiful island of Anglesey in North Wales to train with the RAF in search and rescue work. He lived in a little house on a farm, and Kate often visited him. William's training in search and rescue ended in September 2010, and soon after that he and Kate went to Kenya for a three-week holiday. It was the end of William's training - and the beginning of a new life for the two of them.

## **8. The engagement**

For some of the time in Kenya, William and Kate were with friends. But near the end of the holiday they had some time together. Kate did not know it, but in his bag William had a very special ring. It was his mother's engagement ring - a beautiful gold ring with a big blue sapphire and little diamonds. Then, on 19 October 2010, he asked Kate to marry him, and she gave her the ring. Kate, of course, said yes. At last, on 16 November, the couple came on TV at St James's Palace in London, and the news was out. They were engaged. Kate wore a beautiful blue dress, the same colour as the sapphire in her ring. The two young people looked very happy. William talked about his mother's ring. Of course, his mother Princess Diana died in 1997. But for him, his mother was 'there' at the engagement because of the ring. William asked Kate to marry him - but he asked two other people about the wedding. He asked Kate's father Michael Middleton, soon after he asked Kate. And he asked the Queen. A royal prince or princess must ask the Queen before they can marry. Happily, Michael Middleton said yes, and the Queen did too.

## **9. Getting ready**

The wedding day was Friday 29 April 2011 in Westminster Abbey. The most important person in the royal family - the Queen - asked about 1,900 people to the wedding. Many of these were family and friends, but she also asked other kings and queens from countries around the world. A wedding ring was made for Kate from Welsh gold. William's mother Diana had a wedding ring of Welsh gold - and his grandmother Queen Elizabeth and her mother did too. William's brother Harry was his best man, and Kate's sister Pippa was her bridesmaid. Then there were four other little girls and two little boys. The children were from the royal family or from the families of William's friends. Then there was the cake and the flowers (William and Kate had eight trees in the abbey too!).

## **10. The wedding**

And so the day of the royal wedding began. At 8 a.m., there was news from Buckingham Palace. William and Kate had new titles - the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. So Kate was now a duchess - but not a princess. Near to 10.30, William and Harry came into the abbey. Soon after that, Kate's mother arrived, and then the Queen and Prince Philip. Then, at 10.51, people saw Kate for the first time when she left the hotel and got into a Rolls-Royce car with her father. And ten minutes later, she arrived at the famous abbey, and everyone could see her clothes for the first time. The dress was white, with a big skirt and long lace sleeves by a British designer called Sarah Burton. Kate wore a white veil over her face and a diamond tiara on her head. In her hands she carried small white flowers and on her feet she had beautiful wedding shoes. Kate walked slowly into the abbey with her father. Her sister Pippa walked behind, and she carefully carried the train - the long part at the back of the dress. Pippa wore a special white dress too. The ceremony took a little more than an hour. Then the new Duke and Duchess of Cambridge walked out of the abbey with Prince Harry, Pippa, the six children, Kate's parents, Prince Charles, and the Duchess of Cornwall. The bride and groom got into an open gold and black carriage to go back to Buckingham Palace. A royal bride and groom first came onto the balcony at Buckingham Palace in 1858. William's parents, Prince Charles and Princess Diana, famously kissed on the balcony in 1981. So when Kate and William came onto the balcony, everyone called, 'Kiss, kiss, kiss!' They smiled and kissed - and later they kissed again. And after that, a party - for 650 people! The guests were in nineteen rooms at the palace. The royal couple met a lot of the guests, and Prince Charles made a speech. And there were two wedding cakes. One was a big white cake. It was made from seventeen different cakes, and it had hundreds of flowers on it. And Prince William asked for a second cake - a chocolate cake. When William was a boy, his grandmother gave him this cake at Windsor Castle on his visits from Eton. That evening, there was a dinner for 300 guests at Buckingham Palace. The guests sat

at tables with the names of Kate and William's special places, like Lewa in Kenya and St Andrews. There were speeches from Prince Harry, Michael Middleton, and Prince William, and from two of William's friends. And then the party began. In one of the biggest rooms in the palace, guests talked and danced into the morning. At 3 a.m. the bride and groom left, and the party ended. Of course, the party at the palace was not the only party in the UK. The day of the wedding was a holiday, and there were more than 5,000 street parties. In St Andrews, more than 2,000 people came together to have a party and to watch the wedding on a big TV. David Cameron, the British Prime Minister, had a party near his house in Downing Street for older people and schoolchildren, and his wife made cakes for the party.

## **11. And after**

On Saturday 30 April, the day after the wedding, William and Kate left Buckingham Palace in a helicopter. But after three days away, they went back to Anglesey. On Tuesday, William was back at work with the search and rescue team. Ten days after the wedding, William and Kate flew to the Seychelles for ten days. On the quiet islands they could have more time together and enjoy the sun, away from reporters and photographers. Then it was back to Anglesey - and a new life for Kate in the royal family. And before long they had their first visit as a royal couple - to Canada, from 30 June to 8 July. When they left Canada, they went to California for three days. They also spent time at Inner-City Arts. Children from families with little money go there to have lessons in dance and art. The Duke and Duchess watched the dances and made pictures with the children. Next, William has his work with the search and rescue team. And William and Kate must also make visits and go to ceremonies, because they are part of the royal family. These official visits are often to places far from Britain — like Malaysia, Singapore, or the Solomon Islands. Prince William helps a mountain rescue organization, and he often does work for the Football Association too. When William was a child, he sometimes visited special places for people without homes in London these were part of the Centrepont organization. Centrepont was always very important to his mother Diana, and William gives some of his time to it too. William wanted to learn about the very different world of people without homes, so in December 2009, he slept on the cold streets of London for one night. The Duchess now helps four organizations too. One of the organizations is called East Anglia Children's Hospice; it helps very ill children and their families. One of the other organizations is the National Portrait Gallery. This is in a big building in London and it has thousands of pictures of people. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge also helped the people in the British Olympic Games team in the summer of 2012. It was a very busy time for the British royal family - they went to the big Olympic ceremonies in London.