

HELLO!

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR
NUMBER 1327 • 12 MAY 2014 • £2.00

WHY IT ALL WENT WRONG HARRY AND CRESSIDA

THEIR SHOCK BREAK-UP, THE WEDDING ROW - AND IS THIS REALLY THE END?



ENGAGEMENT EXCLUSIVE



GEORGE CLOONEY MEETS HIS MATCH

- INSIDE THE CELEBRATIONS
- WHY HE'S READY TO MARRY
- HIS PROPOSAL • THE RING HE DESIGNED

'Amal is a brilliant lawyer, jaw-droppingly beautiful. He is very lucky to have her'

WORLD EXCLUSIVE



'Of course I still love him'

ELIZABETH HURLEY
BREAKS HER SILENCE ABOUT
HER SPLIT FROM SHANE





DESIGNER TO THE STARS AND PRINCE GEORGE
LOTTY BUNBURY
 TELLS WHY ROYALS ARE DRAWN TO THE ISLAND
 PARADISE THAT INSPIRES HER BEACHWEAR



'It's not just the beautiful beaches, gardens and villas - life comes to you in Mustique'

The Middletons have holidayed here for years, which is how we met'

The Duchess of Cambridge could rest assured that Prince George was well prepared for any days on the beach during his recent first overseas tour. As the proud owner of his very own bespoke pair of Lotty B trunks, he is following in a long line of stylish devotees of the exclusive Mustique brand, including his mother and his aunt Pippa Middleton, as well as Elizabeth Hurley and Jerry Hall.

"We don't do baby sizes, so I made him a one-off navy pair in the Passion Fruit design from the new collection, which he wore on Macaroni Beach," says designer Lotty Bunbury, who presented the Prince with his shorts while he was on Mustique with his mum and her family earlier this year.

It was no surprise to Lotty, whose husband Michael is the island's doctor, that Kate chose Mustique for her son's first foreign holiday, where she joined her family for its annual break on the island in one of its 74 luxury villas.

Credited with fixing several sojourns here for the young royals, Lotty understands better than most the allure of the paradise island so long associated with Princess Margaret, who made Mustique a byword for glamour in the 1960s and '70s.

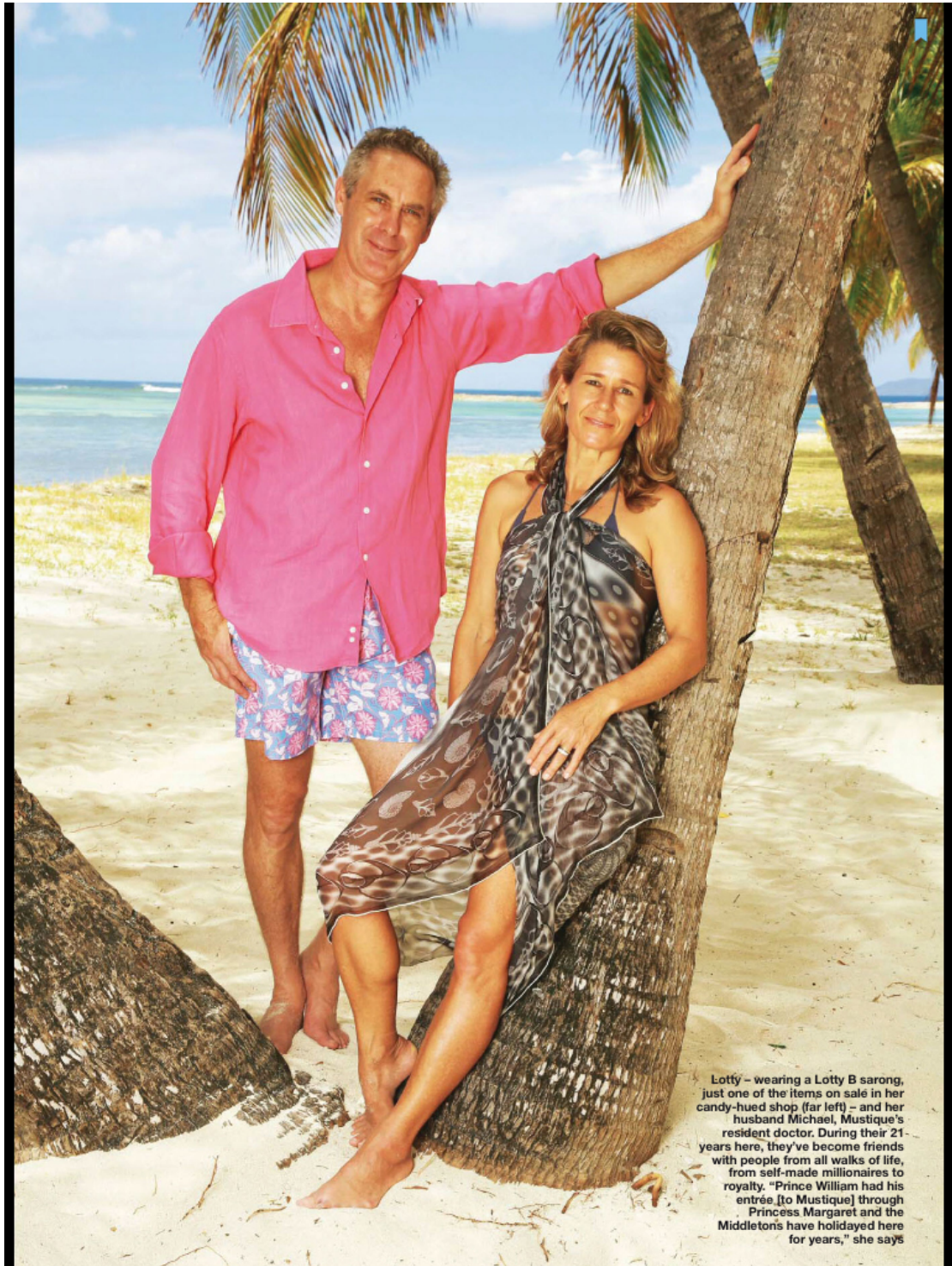
NOTES FROM A SMALL ISLAND

"It's not just that there are beautiful beaches, gardens and villas here, but there is such a wonderful friendly atmosphere," says the designer, who started hand-painting silk sarongs shortly after her arrival here some 21 years ago.

"If you are on the island, you are included in everything and meet such a fascinating mix of people. We are just the lowly doctor and his family, but you meet extraordinary people, from the chap who started his own business at the age of 15 to designers and scientists. People feel they have their privacy here - they can head to the beach without the worry of being bothered.

"It is quite wrong to suggest, though, that we introduced Kate and William to the island. Prince William obviously had his entrée through Princess Margaret and the Middletons have holidayed here for years, which is how we met, and then Kate came out for a few days early to organise a house party for William before they were married and I got to know them very well."

As the sole resident doctor, employed by the Mustique Company, the private corporation that effectively owns the island, Michael and Lotty are the "go-to" people on the island. "Everyone knows where we live," says Lotty. "If Michael is not in the clinic, people know to come to the house. Any time of day or night, we can expect someone to turn up ▶"



Lotty – wearing a Lotty B sarong, just one of the items on sale in her candy-hued shop (far left) – and her husband Michael, Mustique's resident doctor. During their 21 years here, they've become friends with people from all walks of life, from self-made millionaires to royalty. "Prince William had his entrée [to Mustique] through Princess Margaret and the Middletons have holidayed here for years," she says



'Colours are incredibly vibrant. It helps that I work in the heart of nature'

with a cut or break. I've had plenty of people sitting in the kitchen with an ice-pack, waiting until I can locate Michael and drag him back from the tennis court or a run. Since the ambulance doubles as the family car, we are often tracked down at a picnic on the beach with some emergency. Michael is known on the island as 'Doc' and I'm 'Mrs Doc' or sometimes just 'Doc', too."

Lotty certainly had no intention of creating her own chic beach label when she landed here in 1993 with two suitcases and her six-week-old son Freddie in her arms.

"When we arrived in Mustique there was no Internet, telephones hardly worked and parcels turned up several months late. Running a business would have been impossible. Most of my time was spent with the children (Freddie, now 21, Fabian, 19, Madeleine, 18, and Jemima, 16) and painting silk sarongs was just a hobby.

"There were very few children living on the island and each morning I took mine and a neighbour's down to the sea, where we had 'school' on the beach, learning the alphabet, numbers and shapes by drawing in the sand."

The children moved to the sole primary school, where only English and maths were taught, before going to England at the age of 11 to attend a prep school that backs onto her parents' house in Dorset.

"They had a lot of catching up to do," Lotty recalls. "Even wearing socks and shoes or travelling by train were novelties to them."

The island was their playground, and she has fond memories of them racing up and down the veranda as she worked beneath the billowing lengths of painted silk, hung out to dry in the breeze.

INSPIRED BY NATURE

"Subject matter has never been a problem," says Lotty. "Colours are incredibly vibrant here – clear and sharp, or soft and pastel toned in the early morning. It helps that I work in the midst of nature – on the veranda the hummingbirds and bananaquits take nectar from the bougainvillea or build their nests."

Lotty, who studied stained-glass painting at Chelsea College of Arts, expected the family to eventually move back to England, where she planned to open a studio.

"I've often wondered how I stayed put for so long," she says. "My father was in the army, so we were always travelling as children. I was born in Malaya and lived in Ghana and Malawi. Even our honeymoon was a huge road trip – a bicycle ride through Kenya to South Africa, where we worked in a missionary hospital in Zululand for nine months. When Freddie arrived we thought we should earn some money. Michael ▶



One of the many benefits of island life is being able to eat al fresco, something Lotty, Michael and their children (above, from left) Freddie, 21, Madeleine, 18, Fabian, 19, and Jemima, 16, relish. Lotty also gets to work outdoors (left) and indeed uses the nature around her as inspiration for her designs, including the Passion Fruit-patterned shorts (below) she made for Prince George (right with the Duchess of Cambridge during their recent trip to Australia). Lotty gave them to the young Prince when he was on holiday in Mustique with Kate and her family earlier this year





Riding on the beach in bikinis designed by Mum (above) and hanging out with the family in Basil's Bar for a sundowner (below) are all part of the fun of island life. Though the boys attend British universities, Madeleine is studying in Florence and Jemima is at school in Dorset, they still see Mustique as home



went for the job as the island's doctor. I've never had island fever. We're so busy and life's never dull – the world comes to you in Mustique.

"When we arrived, Princess Margaret was still very much part of the island. My husband got to know her very well and thought she was an incredible woman.

"Although Colin Tennant [Lord Glenconner, a close friend of Margaret's who bought Mustique in 1958] had left, he still flew down from St Lucia once a year to see Michael, who checked over his aches and pains. He was an amazing man, despite his tempers."

TAKING THE SILK ROUTE

As her children moved to boarding school, Lotty started painting more, turning her silks into kaftans that she sold at Christmas sales for residents and visitors.

Six years ago, she took over the gift shop on the island and founded Pink House, where she sold her designs and homemade trinkets.

"I went from hand-painting into print with my silks, under the name of Lotty B, and started the Pink House Mustique line of swimming trunks for men. This expanded into linen shirts and bikinis, creating a small collection for men, women and children.

'There were very few children living on the island when we arrived. They had "school" on the beach, learning the alphabet, numbers and shapes by drawing in the sand'

"Although quite different, the two labels run alongside each other. I take a subject and run it through the collection, from kaftan and kimono to swimming shorts. This year I'm working on three design themes – pelicans, bamboo and leaves."

CELEBRITY SUPPORT

Lotty says some of the island's well-known visitors have been incredibly generous in their support.

"Early on, just before one of our Christmas sales, Jerry Hall came to a birthday party for Freddie. All my sarongs were on show. She said they would make wonderful Christmas presents and bought the lot. I was euphoric – but had no idea what I was going to put in the island show."

Speaking of another well-known fan, Pippa Middleton, she says: "Her favourite is probably the short chiffon kaftan – it is a great cover-up over a bikini and everyone looks good in it. Pippa, of course, looks stunning," she says. "It's not about glamour. It is what I call true style and feeling good about yourself."

A few years ago, Elizabeth Hurley was photographed in one of her sarongs for a magazine shoot. "She has always been great fun and since she started her own beach line we have had a lot to talk about."


Tommy Hilfiger took a few key pieces to use in one of his fashion shows. "He put Karolina Kurková in one of my sarongs on the runway, which was really helpful to me."

John Robinson of Jigsaw and Colin Fenn of Fenn, Wright Manson have villas on the island and were instrumental in helping Lotty move from hand-painted pieces to getting her fabrics printed. "I always said I couldn't print because it wouldn't look as good as the hand-painted finish. I saw it more as a hobby than a potential business. They proved me wrong by taking one of my silks and having it printed in five colourways. I was blown away by the result and it took my business to a different level. They've been so generous."

The sarong is still the starting point of the Lotty B collection, the large piece of silk on which Lotty hand paints designs that she first sketches on paper.

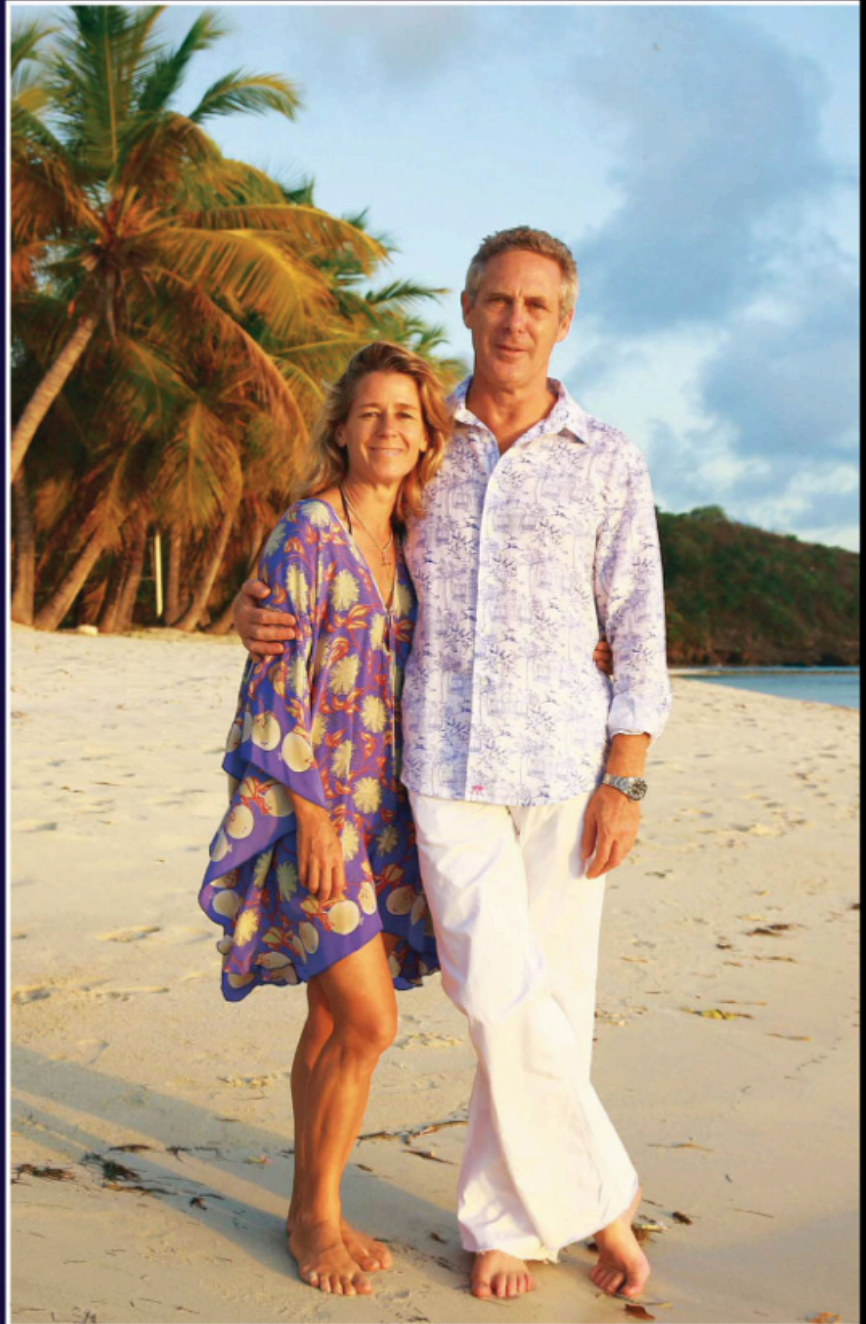
"I photograph it then work on it on the computer until I'm happy, before sending it off to be printed. Creating the designs is my favourite part of the business," says Lotty, who has been commissioned to produce bespoke gift scarves for hotels including Sandy Lane, the Bel-Air and The Beverly Hills.

She has yet to produce a line of baby shorts, as she did for Prince George. "We do matching shorts for daddies and little boys, though," she says. "Little boys love to look like their daddies."

Now there's an idea for William's birthday in June... 

INTERVIEW: SUSAN SPRINGATE
PHOTOS: CHRIS BOTT

To view the Lotty B range of casual and beachwear, visit pinkhousemystique.com.



ADDITIONAL PHOTO: IAN PHOTOS

"Mr and Mrs Doc" take a sunset stroll on the beach (above). As the only resident GP, Michael is never really off duty. "Everyone knows where we live," says Lotty. "Any time of day or night, we can expect someone to turn up with a cut or break... Since the ambulance doubles as the family car, we are often tracked down at a picnic on the beach with some emergency"