

# I spent £15k being a copy Kate!



Kate wore this £375 Tabitha Webb dress to a film premiere last year

## Royal superfan Kylie Walters, 35, loves stealing the Duchess's style

engagement. She'd found her prince – and I'd found mine!

I started buying every magazine that featured her on the cover, just to see what she was wearing.

On the royal wedding day in April 2011, not wanting to miss a moment of the build-up, I called in sick to my recruitment job.

As I live in Brisbane, Australia, it was 9pm when Kate got out of the car and we first saw her Alexander McQueen wedding gown. It took my breath away.

But it was two months later, in June 2011, that she wore an outfit I knew I had to have.

Kate and William went to Wimbledon to watch Andy Murray and it was one of their first outings as husband and wife. She wore a white pleated Alice Temperley dress and looked radiant.

*'I need that dress!' I thought. It cost £395 but had sold out when I went to buy it. So instead, I did some research on eBay and found a tailor in China who did copies of celebrities' outfits.*

I paid £150 and when it arrived a couple of weeks later, it looked just like the real thing!

I wore it out for dinner with Andrew and as I lapped up his compliments, I decided there and then to copy Kate's style as much as I could.

Soon afterwards, I ordered a pair of nude heels from LK Bennett and a couple of stripy tops to wear with jeans at the weekend.

I kept every newspaper and magazine clipping of Kate in a huge trunk, so I could plunder them for inspiration.

My most expensive purchase

was a £750 black DVF Simyonette coat like the one Kate wore when she left hospital after her first pregnancy was announced.

It was a style that would never go out of fashion, so I didn't mind paying so much.

Besides, I'd scored a number of bargains, including several inexpensive blouses and skirts sold on eBay without the seller knowing they were the same as the ones worn by Kate.

I also managed to pick up some earrings I'd seen her wear from Accessorize for only £9.

In 2014 I heard that Kate was coming with William and Prince George to Australia. My friend Rachel was a huge fan too so I flew to Sydney to stay with her and at 5am we headed to Manly Beach to get a good spot.

It was a long day as the royals didn't arrive until 4pm but it

was worth it. Kate wore the most beautiful lace dress made by Australian brand Zimmerman.

She looked beautiful – and she glanced over and waved at us!

The dress wasn't on sale for another four months but I made sure I was at the shop on the day it came out and I bought the last one in Australia. It was only on sale for an hour and a half!

It became my absolute favourite as it held special memories of

seeing her in person.

In December 2015, Andrew and I flew to London for a holiday and I could barely contain my excitement over the shopping opportunities.

We had afternoon tea at The Goring hotel, where Kate had stayed the night before she got married.

Then, on Christmas Eve, I visited the Tabitha Webb store to snap up a £375 blue floral

dress like one Kate had worn to a film premiere.

Being a 'repliKater' is a full-time job. Everything she wears sells out fast and because of the time difference in Australia I often have to stay up late or wake in the middle of the night to make sure I secure a purchase.

There's nothing she wears that I don't like. And I get so upset if I can't get an outfit I want.

The online blogs *What Kate Wore* and *Kate's Closet* are my bibles and I go on the sites at least five times a day. I can't remember the last time I wore something that I hadn't seen her wear first – apart from on my wedding day.

When Andrew and I got married in 2011 we eloped to Las Vegas and I wore a long blue dress.

However, when I lost my engagement ring, Andrew replaced it with a blue sapphire – a replica

of Princess Diana's ring, which William gave to Kate.

Andrew's really supportive of my hobby and for birthdays and at Christmas he'll ask me what Kate has worn recently and what I'd like.

When Kate and Wills went on their recent tour of India I loved all her outfits and bought the jade

Temperley dress she wore to meet the Indian prime minister. At £600 it wasn't cheap but I had to have it.

If I have children I'll definitely dress them in the style of George and Charlotte. Who wouldn't want their children to look like a prince and princess?

Since copying Kate I've spent about £15,000 and I think I have the world's largest collection of her outfits – other than her own, of course! And because we're the same age, I can see myself carrying on like this for the rest of our lives. ■

## 'I've got a replica Kate ring'

## 'Dresses sell out so quickly'

Catching sight of my husband Andrew as I walked down the stairs, I smiled.

'You look stunning,' he said. 'Like a princess.'

'That was the look I was going for...' I said with a laugh, giving him a twirl in my floor-length, one-shoulder, silver gown.

It was November 2013 and Andrew and I were going for a gala dinner his work was hosting.

The dress I was wearing was stunning – and a perfect copy of a Jenny Packham gown that Kate Middleton had worn in 2011 to a charity dinner.

I'd sent a picture of her wearing it to a tailor in China who'd copied the style – for just £80!

I was thrilled when it arrived

and on the day of the event I went to my local salon and asked for a Kate blow-dry and had my make-up done like hers too, with her signature dark eyeliner.

I even pinned a Remembrance Day poppy to the dress, just as she had done.

And this wasn't the first time I'd copied what the Duchess of Cambridge was wearing...

Growing up, I'd always been a huge fan of Princess Diana – I thought she was the most beautiful and glamorous woman in the world. And when Kate Middleton started dating Prince William, I loved her style too.

Andrew asked me to marry him in December 2010, a month after William and Kate announced their



This £275 white Zimmerman dress was a must-have for Kylie when she saw the Duchess of Cambridge wearing it in Australia



Kate wore this Tav Pacific NZ dress in the Solomon Islands – and Kylie just had to have it too!



Kylie snapped up the pretty £99 Séraphine Florrie dress Kate wore to visit a children's centre last year



Kylie in the same dress – with matching shoes