

CHAPTER 6

The Wedding

On April the 29th, 2011 the big day finally arrived. People across the UK were excited. Over one million people from all around the world came to the streets of London to cheer for the happy couple. Some even came one or two days early to choose the best place on the streets. Then they waited there until the wedding!

‘I came thousands of miles for this,’ said one Australian woman. ‘I wanted to see everything!’

Many more people arrived on the morning of the wedding. One group of young women all wore T-shirts with the same words on them: ‘Don’t worry ... There’s still Harry!’ All of the big parks in London were full of people. The parks had big TVs and thousands of people watched the wedding there.

Most places of work in the UK were not open. Twenty-four million British people sat in front of their televisions to watch the royal wedding. Many more watched it on the Internet or followed it on Facebook or Twitter. It was the UK’s most important royal wedding since the marriage of Charles and Diana. Around the world two billion people were watching.

There were 2000 guests, including fifty-one people from the British royal family. There were also people from forty other royal families around the world. There were other famous guests from the worlds of sport and music: footballer David Beckham and his wife, Victoria, and singer Elton John were there too. Years earlier Elton John sang in Westminster Abbey at Princess Diana’s funeral. Many of the other guests were not famous

and important. The owners of the little shop in Kate Middleton's home village were also there!

There were 30,000 flowers and eight trees inside Westminster Abbey. It looked beautiful! Prince William and Prince Harry came to the Abbey together. Many people remembered the last time that the brothers came here together – for their mother's funeral. Today they were here at a much happier time. Harry was William's 'best man*'. It was Harry's job to look after Kate's wedding ring. William decided not to wear a wedding ring. Now everybody was waiting for just one person – Kate. Of course, everyone wanted to see her dress.

When Kate joined William in the Abbey, he said quietly, 'You look beautiful.' Minutes later William and Kate were married and Kate was part of the royal family. There were loud cheers as they left Westminster Abbey.



* The best man helps the groom during the wedding.

William and Kate rode together to Buckingham Palace. This was the moment that most of the people on the streets were waiting for. Later thousands waited outside Buckingham Palace. Everybody wanted to see them. At last, the couple came out and waved to the people. There was a big cheer when they kissed. William smiled and said to his new wife, 'Just one more.' The cheer was even bigger for the second kiss.

The day continued with a wedding luncheon at Buckingham Palace for 650 of the guests. William and Kate left the Palace in one of Prince Charles's cars. It was a little Aston Martin sports car, and William was driving. It was a nice moment and everyone loved it.



But this was not the end of the day. In the evening, there was a dinner party for 300 close friends of the couple. There were wedding cakes at this party. There was a cake each for William and Kate. William's cake had more than seventeen kilos of chocolate in it! There were more than 900 sugar flowers on Kate's cake. The party didn't stop there. William and Kate left at around one in the morning, but others stayed longer – Prince Harry made breakfast plans for any guests still there the next morning!

The Wedding Dress

The wedding dress was a big secret until the wedding day. Most people knew nothing about it until Kate arrived at Westminster Abbey.



The British designer of the dress was Sarah Burton for the Alexander McQueen fashion house. She and her team made the

dress with white silk and lace. To keep the white lace clean, the makers had to wash their hands every thirty minutes! When they saw it on the wedding day, most people agreed – the dress was beautiful.

The train of the dress was 1.7 metres – but this was not very long for a royal wedding dress! It was Philippa Middleton's job to hold the train when her sister walked down the aisle. Kate wore a beautiful tiara. She borrowed this from the Queen!

The wedding dress cost around £100,000. Dressmakers started to copy the dress before she had the wedding. It was possible to buy a copy of the dress for £100 on the day of the wedding!

What do these words mean?

You can use a dictionary.

**designer silk lace
train tiara**

