

Kate

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TRADEMARK
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ILLUSTRATIONS ELISA MAZZONE WORDS TIFFANY BAKKER



"THAT PASSIONATE, CRAZY LOVE CHANGES. RESPECT IS WHAT MAKES LOVE LAST"

Kate Hudson is not your typical movie star. Far from it, in fact. For someone who grew up as Hollywood royalty – mum is screen legend Goldie Hawn, who raised her with longtime partner Kurt Russell – there's no brattish sense of entitlement or even a hint of attitude.

Hudson even arrives early for our interview, a feat which, for those of us who have spent years waiting (and waiting... and waiting...) for the mega-famous, is truly remarkable. "I'm a mummy," she says, shrugging her Margiela-clad shoulders. "I don't really get to sleep late!"

Not that she's been sitting idly by. After a run of beguiling and diverse performances – more on that later – Hudson reintroduced her peerless comedic charm in this year's engagement comedy *Something Borrowed*, alongside Ginnifer Goodwin. Next, she'll get romantic – and dramatic – in *A Little Bit of Heaven*, a touching and thought-provoking film in which she plays a cancer patient who falls in love with her doctor (played by the dashing Gael García Bernal). Never one to play it safe, Hudson is also considering a wilder turn – she's in talks to play Linda Lovelace in a biopic of the controversial and legendary '70s porn actress.

When we meet in Los Angeles, Hudson looks every inch the beauty you'd expect. There's a glow about her – no surprise, really: things are pretty peachy at the moment. Hudson is newly engaged to Muse rocker Matt Bellamy. The duo recently welcomed a child, son Bingham, who joins seven-year-old Ryder, Hudson's son with ex-husband Chris Robinson, the longtime lead singer for The Black Crowes.

Family is everything to Hudson, and she says she's recently relocated back to LA, after almost a decade based mainly in New York, in order to be closer to her family. She says she misses the Big Apple, but that the lure of her hometown grew stronger, mainly because "Ryder's dad lives there" and, "it's really nice to be around your family when you've got kids."

Motherhood, she'll say with no equivocation, is by far her greatest achievement. "I think you understand what real unconditional love is," she says. "Romantic relationships take work, whereas loving your children doesn't take that. It becomes your big love. Having relationships after having a child just changed my focus. It's a different kind of love that I was looking for... because my real love is my children."

It begs the question, what is love to her now? How has it changed? "It just becomes more adult. That passionate, crazy love changes. The things you want in a partnership are different than when you're younger and don't have children. Now it's about respect, honesty, full, real, partnership, compromise – all the great stuff," she says. "Respect is what makes love last."

And it is clear this is what Hudson initially noticed in Bellamy. She says she was aware of just how "polite and protective" of her he was from the moment they first met.

Hudson is adamant that Ryder and Bingham won't grow up spoiled Hollywood kids. She wants them to work hard, just like she had to. Still, explaining fame to a seven-year-old hasn't been easy. Ryder, Hudson says, is particularly wary of the paparazzi who stalk his mother. "It scares him. He hides behind me. And if you could hear some of the things these people say, you know, they're very aggressive. It's disgusting. I wish I could protect him from it more. He's just trying to go to school."

Clearly, Hudson's talent has long paid off. But so too do her eye-catching looks and effervescent personality – she also continues to fulfil her ongoing duties as global brand ambassador for beauty giant Almay. This latest commitment is one she clearly relishes. "I'm not a fan of the heavy, caked-on look, but I see a lot of women and I think, 'less is more'," she explains. "I like the simple, fresh and effortless beauty philosophy of Almay. We all want to have fun and feel beautiful – that's what Almay is all about. I think women can have fun with make-up and be more experimental, but as a rule, I like a more glowing look."

The beauty gig also comes in handy when the actress needs to fake a good night's sleep. "Being a hands-on mum, juggling a career, family and friends means sleep is a precious commodity for me," she explains. "Those times when I get enough sleep I immediately →





Some of our favourite Kate fashion moments, from left: Hudson at the Costume Institute Benefit Dance, 2003; the Arlight in 2006; Christian Dior's 60th birthday celebrations, 2007; the 2009 *Bride Wars* premiere; the 2003 Golden Globe Awards.

see the benefit!" In her role, Hudson represents the brand's ongoing philanthropic efforts and supports a cause that remains close to her heart: the Rainforest Foundation, which aims to protect endangered areas around the world.

Hudson cracks that she's "linked with every man she ever speaks to", but swears she wasn't looking for a new beau when Bellamy crossed her path at the Coachella music festival in Palm Springs last year. (Kate, you may have noticed, does like the odd, scruffy rocker.)

Another shift: the couple have recently bought a home in Pacific Palisades for around \$4.8 million – and the self-confessed one-time "fashion addict" (she nominates British actress Julie Christie and models Anita Pallenberg and Kate Moss as her style icons) says her penchant for great togs has been superseded by a lust for more inanimate objects.

"I love shopping, but once you get into houses and wanting to nest, you get into lamp shopping and bedding," she says, with a slightly embarrassed groan. "Now I'm obsessed with interior design and what couch I'm going to buy."

Hey, can you really blame her if she just wants to sit back at home and put her feet up? At 32, Hudson already boasts a long and varied career. She scored an Academy Award

nomination in 2000 for her role as rock 'n' roll groupie Penny Lane in *Almost Famous*, and she's garnered critical acclaim for performances in smaller films such as *The Killer Inside Me*, where she played the victim of a serial killer, and musical ensemble *Nine*, where she showed off her considerable dancing and singing skills.

But, given her heritage, it's no surprise that Hudson's real flair is for comedy. Like her mum, she's a natural, and it's the run of romantic comedies she's headlined that have really made her a household name. She's teamed up with Matthew McConaughey in *Fool's Gold* and *How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days* and starred in *You, Me and Dupree* with one-time boyfriend Owen Wilson.

"Comedy's in our genes," she says. "My brother Oliver is so damned funny – he's the funniest. We're a family that likes to laugh."

Hudson says acting is all she has ever wanted to do. She says she's not interested in celebrity or as she coins it, "the circus around it. I never thought I'd be doing anything else even before I knew what it was." Hudson, who spent much of her childhood on movie sets, insists that "I wasn't only drawn to it because it was in the family. I think it was something innate."

I later reflect on how down-to-earth Hudson has been during our time together, particularly given she's spent her entire life in the fame bubble. As we continue to talk, it becomes clear that Hudson's family is the key. They keep her grounded.

"I'm blessed with a very solid, very real family," Hudson says. "People may find that difficult to believe but it's true. I have a great, wonderful, happy life. I always have. [Family] are the most important thing." And the other stuff?

Her answer is firm – and wise: "None of that matters." **m**

BEAUTY BY KATE

Three tips from the luminous star

Have a back-up plan It's a good idea not to leave home without a couple of true-blue stand-bys. "Almay's Wake-Up Makeup foundation and eye concealer are two of my favourite beauty go-tos."

Take off the make-up Even if you're bone-tired, it will save your face – and that morning-after guilt. "It's one of those things you don't really want to do all the time – you're like, 'Well... I can do it in the morning.' But it's like making a great meal and not cleaning up the kitchen. You go back in, you look, and you're like, 'Why didn't I just clean up the kitchen?!'"

Opt for hypo-allergenic products

Almay's vision merges well with Hudson's interest in environmental advocacy. "I've been working with Almay for a year – they really do represent what their brand is about: natural beauty, paying attention to the ingredients in their products, and making sure they're hypo-allergenic. Almay has been a consistent fit. I'm very pleased with the products and I don't feel like a fraud talking about it, which is a really nice thing!"