

Title: HELLO!

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INVITING US HOME AFTER A MAGICAL YEAR
KIMBERLY WYATT
IS DANCING ON AIR AS SHE PRESENTS
HER BEAUTIFUL BABY DOLL WILLOW

'Being a parent is more lovely than I ever dreamed of. She is the best Christmas present we could have wanted'

All wrapped up for Christmas: singer, dancer, businesswoman and DJ Kimberly Wyatt cuddles her newborn daughter Willow. "It's going to be such a special Christmas," she says

It was about this time last year, when former Pussycat Doll Kimberly Wyatt and her partner Max Rogers were chatting about their plans to marry and start a family, that Davina McCall – host of Channel 4's *The Jump*, on which Kimberly was about to appear – made a comment that struck a chord.

Fastforward to today and the pair are chatting to HELLO! in the cosy front room of their London home, with Kimberly cradling her week-old baby daughter Willow Jane in a shawl she had lovingly hand made.

"We hadn't even got married at that point – that happened in February – and we were just playing around thinking about our future family," recalls the 32-year-old.

"Davina asked us what we were talking about. We were a bit embarrassed and said, 'Oh you know, baby names.' She told us how she'd always loved the name Willow, and it just stuck with us.

"When we found out we were having a girl, we told Davina we were going to call her Willow and she said we should wait until we met her. But our minds were made up. We loved the name, and it resonated with us as we were planning a woodland fairytale theme for our wedding. We

were calling her Willow for months before we met her."

The 7½lb tot arrived as an early Christmas present on 2 December by Caesarean section after it was discovered that she was in the breech (feet first) position.

"She has her daddy's long legs and is so flexible that she always had at least one wrapped around her neck," laughs Kimberly.

"The doctor said that, with my narrow hips and because she was so breech, a Caesarean was the safest option for us both. I was nervous but I trusted what he said.

"My sister Kristi was in town with her husband so the night before the Caesarean we went for a chilled-out dinner with them. It was extra special having her around – she's the best mum I know and made me feel at ease. Then, on the morning, it was cool to know that in a few hours we'd meet our little girl. I had to take a tablet at 5.50am and I couldn't eat after that, so Max woke up at about 5am and cooked me toast and eggs.

"Going into the hospital theatre the adrenaline kicked in – and a little bit of fear. I felt so overwhelmed with everything that was about to happen.

But when the doctor showed her to us, it was totally worth it.

"Seeing her for the first time was almost indescribable. She looked so big – it was hard to believe that she had been inside me.

"One moment I clearly remember is after they'd cleaned her up and gave her to us. Max, Willow and I had our first moment together and just then the song that I walked up the aisle to on our wedding day – *To Build a Home* by Cinematic Orchestra – came on. It couldn't have been more perfect.

"That moment will live with me for the rest of my life and hopefully it will inspire me to have another baby in a few years' time."

ROLE MODEL

While Davina has yet to meet Willow, she has already sent a bundle of thoughtful gifts. "Davina has been an amazing support to me," says Kimberly. "She's like another mother figure, over here in London. She's the one I call and can lean on if I need to. We all became a little family on *Got to Dance* [the Sky1 reality show on which Davina was host and Kimberly a judge] and she has really looked out for me and given me some great advice and support.

"She is one of the most inspiring moms I know, being a

KIMBERLY'S CARDIGAN: CARRAGHAN; PUSSESS; NECKLACE: FOLLI FOLLIE; (INSET ABOVE LEFT) KIMBERLY'S DRESS: CARABASIA; WIGS: WILLOW'S GOWN: LA COULEUR DES JOURS



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A year ago Kimberly was preparing for winter sports challenge show *The Jump* and planning her wedding. "Max and I never dreamed then that our lives would change so much," she says. Twelve months on the couple are married (far right, on their wedding day in February) and blissful parents

'The name Willow resonated with us as we were planning a woodland fairytale theme for our wedding'

working mom. And getting to know her family, I really look up to her."

As model Max, 32, kisses his wife and scoops up his daughter with a beaming smile, Kimberly smiles proudly at them. "The way they look at each other just breaks my heart," she says. "He has been amazing helping me and so hands on from the first nappy. He loves her so much - he's the best daddy."

"It's the best feeling in the world," beams Max. "I'm so proud of Kimberly. What you girls have to go through... she's just amazing."

"I've been doing what I can to help out with the domestic chores and changing the nappies while she does the breast-feeding and has been recovering. And I've loved it. Everyone tells you their scare stories but every day is amazing. And I've got the nappy-changing down like a Formula 1 pit stop now."

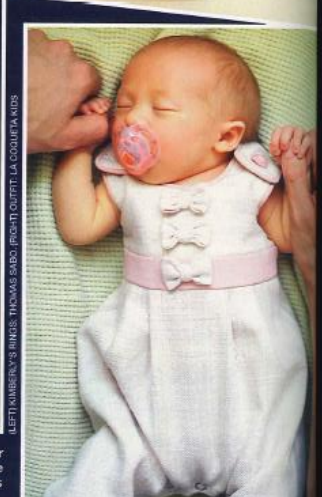
Having returned from a shopping trip to get supplies, Max surprises Kimberly with an unusual gift - a UK driving theory test book.

"She's been driving for years in America, but she's going to need this to drive Willow around London now," he explains.

MUM'S THE WORD

Being an American bringing up a daughter in the UK, does Kimberly expect Willow to call her Mom or Mum?

"It's a huge decision for me to make! I grew up in the US so I always thought I would be a 'Mom' but my daughter is going to have a



LEFT) KIMBERLY'S HINDS; THOMAS SARGO; RIGHT) GUY/RET. LA GOUJURA KIDS



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Kimberly's husband Max poses with the new lady in his life - Willow Jane Rogers (her initials, carved into books, left, feature in her nursery). The model loves being a dad: "Every day is amazing. And I've got the nappy-changing down like a Formula 1 pit stop"

British accent so that would sound weird. So I've decided I'm going to be a 'Mum'." Kimberly's best friend and former Pussycat Dolls bandmate Ashley Roberts is already 'Auntie Ash'. "Ashley was one of the first people Willow met. She was so in awe of her, it was pretty surreal. She is so broody now. I've never seen her like this before. She's not dating anyone at the moment - well, not that she's told me of anyway - but I'd love for Willow to have a little friend to play with. I can't see it being for a while yet though."

Ashley will be following in Kimberly's footsteps in one sense, however, by appearing in the second series of *The Jump*, along with Ashley and Max's other good friend, former JLS singer JB Gill, on our screens in January.

"They've been asking me for advice and I've told them it is the hardest thing I've ever done - much harder than it looks on TV. But I loved it. It was such a challenge."

"I remember last year [TV presenter and co-competitor] Laura Hamilton had given birth only a few weeks before the show and I was holding her tiny baby. And now I'm holding mine and she's pregnant again."

"I could never have imagined that in the time I was in the show to now, just how much our lives could change. We've got married, moved into a new house and have our little girl, JB is the same - he married Chloe and they had baby Ace. We

keep joking about Ace and Willow's arranged marriage, so I can't wait for them to meet."

SOFA SO GOOD

After spending Christmas with Max's family - "Max and his dad are building Willow a big doll's house" - Kimberly will continue her C-section recovery by watching her friends compete on *The Jump* from her sofa.

She intends to return to work later in the year, with her Beautiful Movements Cosmetics line and her DJing career among other projects.

"No one can prepare you for what your body goes through after a Caesarean," she winces. "It's a bit of an uphill struggle. The healing process is a bit tougher than I expected, but I'm in a good place now."

"There are late nights and naps through the day, and my poor boobs have been through it with breast-feeding. But in the moments where I feel it's too much, I just look over and touch her and it's all worth it."

"Being a parent is more lovely than I ever dreamed of. Willow is the best Christmas present we could have ever wanted."

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