

EXCLUSIVELY PHOTOGRAPHED
IN MARRAKECH

ELIZABETH HURLEY

TALKS BIKINIS, BREAK-UPS
AND BOUNCING BACK

'I hope Shane and I will remain
friends; Of course I still love him -
we are part of each other's history'

In the pink: After a tough few months following her split from fiancé Shane Warne, Elizabeth has bounced back with the support of her son Damian. With the launch of her latest swimwear collection, which she models here, plus TV and movie roles and a new man in her life, Elizabeth tells us she is in a good place. "Personally and professionally everything is blooming"



(LEFT) KAFKIAN; EXOTICA. JEWELLERY: BLAQUETTE. (RIGHT) KAFKIAN; JAIPUR

'I tend to lick my wounds in private. I struggled for a while but feel in a very good place today'

Herefordshire – a family home for Elizabeth and her 12-year-old son Damian and Shane and his three children, daughters Brooke, 17, and Summer, 12, and 15-year-old son Jackson, by his ex-wife Simone Callahan.

However, by the time they were ready to move into the grade II-listed Georgian mansion after extensive renovations, cracks were starting to appear in the relationship. By September last year, Elizabeth had removed her engagement ring, tweeting to her 455,000 followers that "recent events" were "too raw and personal to share right now".

As she reveals now, the couple finally parted ways in November, saying: "It was a very sad time for both of us." While she doesn't go into detail about the reasons behind the break-up, she makes it clear that Shane's reported closeness to his ex-wife or reluctance to set a wedding date were wide of the mark. She does admit, though, that the "constant travelling was indeed challenging for everyone".

Shane has since been linked with other women, including lingerie entrepreneur Michelle Mone (a liaison denied by both the cricket star and the Ultimo boss). Elizabeth says of seeing those stories: "Of course it's difficult. I'm no different to anyone else in that respect but life moves on and I understand that."

Now dating hedge fund tycoon turned wildlife photographer David Yarrow, the devoted mother of one – recently returned from a holiday in the Maldives with her son – is turning her focus to filming new US TV drama *The Royals* this summer and continuing her work as an Estée Lauder spokesmodel.

Here she talks candidly about the fall-out from her highly public split with Shane, her memories of happier times and how she hopes they can still remain friends, as she famously has with former boyfriend, the actor Hugh Grant, and her ex-husband Arun Nayar.

You look as stunning as ever, Elizabeth, but does it take more persuading these days to get you into a bikini? What do you mostly wear when you are on holiday – bikini or one-piece?

"I wear both. One-pieces can be gorgeous as long as they're sexy, but I normally end up in an itchy-bitsy bikini by the end of the holiday. Mind you, there's a great deal of self-tanning going on first and a fair amount of strategic sarong wrapping."

The trip to Marrakech in January came at a particularly tumultuous time in your personal life after your break-up from Shane. Was it a chance to escape for a while and to have some time for quiet reflection?

"Shoots tend to be manic, so I'm not sure I got too much time for any quiet reflection, but there's always the moment just before you go to sleep when your mind quietens and I was certainly feeling sad at that time. However, the show has to go on and, as we all know, in showbusiness you have to keep smiling."

How difficult have the past 12 months been?

"I tend to lick my wounds in private and have never felt the need to share these moments with any but a few very close friends."

"I struggled for a while but feel in a very good place today. In fact, both professionally and personally everything is blooming."

There was a spate of reports about your relationship being on-off for a while. Did you reconcile recently as rumoured? And when did you finally decide that there was no going back?

"We finally parted ways in November and it was a very sad time for both of us."

You've stayed friendly with ex-husband Arun. Would you like to stay friends with Shane? ▶

To look at these sultry photographs of Elizabeth Hurley, there is no hint of the heartache she was suffering when they were taken, less than two months after her final split from former fiancé Shane Warne.

Ever the professional, the 48-year-old designer and actress flew to Morocco – one of her favourite destinations – in January to pose in her latest beachwear collection at a hotel just outside Marrakech. She was too busy by day to dwell on the tumultuous end to her three-year relationship with the Australian cricketer-turned-commentator, but allowed herself time for some quiet reflection on her own at night.

"There's always the moment just before you go to sleep when your mind quietens and I was certainly sad at that time," she tells HELLO! in her first interview since the couple's high-profile break-up in November last year.

"I tend to lick my wounds in private and have never felt the need to share these moments with any but a few very close friends. I struggled for a while but feel in a very good place today. In fact, professionally and personally everything is blooming."

It had all seemed so perfect and promising when the English rose fell for the 44-year-old Aussie sportsman's charms at that fateful first meeting at the Glorious Goodwood festival in July 2010. Although considered an unlikely couple by media commentators at the time, they proved their doubters wrong, criss-crossing the world to spend time with each other and their respective children, culminating in Shane's bended-knee proposal in October 2011. Prolific tweeters, they delighted their army of followers by engaging in flirtatious banter, which became something of a hallmark of their fun-loving relationship.

When asked why they worked so well together, Elizabeth told HELLO! the following year: "We love each other and are very happy in each other's company. We love travelling together but also hanging out at home. We're very well suited." Their friends, Shane also revealed, had never seen either of them happier.

Although a wedding date was never set, they sealed their commitment by buying a £6million country estate – the 13-bedroom Donnington Hall in



Elizabeth is a fan of the exotic and she is keen to include peacock feathers, animal prints and vibrant colours in her designs. "I find it very attractive when vacationing women emerge like brightly coloured butterflies"



(LEFT) ONE-PIECE: DANIELLA, RIGHT: DRESS: KASBAH... JEWELLERY: MONICA VINADER

In great shape and looking sensational in the sun, Elizabeth is celebrating her 20th year as the face of skincare brand Estée Lauder. She also has another milestone on the horizon, her 50th birthday next year. "I'll probably have a nervous breakdown nearer the time, but so far so good," she laughs

"Arun will always be in our lives because he is Damian's Dad. I'm extremely close to Arun's family and still consider them my family.

"I hope Shane and I will remain friends; love isn't a switch that you can turn on or off at will and of course I still love him – we are part of each other's history. Also, his parents were fantastic and very welcoming and kind to me and I'm still in touch with them."

How did the children take the news? You were very close to his three kids. Will you try to keep in touch?

"I miss Shane's three beautiful children a great deal. It was wonderful to be a part of their lives for three years. I'm still in regular contact with them and I shall see them when they come to England in the summer and have already planned for them to come on the set of *The Royals* with me. His eldest daughter Brooke spent some time on the set of *Gossip Girl* with me in New York and it will be great to have her visit."

How has Damian reacted? You told us in our last interview how much he

'Everyone's probably heard more than enough about my personal life so I am attempting to zip it this time round'

adored Shane and worshipped his kids...

"Damian is still in touch with Shane and misses him. We've been putting together Mac photobooks of some of the great holidays we all spent together and have very happy memories."

Damian must have been a great support and comfort to you during the past six or seven months...

"My son remains the love of my life and we relish what we call Mummy-Baby time together, although he's hardly a baby any more – he's a rather large 12-year-old. Watching him grow up is my greatest pleasure in life and I adore his company."

Can you tell us anything about the reasons behind the split from Shane? Was there any truth to speculation

that ranged from Shane's closeness to his ex-wife and problems posed by refusal to name a wedding date and cheating rumours?

"Shane and I were very happy for a while. He was definitely not guilty about not wanting to set a wedding date and I obviously have no problems with people remaining friends with former partners – after all, I count Hugh and Arun as two of my very closest. I don't really feel the need to divulge anything else – it's private."

"The producers of *Shane Warne The Musical* [a satirical Australian stage show] and other scurrilous publications will have to look elsewhere for their source material." **The media seized on the apparent**

differences between you and Shane when you first got together, although you told HELLO! that you were very similar in many ways. Were there differences, cultural or otherwise, that eventually surfaced?

"Shane and I were very similar in many ways and I adored spending time in Australia. I met some fabulous people and am still friends with many of them. I think it was very tough that our children lived at opposite ends of the world and we tried our hardest to make that work, but the constant travelling was indeed challenging for everyone. I think culturally the Australians and the English are very well suited, however."

You both enjoyed bantering via Twitter – do you see social media as something of a double-edged sword now?

"Hmm... I have more than 1.5 million followers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram combined, and I enjoy interacting with them. But bantering with someone I'm close to is probably something I shall refrain from doing going forward."

You bought and renovated Donnington Hall together. Are you still living there

'I've always loved a hint of the exotic in my vacation wardrobe'

or have you moved back to your Gloucestershire farm? Is it likely you will sell the property?

"It's all a bit up in the air still. Ostensibly, Donnington Hall is a very big property for just Damian and me and yet it has an intimacy and warmth, which I love."

"As a project, it's very much a work in progress, but my instincts are that it could become an integral part of our lives going forward. Weighed against that are all the wonderful memories we have of our years at the farm in Gloucestershire. It's a tough decision."

Was it difficult for you hearing about Shane's supposed new relationships with other women?

"Of course it's difficult, I'm no different to anyone else in that respect but life moves on and I understand that."

What have you learnt from your experience with Shane? Has it made you more wary of trusting someone?

"I'm extremely trusting and loyal by nature and believe in the intrinsic good in most people. Some of my friends have turned their lives around in ways which beggar belief and are truly inspiring."

"However, I'm a bit of a hanging judge if my trust ends up being misplaced; I'm not that interested in taking prisoners."

You've recently been photographed stepping out with David Yarrow, who has said you are seeing each other. What can you tell us about your friendship with him?

"I think everyone's probably heard more than enough about my personal life so I am attempting to zip it this time round. However, it is very nice to be spending time with a man of integrity and charm and who, incidentally, cooks roast potatoes to rival those of my father. David has a grown-up day job but is also a very talented photographer and is a major fundraiser for the conservation charity Tusk."

Shane tweeted about "some people moving on quickly". What is your response to that? He also said he might join the dating service Tinder. What do you think about such sites?

"Blimy, I'm not sure sites like that are quite my cup of tea, but each to their own."

Has it been hard at times to maintain your composure and keep your counsel?

"Some pretty insane things have been written and said about me over the years and I very rarely comment publicly about them as it adds fuel to very silly fires."

You did comment about the stories (since revealed to have been an invention) about you and former US President Bill Clinton though...

"Too right I did because those stories were ridiculous in the extreme. I was absolutely ▶



Getting away from it all near Marrakech, the exotic shoot also gave Elizabeth a break from fevered speculation about her private life back home. "Some pretty insane things have been written about me, but I rarely publicly comment as it adds fuel to very silly fires"



'I'm a bit of a hanging judge if my trust is misplaced; I'm not that interested in taking prisoners'

horrified – not that anyone with a brain in their heads would have believed them, but it wasn't a nice experience."

Moving on, can you tell us about your new beachwear collection?

"We've moved on quite a lot with this latest collection and now have many more sexy dresses and tunics, which move from the beach through cocktails and into the evening."

What was the inspiration behind it?

"We want women to feel confident and special on holiday and like to come up with striking pieces with a timeless edge. A lot of us wear black, grey, navy and taupe in our real lives, so I find it very attractive when vacationing women emerge like brightly coloured butterflies."

The shoot is beautiful. Can you tell us about the look you were trying to achieve and why you chose Marrakech as the location? You've shot there before – what is it about the city that particularly appeals?

"I've always loved a hint of the exotic in my vacation wardrobe and find Morocco very sensual and aesthetically pleasing. You have a shot virtually anywhere you point a camera. Our location was a lovely hotel, the Mosaic Palais Aziza & Spa, a few miles from the centre of Marrakech."

You looked like you were having fun. What were the most memorable moments?

"We had a hairy moment on arrival in Marrakech when all the jewellery for the shoot was seized at customs; we finally got it back after hours of begging. Then the photographer arrived from Turkey, only to find all his equipment was still on the tarmac in Istanbul. After major hysterics, we managed to hire some at midnight on a Saturday night. Stiff drinks all round."

The kaftan prints are incredibly striking and some of them are bejewelled. Would you say they are your boldest designs yet? Do you still enjoy the design process?

"I really enjoyed putting this collection together. Our jewelled pieces used to be quite heavy, but we've been experimenting with ways to use lighter beading while achieving the same effect and it works. We've also found a wonderful new printer in India and the fabrics are gorgeous."

We've incorporated peacock feathers, snake and animal prints into many of them and the colours are really vibrant."

You attracted some criticism on Twitter recently about your range of girls' bikinis, particularly the leopard-print pieces. What is your response to those comments? Did they surprise you?

"I totally respect every parent's right to dress their children in whatever way seems appropriate to them. We have lots of different prints and colours in our range and it so happens that pink and animal prints are our best sellers, so I guess a lot of mums like them. I don't use black for kids as I don't like children wearing black. It just comes down to personal taste."

You're as busy as ever with work projects. Can you tell us about the film you made recently in Russia? What was that like?

"I recently made a movie with Gerard Depardieu in Chechnya and Moscow called Viktor. It was an extraordinary experience and the first time I'd been on a set surrounded by snipers. Gerard is a very gifted and charming actor and it was great to play opposite him. The movie will be coming out in the summer."

You've also made a pilot for US TV called *The Royals*. Has the series been picked up and if so, when can we expect to see it on the small screen?



(LEFT) BIKINI: PEACOCK; JEWELLERY: MONICA VINADER. (RIGHT) KAFTAN: EXOTICA; JEWELLERY: BLAGUETTE



"I find Morocco very sensual and aesthetically pleasing. You have a shot virtually anywhere you point a camera," says Elizabeth. "And I really enjoyed putting this collection together"



DRESS: NIRVANA - JEWELLERY: BLAQUETTE. ALL CLOTHES ELIZABETH HURLEY BEACH, AVAILABLE AT HARRODS AND ELIZABETHHURLEY.COM

'My son remains the love of my life. Watching him grow up is my greatest pleasure'

on a sound stage in London, but the exteriors will be fabulous locations like Blenheim Palace. The production values of the pilot were amazing.

"It's great to play the Queen. I have to stress that my character is fictitious and bears zero resemblance to the real one. I shall be tweeting away from the set once we start."

You've also signed up for another year as an Estée Lauder spokesmodel. Can you tell us what that means to you and how you feel about being a role model for both younger and older women?

"I was over the moon to sign up for my 20th year with Estée Lauder. They have been a phenomenal company with whom to work and Leonard Lauder and his late wife, Evelyn, have been like my American parents. Women of all ages buy skincare and make up and the Lauder companies are smart enough to use women of all ages to advertise it."

You have a significant birthday coming up next year. Can you believe it? You look fantastic! Are you relaxed about getting older?

"Oh Lord, I'll probably have a nervous breakdown nearer the time but so far so good."

Do you exercise a lot?

"I don't as a rule, but I've just joined a gorgeous ladies-only gym called Grace Belgravia and I'm hoping to go a few times a week. They have an excellent café with super healthy food, which is an added plus."

Damian turned 12 last month – how did you celebrate his birthday?

"We were in the Maldives for his birthday and we had the best time; we swam with turtles and ate lots of chocolate cake."

Do you have summer plans yet?

"I'll be shooting through the summer holidays this year so we won't be going anywhere. All weekends will be spent in the country in England so fingers crossed the sun puts its hat on."

Are you still a cricket fan?

"Ha ha. I am, funnily enough."



INTERVIEW: JULIET HERD
PHOTOS: NIHAT ODABASI

HAIR: CYRIL LALOUE FOR JULIAN WATSON AGENCY
MAKE-UP: MARY GREENWELL
LOCATION: MOSAIC PALAIS AZIZA & SPA, MARRAKECH

HELLO! readers can claim an exclusive 20 per cent discount on Elizabeth Hurley Beach purchases until the end of May. To get your saving, use the code Hello14 at the checkout at elizabethhurley.com. Follow Elizabeth on Twitter: @elizabethhurley, Facebook: facebook/Elizabethhurley; and Instagram: Elizabethhurley1.

"We shot the pilot at the end of last year and the first season has been picked up, so I'll be shooting the first ten hours over the summer in the UK. The drama is set within a fictitious royal family and I play the Queen of England, HM Queen Helena. I have reprobate teenage children and my son, the Prince of Wales, is played by William Moseley. Damian and I both adored him in the Narnia movies. My daughter, Princess Eleanor, is played by gorgeous Australian actress Alexandra Park, who looks uncannily like a baby me.

"It's an American show for the E! channel – their first scripted drama – but it will of course be shown in the UK too. Probably in the autumn."

Where will it be shot and how does it feel to play the Queen?

"The production will be primarily shot



Elizabeth with ex-fiancé Shane Warne (left) and new beau David Yarrow (right). The main man in her life is son Damian (together, below). "I adore his company," she says

