

HEATH & MICHELLE
TRUTH BEHIND THEIR SPLIT

KATRINA WARREN EXCLUSIVE
A MUM AT LAST! MEET MY GORGEOUS GIRL

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Woman's Day

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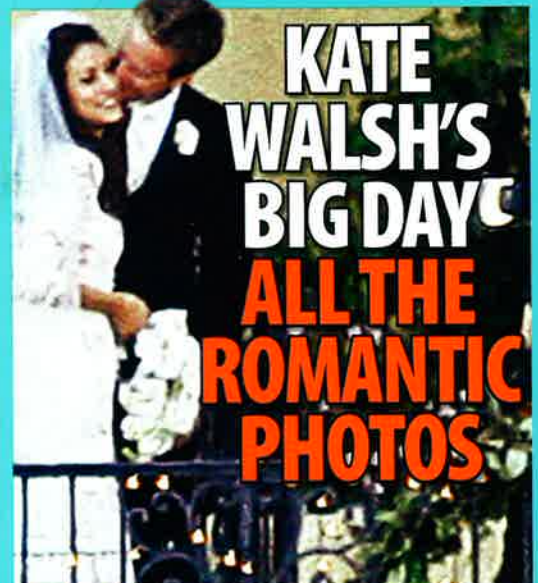


CUTE
PICS!



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GREY'S ANATOMY
STAR WEDS



KATE
WALSH'S
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ALL THE
ROMANTIC
PHOTOS

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of fashion
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MAKE MY
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WORTH OF
WISHES COME TRUE



▶▶ *Woman's Day*
 editor Alana House.

DO YOU NEED A HELPING HAND? WOMAN'S DAY IS GIVING \$500,000 TO ITS READERS

▶▶ As part of *Woman's Day's* Make My Day initiative, we're extending a helping hand each week to someone who needs it. This week, we introduce you to remarkable young NSW couple Tania and Warren Hayes.

Tania became a full-time carer to then-fiancé Warren 10 years ago when he was diagnosed with a life-threatening brain tumour.

With little time for herself, Tania longed for a new wardrobe and a way to get fit. When Carers Australia told us about her, we sourced a treadmill from Workout World, and called Suzanne Grae, who gave Tania a \$1000 voucher. Finally, stylist Deanne Dority gave Tania a fabulous makeover.

▶▶ Do you know someone who needs a hand? Contact us at womansday@acpmagazines.com.au or visit our website

www.womansday.ninemsn.com.au



Brain tumour wife

I GAVE UP MY



Name
 Tania Hayes
Her dream
 To look good again after caring for her wheelchair-bound husband around the clock

Deeply in love with his fiancée Tania and enjoying a successful real estate career, life was very good for 29-year-old Warren Hayes.

But driving to work one morning, Warren suffered a severe migraine and lost his vision for a terrifying moment. While his sight quickly returned, the nightmare was only just beginning.

Within hours, Warren was in hospital undergoing a brain scan with an anxious Tania, aged just 22, by his side. Then came the news that turned the couple's world upside down. Warren had a brain tumour the size of a lemon. While the tumour needed to be removed immediately, the risk was high that he would not survive the surgery.

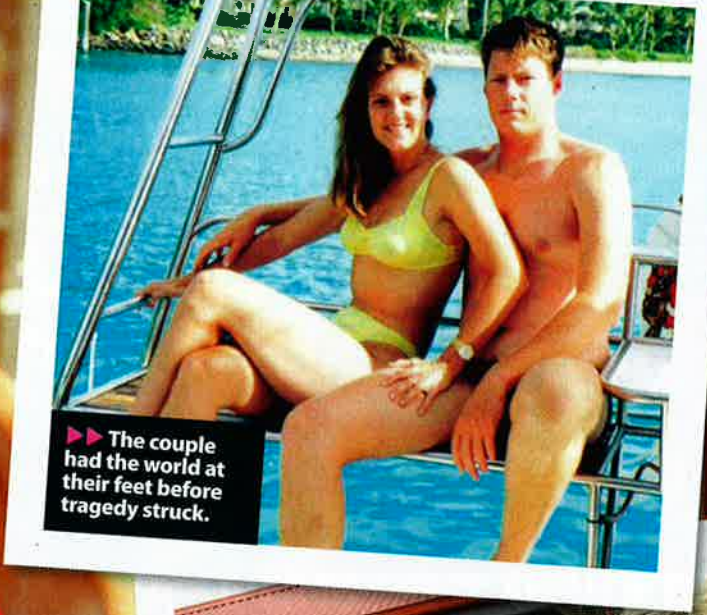
"Out of the blue, disaster struck," recalls Tania, now 33.

"Overnight, it was like our whole lives had been taken away from us. This absolutely devastated us and we cried rivers of tears."

Complications during the surgery to remove Warren's tumour left him paralysed down one side of his body. But that was far from all.

With Tania by his bed every day, Warren spent 447 days in hospital, enduring 20 operations. During that time, he contracted fungal meningitis, bacterial meningitis, pneumonia and golden staph infection, and was sometimes reliant on life support. On more than one occasion, Tania and Warren's family were offered the option of turning off Warren's life support.

"From the moment Warren fell sick I gave up my job," says Tania. "I spent 10 to 12 hours of every day of those 447 days at his bedside. I watched him like a



▶▶ The couple had the world at their feet before tragedy struck.

▶▶ Tania is thrilled that she can now keep fit at home, thanks to the treadmill supplied by *Woman's Day*.



LIFE FOR LOVE

hawk, hoping and praying everything was going to be OK.”

Eventually, doctors advised Tania to put Warren in a nursing home. “I said, ‘Warren’s my love and my life and my future. I don’t care what I have to do, I’m going to take him home’,” remembers Tania. “We began planning that process and eventually I did.”

Now 39, Warren will spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair and needs care around the clock. Thankfully, he has Tania by his side throughout his journey.

“Without Tania, I couldn’t have survived,” Warren says simply.

Says Tania, “A lot of people have said to me, ‘You’re too young to be doing this. You should be out enjoying yourself, but I don’t want to be anywhere else. I just want to be with Warren.’”

“I never, ever thought of leaving, and we still have the same love we had for one

another before he fell sick.”

In March 2002, Tania and Warren married in an emotional ceremony. “Everyone was in tears,” smiles Tania. “It was the happiest day for us.”

In June 2005, Tania and Warren’s “miracle baby” Josh was born. A gorgeous, cheerful little boy, Josh has brought

immeasurable joy into the couple’s lives.

“I really think that only Josh could have come into our world,” reflects Tania. “He’s a very placid, easygoing child. I had a dream pregnancy and I haven’t had a moment’s trouble with him.”

Tania has penned a book about the couple’s inspirational

story, to be published in April by Harlequin Mills & Boon. She’s also looking forward to National Carers Week, which will run from October 14-20. It celebrates, and raises awareness about, carers and the invaluable work they do.

“Carers Australia have been fantastic. They’re just a phone call away to support you any

time you need,” says Tania. “My way of giving back to them is being able to speak for them at conferences and inspire the 2.6 million carers in Australia.”

Always putting others first has left Tania little time for herself, and she was desperate for a makeover and to get back into shape. So *Woman’s Day* supplied

Tania with a \$1000 gift voucher from Suzanne Grae to buy herself a brand new wardrobe. She’s also looking forward to getting fit with a treadmill from Workout World, also supplied by *Woman’s Day*.

“I’ve always been a bit of a girlie-girl and I was also always into health and fitness before,” she says. “But I don’t get to go to the gym any more. I need to be there for my loved ones around the clock. This will be great.”

Most of all, Tania has learnt to take every day as it comes.

“As long as I’ve got Warren and Josh, my life is complete,” she says. “I now think this was meant to happen to us. And you can overcome the odds.”

BY JACKIE BRYGEL

▶▶ Special thanks to Suzanne Grae (www.suzannegrae.com.au), Workout World (www.workoutworld.com.au) and Carers Australia.

‘IT WAS LIKE OUR WHOLE LIVES HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM US’

PICTURES: GRANT TURNER.