

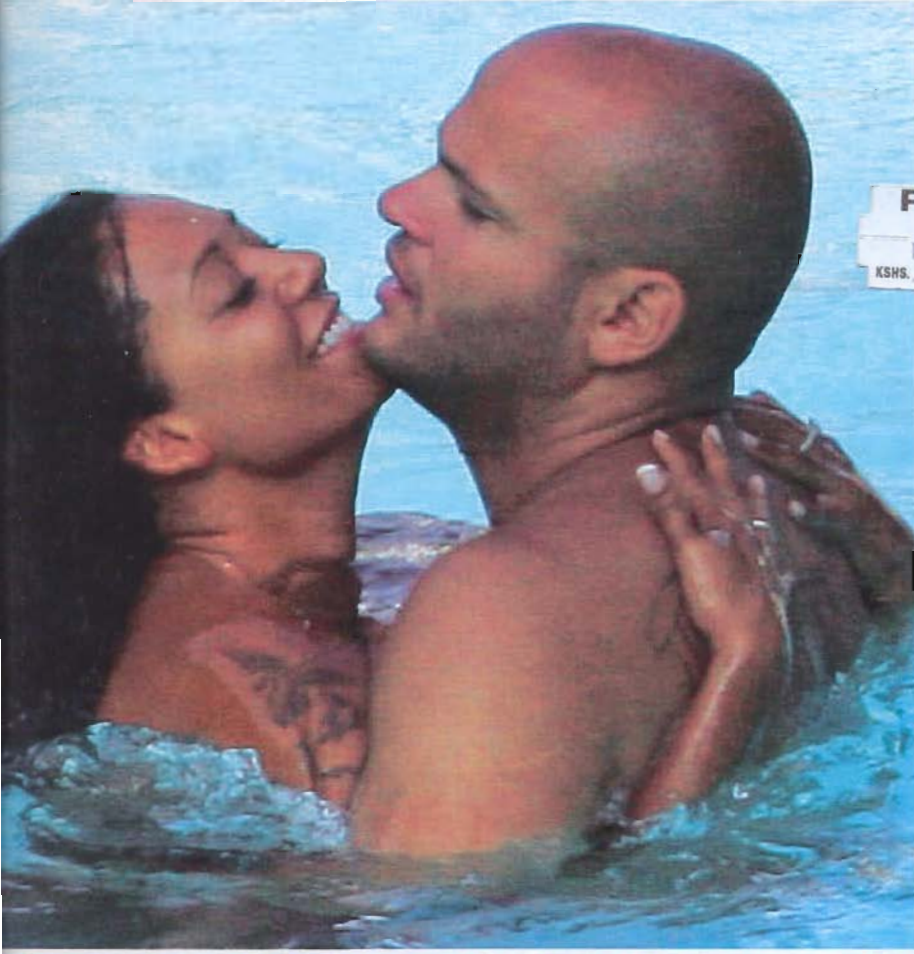
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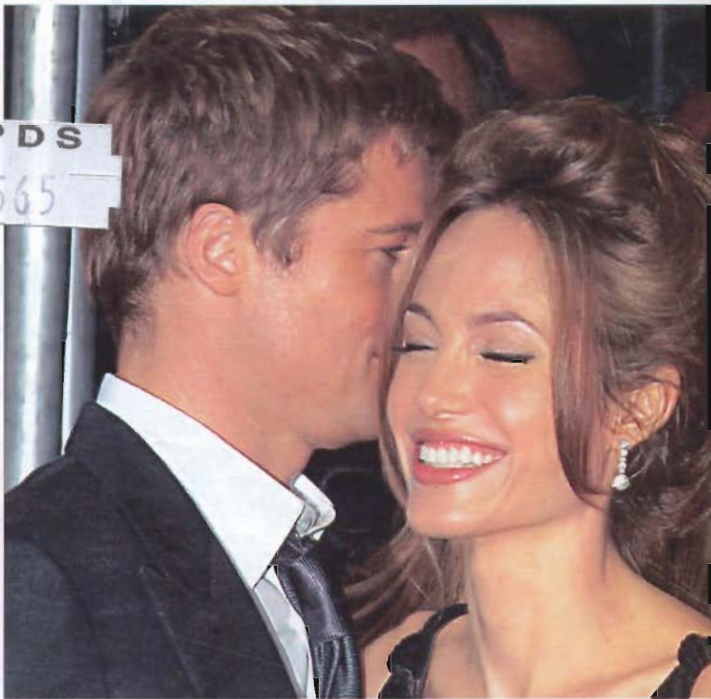
THE PRINCES AND THE FALLOUT OVER THEIR MOTHER'S MEMORIAL



SUMMER'S HOTTEST COUPLES TURN UP THE HEAT

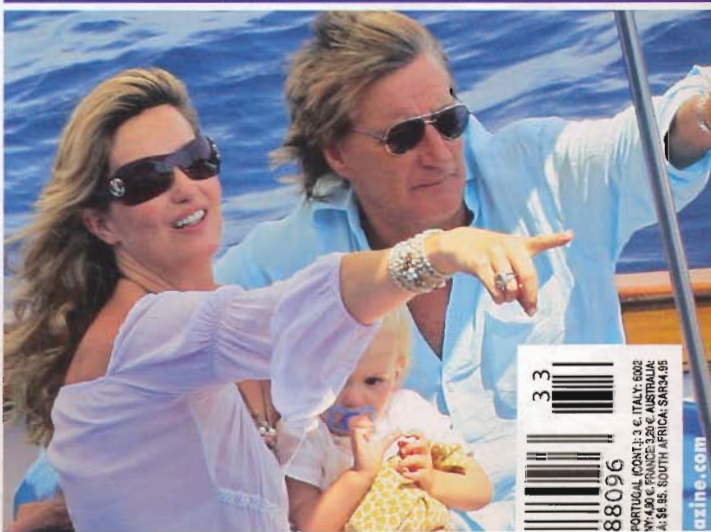


INSIDE STORY ON BRAD AND ANGELINA



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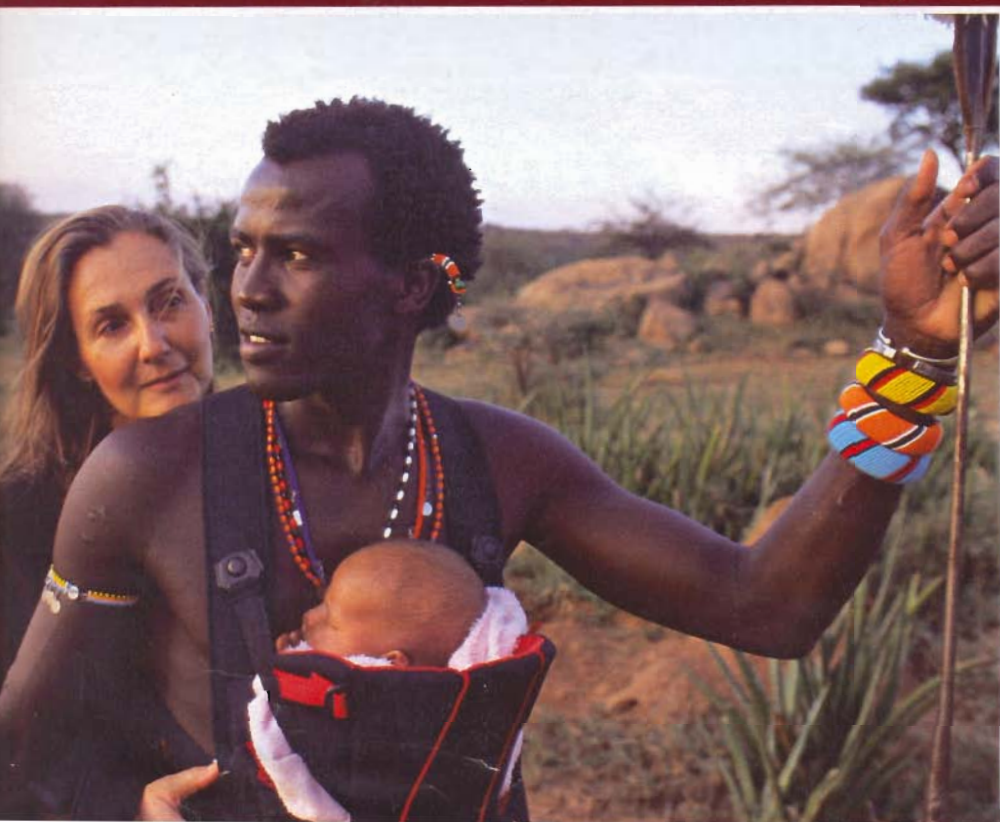


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10 YEARS AFTER THEIR TRIBAL WEDDING, SOCIETY FASHION DESIGNER

**ANNA
TRZEBINSKI
AND SAMBURU
WARRIOR LOYABAN
LEMARTI INTRODUCE
NEW BABY TACHA
AT THEIR CAMP IN
THE HEART OF THE
AFRICAN BUSH**





When she and Lemarti (left, settling Tacha in a baby sling for a long walk in the bush) met in 2002 Anna, 42, didn't want more children, but she gradually changed her mind and daughter Tacha was conceived just over a year after the couple married in 2005. The family divide their time between Anna's colonial-style house in Nairobi and the luxury walking safari camp they run on the Laikipia plateau in Kenya. Despite the lack of mod cons, Anna says: "I'm used to it and find it very relaxing. I get more stressed when we're in a city, and so does Tacha, with all the noise and pollution and car horns. At the camp we have 15 warriors wherever you go and they're all amazing with kids. And Tacha is such an easy baby" such an easy baby"





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'Melet, Tacha's middle name, means peace in Samburu and her first name means rain or blessing – and she has been a complete blessing for the whole family'

Cradling her new baby daughter in her arms as she gazes at the African landscape, Anna Trzebinski has discovered the true meaning of joy. Her little girl is called Tacha – which means “blessing” – and for Anna that name could not be more apt.

Two years after marrying Samburu warrior Loyaban Lemarti the society fashion designer, whose celebrity clients include Jemima Khan, Camilla Parker Bowles and Princess Caroline of Monaco, is relishing being a new mother.

Anna's routine is a little different to the kind most western mothers experience, yet she couldn't be happier.

“The only piece of baby equipment I have is a sheer insect net,” says Anna. “We're in tents in the bush, we use long drops for loos and I bathe Tacha in bottled mineral water because, although we're on a river, I'm worried about chemicals in it from a flower farm upstream.

“Being here in the bush would be taxing for many new mums and a lot of people could have a sense of humour failure. But I'm used to it here and find it very relaxing.”

Tacha's lightning quick birth on 29 May was the latest dramatic event in Anna's extraordinary life and she says her new baby has brought a sense of peace and tranquillity she feared she might never again experience.

Six years ago, her then husband, artist Tonio Trzebinski, was shot dead on the outskirts of Nairobi during what she believes was a car-jacking. Tonio had been on his way to visit a Danish woman and the murder made international headlines because the womanising Lord Erroll – the inspiration for the film *White Mischief* – had been killed in the same area 60 years previously and newspapers couldn't resist making a comparison. Left to bring up her two children alone – her son Stas is now 15, daughter Lana is 14 – Anna set about providing for her family. Today, she has not only transformed her hobby in fashion into a lucrative international business, but she has found personal fulfilment again.



has found personal fulfillment again.
“I think we all have a feeling that our family has been recompleted,” says 42-year-old Anna. “The picture is whole again. After such a big loss this has been amazing for my children.

“Tacha has brought a lot of peace. Her middle name, Melet, means peace and her first name means rain or blessing in Samburu. She has been a complete blessing for the whole family.”

Anna, whose stepfather Michael Cunningham-Reid is the stepson of Lord Delamere, Kenya’s biggest landowner, grew up on her parents’ farm near Nairobi and was educated at Tony Blair’s old school, Edinburgh’s Fettes College, and the London School of Economics. Her privileged background couldn’t be more different to that of her 32-year-old husband, who is known by his last name Lemarti and was brought up in a *manyatta* – a cattle camp – on Kenya’s Laikipia plateau.

“It’s an unusual union, not that there aren’t white women who marry Samburu men, but I think it’s the first time a white Kenyan has done it,” explains Anna, who speaks fluent Swahili. “If I were a city girl, I think we would have much more difficulty with our relationship, but I don’t even like being in Nairobi any more. I’ve always loved his culture and I loved it even before I married him. It’s amazing how he can glide in and out of both our worlds, but he also has a very strong identity, without being arrogant, which is something I’d love our daughter to have.

“We have broken so many rules to be together, but our families see us building a life together and having a child and they’re delighted.” ▶

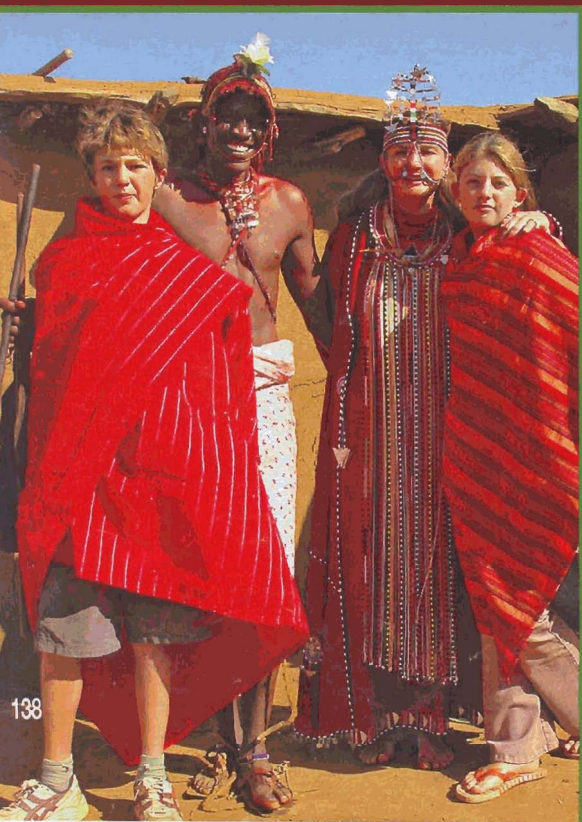
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"Lemari used to look after his little sister so he is experienced with babies and has fallen in love with Tacha. The joy this little person has brought is something that we weren't really prepared for," says Anna



Tacha will go to school in Nairobi but will also have "a little posse of Samburu girlfriends... We want her to be able to bridge both cultures without feeling uncomfortable or that one is inferior," says Anna. Below, Anna and Lemarti on their wedding day with Stas, now 15 and Lana, 14



The couple divide their time between Anna's magnificent colonial-style property in the leafy Nairobi suburb of Karen, and the camp they have set up in Laikipia offering walking safaris to tourists. While large, Bedouin-style tents provide "luxury" camping the family lives a fairly primitive existence when they are here.

"There's no electricity, so at night the camp is lit up with kerosene lamps, and we have bucket showers," says Anna. "It's not for everyone. But when visitors come they get to connect with the people and the amazing landscapes."

To her delight, Anna is finding motherhood third time around easy. "It's bliss because I feel I know what I'm doing and Tacha has a very hands-on dad who's amazing with her. He has suddenly become a real patriarch in the family. Tacha looks just like her daddy; she has his eyes, his nose and the same shape face."

Lemarti adds: "Tacha is beautiful. She has brought so much happiness into my life."

Anna and Lemarti tried to conceive naturally for over a year before she was prescribed the fertility drug Clomid.

"We really, really thought about having Tacha," Anna explains. "When Lemarti and I met I told him I didn't want another child. Then about three years ago I realised I really wanted another baby. The children wanted to go to boarding school and I realised the house would be empty without them. Life seems so meaningless without children."

"We tried for a year and a bit to conceive. Then I found this incredible doctor in Nairobi, who prescribed the fertility drug Clomid, and we got pregnant the first month."

"Lemarti was set on having a son and was

'Life seems so meaningless without children. Now we would love Tacha to have a little brother'

convinced the baby was a boy, until a scan revealed Tacha was a girl. Now, we would love Tacha to have a little brother."

Tacha's birth at the Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi, took her parents a little by surprise.

"I was worried about the birth, because I'm older now and hadn't done any exercise, and wondered if I was going to be strong enough to pop this baby out," says Anna. "After agonising about it for ages I finally decided to have an elective Caesarean – and that same night I went into labour, two weeks early. But the birth was unbelievably easy. Tacha was born within two hours and was out in two pushes."

Lemarti broke with the traditions of his Samburu tribe and stayed by Anna's side as Tacha came into the world, weighing 6lbs 8oz.

Anna explains: "Lemarti had said, 'I'm sorry, but in my culture the men are definitely not around when the woman is giving birth. I will be at the hospital but I can't be there with you.' I said, 'That's absolutely fine, you must do what you feel.' During labour I kept saying, 'You can go now,' but he said, 'I'm not leaving you, I have to be here for my baby.' He was overwhelmed by the whole thing in a really positive way."

Anna and Lemarti have taken Tacha to meet his family at their *manyatta* and introduced her to her first taste of Samburu culture, a ritual which involves passing beads from father to baby.

"Tacha has a grandmother and a great-grandmother who are very traditional. It's a very beautiful, peaceful, almost biblical existence.

"Both of us feel we want her to grow up being aware of both her cultures – her white African and her black African roots," says Anna. "I hope we'll set an example of how to make the most of both worlds. Both Lemarti and I are strong believers that wealth isn't any kind of important thing to achieve. Happiness, peace of mind and self respect are much more important. Of course you can't impose anything on anyone and Tacha might end up being like Paris Hilton, in which case you can forget the mud hut!"

While Anna has embraced the Samburu culture, there is one tradition she has refused to allow Tacha to be part of.

"It is still traditional for both boys and girls to be circumcised at ceremonies once they come of age at 13 or 14," Anna explains. "One of the things we agreed on was that for a girl that was out of the question completely and that if we had a son, he would have the option to either do it in hospital or do it traditionally."

In September, Anna, Lemarti and Tacha will spend several weeks in London and the US selling her range of African-inspired clothes to private clients. Her speciality is a hand-woven pashmina, intricately stitched with African feathers and beads by her workforce of 130 local women and costing up to £2,000 each.

For Lemarti, leaving the beauty and serenity of the Kenyan bush for the hustle and bustle of western cities is a huge culture shock.

“He finds it quite soul destroying,” Anna admits. “We went to New York last November and I saw him visibly shrink in two weeks. Life there is completely alien, a total disconnection from anything natural.”

Anna hasn't taken time off work but has decided she doesn't want to hire a nanny for Tacha.

“She's such an easy baby and I'm sort of slotting into her life,” says Anna. “I feel Tacha is my little after-the-event gift and I want to spend every minute with her.”



INTERVIEW: TRACY SCHAVERIEN
PHOTOS: TIM BEDDOW
