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EASTENDERS & CORRIE LOVE SHOCK!

# When ALFIE Wed BECKY

NO, YOUR EYES ARE NOT DECEIVING YOU! **buzz** ELOPES WITH THE KING & QUEEN OF SOAP

+ MOVE OVER WILLS & KATE MY BIG FAT GYPSY WEDDING ROYAL SPECIAL



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# Love me 'ENDER

*EastEnders'* wide boy **Alfie Moon** and *Coronation Street* barmaid **Becky McDonald** are TV royalty, **buzz's** very own King and Queen of Soap. As arch-rivals on different channels, they have never met. But what if their worlds collided, they ditched their other halves and got hitched in a wedding chapel in Las Vegas? We invite you to the ultimate Soap Royal Wedding



IT'S ONE OF THOSE PROPER hold-your-breath moments. **buzz** is sitting on a sofa with *EastEnders* star Shane Richie nattering about all things Alfie Moon when a familiar Yorkshire accent hollers up from the photo studio below: "I can hear you from downstairs!" Seconds later, Katherine Kelly races up the staircase and there they are – Becky McDonald and Alfie Moon, hugging each other like they're old friends rather than fierce rivals on two of TV's most competitive soaps. As **buzz** gets set to officially crown them the King and Queen of Soap in a Las Vegas-style wedding ceremony, it's like some crazy remake of *Romeo And Juliet*. Everyone in the room, from their respective PRs, who somehow juggled the stars' hectic schedules to make this exclusive shoot happen, to **buzz's** whole behind-the-scenes team, can sense that we're privy to soap history. On the neutral territory of a photographic studio in Birmingham, halfway between *Walford* and *Weatherfield*, Shane, 47, and Kate, 31, are united at last – and having a right old gossip...

VIDEO EXCLUSIVE  
TO GO BEHIND THE SCENES AT OUR SHOOT, CHECK OUT: [THEBUN.CO.UK/VIDEO](http://THEBUN.CO.UK/VIDEO)



*"Now I've kissed Becky, it's all over for Kat and Alfie"*

SHANE

**So how does it feel being crowned by buzz as the King and Queen of Soap for our special Royal Wedding issue?**

Kate: "I feel like I'm cheating on Simon [Gregson], who plays my husband Steve in Corrie. The first thing I thought when I was asked to do this shoot was that he would be gutted, but then I realised Simon wouldn't care one bit. So thank you, **buzz**, I feel royally proud. It's a cross-pollination of soaps and I'm happy to be a part of it. Alfie is a British legend, and I'm thrilled to be on his arm for the afternoon."  
 Shane [blushing]: "It's an honour. I honestly don't quite know what else to say. It does feel like cheating on Kat, but I'm enjoying playing away. Though I think that now I've kissed Becky, it will be all over for Kat and Alfie."  
 Kate: "We've been texting Jessie Wallace [who plays Alfie's wife Kat in EastEnders] and winding her up. Shane took a photo of us together and sent it to her with the message: 'The New Mrs Moon.'"

She replied saying: 'You slag!' I think Jessie is going to hunt me down."  
 Shane: "While I think Simon isn't really bothered!"

Kate [laughing]: "Yeah, I'm his third screen wife as it is. Steve's probably about due for Mrs McDonald the fourth."

**What will you both be doing to celebrate the actual Royal Wedding?**

Shane: "I'll probably be trying to get home from The Portland Hospital in London. My baby [Shane and his wife Christie are about to have their third child] is due the Wednesday before the wedding, so if things go to plan we should be travelling back home on the Friday. While Wills and Kate will be consummating their marriage, I'll be seeing the results of mine."  
 Kate: "I think I'll be working behind the bar

in the Rovers. But I am going to the other royal wedding of the summer, when Zara Phillips ties the knot with [rugby player] Mike Tindall. I went to school in Wakefield with Mike. Our parents live in the same village and we've stayed really good mates."  
 Shane: "In the EastEnders episode that will be shown on the day of the Royal Wedding, Alfie rents a big 52-inch TV for The Vic and there's a party in the Square. But what's really great is that it is hoped the BBC will get permission to put in actual footage from the wedding, just hours before EastEnders goes to air that night."

**If the pair of you swapped soaps, which character would you most like to play?**

Shane: "I love Jimmi Harkishin's character, Dev Alahan, and the fact he always sounds like he's making his lines up. As an actor, you should always sound like you're saying a line for the first time."  
 Kate: "Jimmi's got great comic timing. He's so funny in the scenes where Dev plays golf with Steve. Even I've got a better idea of how to play golf than they have. But if I could be any character in EastEnders, I'd love to play Dot Cotton. I'd just sit there, smoking at the table."  
 Shane: "I tell you, you'd never get a sore throat in her company. When June Brown, who plays Dot, starts talking – you listen!"

**What do you think would happen if Becky marched into The Vic and Alfie turned up in the Rovers Return?**

Kate: "Becky loves a night out. It would probably take her a minute to adjust to the accents, but by the end of the evening she'd have a lock-in, the sun would be coming up and there would be a big old party. Whisky bottles would have been emptied and Becky would be serving behind the bar. She'd basically have moved in."  
 Shane: "I hope the regulars would just turn round to him in the Rovers and say: 'What kept you, Alfie?'"

**Do you ever watch each other's soaps?**

Shane: "I struggle to watch my own show let alone Coronation Street, what with learning scripts and looking after my kids. And I only really watch EastEnders to tell the wife if I've done a good scene. But I've got a lot of family in Manchester who all watch Corrie. My mum is forever telling me what's going on in it."  
 Kate: "I tend to tune in after I've met up with the casts of other shows at events like The British Soap Awards. It's when you see clips at those awards shows that you suddenly realise: 'Cor, that looks really bloody good. I better start watching.'"  
 Shane: "When Corrie did the live tram crash it was the nuts. We all looked at each other at work the next morning and were almost embarrassed by how good it was. It raised the bar, I think – not just for soaps, but for all TV dramas. That stunt with the tram was incredible. I swear to you, when we watched it at the National Television Awards earlier this year, we were all set to applaud Coronation Street being announced as Best Soap. You could



**Shane on ALFIE**



**WHAT SORT OF FAN MAIL DO YOU GET?**

"I get a lot of letters saying: 'I wish my husband was more like Alfie.' Some of it breaks my heart. But Alfie has such unconditional love for Kat, I think that's why women love him. Even my wife Christie has said during a row that she wishes I could be more like Alfie."

**ARE YOU A STICKLER FOR CERTAIN THINGS ALFIE DOES?**

"You very rarely see Alfie drink alcohol behind the bar. He'll always have a cup of coffee in his West Ham mug instead. Alfie's not a teetotaler by any stretch of the imagination, but there's something comforting about him standing behind the bar with a cup of coffee. If it all kicks off, at least someone is going to be sober."

**WHERE DO YOU KEEP YOUR AWARDS?**

"In my den. That's where I keep my jukebox and my DVDs, and there's a shelf where I keep all my awards."

**WILL KAT AND ALFIE LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER NOW THAT THEY HAVE BEEN REUNITED WITH TOMMY?**

"Kat and Alfie [inset] are happy to have Tommy back, but they still buried the baby they thought was their son. That destroyed them and their relationship. The cot-death storyline is just the start of what's going to happen to Kat and Alfie. I've also heard rumours about whether Alfie is really firing blanks. He had a fertility test in a backstreet in Spain. Could it be wrong?"



actually see the surprise on our faces when they called out EastEnders as the winner instead."  
 Kate: "We could tell. But we loved it when Jessie played Pat Phoenix in the BBC4 drama, The Road To Coronation Street. Simon came in the day after it was on and said it made him proud to be in Corrie. Simon loves Jessie because of that; she feels like an honorary member of Coronation Street to us because she was so magnificent."

**What has been the most memorable partying between the cast of Corrie and EastEnders after showbiz get-togethers?**

Shane: "I once got very messy with Sally Lindsay [who played Shelley Unwin in Coronation Street] back in 2003 when she was still in the soap."

**Kate on BECKY**



**WHAT SORT OF FAN MAIL DO YOU GET?**

"The letters from kids are funny. One said: 'Right, I can't believe you've been looking after Amy all that time while Tracy's been banged up and now she comes back and there's not one word of thanks. I think you've been so calm about everything. I would deck her!'"

**ARE YOU A STICKLER FOR CERTAIN THINGS BECKY DOES?**

"When she fights, I always try to avoid girly things like hair pulling and slapping. I want Becky to fight in as male a way as possible. There was some hair-pulling with Kylie recently, but then Becky slammed her sister's head on the table. I quite like the idea that Becky can't fight as well as she used to. She hasn't lived on the streets for a long time. That's why David Platt got a lucky punch in recently."

**WHERE DO YOU KEEP YOUR AWARDS?**

"They are on my parent's mantelpiece. Mum and Dad are typical Barnsley. They play it down but the awards are nicely polished. My dad says it's cheaper than buying ornaments."

**IS LIFE GOING TO GET EVEN WORSE FOR BECKY?**

"Yes, because now we're starting to see all the pay-offs from what started with the tram crash when Becky stole money from Dev. You can't do something like that in such a small community without it eventually getting out. Becky [right, with husband Steve] knows it's coming. She can feel it in her bones."



Kate: "That doesn't surprise me."  
 Shane: "And Denise Welch [Loose Women star who played Corrie's Natalie Barnes]. Mind you, you have only got to go shopping with Denise for things to get a bit messy."  
 Kate: "Ha Ha."

**Shane, we know you used to appear in Das adverts before you joined EastEnders. But Kate, is it true you did adverts for Clarks shoes and Leerdammer cheese?**

Shane: "I slept with the devil when I did those ads. But half a million pounds was a hell of a lot of money at the time. You wouldn't get paid that much now."  
 Kate: "I, on the other hand, was deliriously happy when I got those two



*"Simon teases me - and Shane's nearly as bad!"*

KATE

advertises because I was really skint at the time. For the Clarks ad I flew to Prague to film it with Ray Winstone's daughter, Lois. We were treated like movie stars and had a right laugh. All I had to do was dance across the street. As for the cheese ad, I'm addicted to Leerdammer. I see a hypnotist to stop my cravings."

**Do you think Alfie and Becky could ever work as a couple?**

Shane: "You know, I reckon it could work as a TV spin-off show."

Kate: "I like it, I like it!"

Shane: "It could be done, couldn't it? Alfie and Becky open up this bar/café..."

Kate: "I thought you were going to say bar/brothel then."

Shane: "They meet up in Birmingham at Becky Moon's bar/café/brothel."

Kate: "Then they head for Las Vegas."

**And once they get to Las Vegas, how long would their marriage last?**

Kate: "Until they sobered up and realised they're not with Kat and Steve. Actually, it'd probably last until Steve found Becky and dragged her back home."

Shane: "How long would it last with them? Twenty minutes - but that includes the shower! Then for Alfie the guilt would kick in."

As *buzz's* Las Vegas-themed photoshoot comes to an end, Shane and Kate have clearly had a ball. In between being covered with confetti and giving us great love-on-the-run poses, they've been talking ten to the dozen, jiving to the Pulp Fiction soundtrack and cheekily texting Shane's co-star Jessie like a pair of naughty kids.

But while Shane may be the more boisterous one, Kate gives as good as she gets - hooting with laughter while Shane whispers who knows what in her ear.

"Simon teases me all day long," she says. "Shane's nearly as bad - and I've only been with him for three hours!"

There are hugs all round as Kate and Shane exchange phone numbers and thank Elvis for helping them get hitched. But as our Las Vegas backdrop is dismantled and the dulcet tones of The King crooning Love Me Tender fade away, it looks like Kat Moon and Steve McDonald shouldn't lose too much sleep over their partners. Becky and Alfie are separating and heading north and south once again...

*There's still time to vote for your favourite stars to win at next month's British Soap Awards. Visit [www.britishsoapawards.tv](http://www.britishsoapawards.tv)*



**WATCH IT!** CORONATION STREET SUN, MON, THURS & FRI TIMES VARY ITV1 EASTENDERS MON, TUES, THURS & FRI TIMES VARY BBC1

Stylist: Nikki Ahmed. Hair & make-up: Gillian Walsh. Props: Janis Morrison. Set builders: Set to Set. Katherine wears: dress by Forever Unique, bangle by BHS, shoes by Katherine's own. Shane wears: grey morning suit and purple cravat by Young Bride & Groom, floral shirt by Duffer of St George at Debenhams, shoes by Burton.