

# 'What kind of woman sells out her daughter?'

Kerry Katona tells **woman** why she's estranged from her mum, and why she feels she's a good parent

**T**urbulent is a word often used to describe Kerry Katona's life. She's been robbed by thieves at knife-point, her ex-husband – singer Brian McFadden – is suing for custody of their two daughters, she's pregnant with her fourth child, she's been in rehab for drugs and alcohol three times, married twice, and has just written her first novel despite being dyslexic – and she's only just turned 27!

The reality, the former Atomic Kitten tells **woman**, is very different. She likes the quiet life and has achieved her true ambition – which wasn't to be a superstar, but to be happily married with children. Last year, Kerry and her

second husband, cabbie Mark Croft, moved to Wilmslow, Cheshire, with their daughter Heidi, nine months, plus Molly, six, and Lilly, four – Kerry's girls from her marriage to Brian. Mark's daughter Keeley, five, from a previous relationship, is also living with them at the moment.

**So, Kerry, tell us about your novel *Tough Love***  
My autobiography, *Too Much, Too Young*, sold 380,000 copies and got to number three on the UK bestseller list, so the publishers suggested I write a novel. I nearly bottled it, because I'm dyslexic and had no clue where to start! So I had some help from a lovely girl called Annie. We sat down and went through the characters and the twists and turns in the story. Then

Annie went away and put the book together for me. When I read it, I was really proud of it.

**What's the book about? Is it based on your life?**

It's about the Compton family, who are just like the *Shameless* family, always up to no good. The main character is Leanne Compton, a single mum, who's done well as a glamour model but gets sacked by her agency and has to go back home to her family. I think I'm more brash than Leanne – but she loves her kids, I love my kids, she comes from a poor family who are mad and mental, and I've got that in my family too.

**When's your baby due, and do you know if it's a girl or a boy?**

It's due in May and I'm under pressure from the girls to have a boy! I've got a feeling it's a boy because I've not had morning sickness and I'm healthy and full of life. With the girls, I felt really ill.

**How are things with your mum since she sold a story about you taking drugs?**

I don't have any



Kerry with her mother Sue

contact with her. I probably will again, but it'll never be the same. I don't know any woman who could sell out her own daughter. I don't miss her – she was so overpowering. You never knew what she would make you do.

**When you became a mum yourself, were you worried about your parenting skills?**

I lived in Ireland with Brian, which was brilliant for me because I didn't really see my mum, so she couldn't be a bad influence on me. But after Brian left me I had to go back home, and I got into trouble. I realised I was going down a bad route with drugs and drink, but that was more than

three years ago, and I went and got help for that.

Being a mum is the hardest job in the world, but the most rewarding. If I could give up work and just be a mum, I would, but my job means my girls will have a better education than I ever had. I don't think there's ever a perfect mother, but I never worried that I'd be a bad one. I'd never slit my wrists in front of my children like my mum did in front of me.

**Is Mark a hands-on dad?**

He does more parenting than me because I'm the one that goes out to work, so the kids always call on him rather than me. And because I'm bipolar, I'm on medication to make me sleep, so I don't wake up at night. I think I got up once with Heidi on Father's Day! We also have a full-time nanny to help out.

**Would you like to do more reality TV?**

I want to act more than anything. I've got a film cameo coming up – it's a black comedy with Colm Meaney. I love doing the Iceland ads, as

they pay for the kids' schooling. But I'd also do more reality because you get a chance to be yourself, which is what I'm best at.

*Tough Love*, by Kerry Katona, was published on October 18 by Ebury Press, price £6.99.

## Kerry and her clan



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Kerry's ex, Brian, with new love Delta Goodrem

'I don't miss my mum...

she was a bad influence'