

Best friends Hatty Pedder & Marcela Danielova

Hatty, 45, is an artist and mother to Poppy, 22, and Indigo, 7

"The first time I met Marcela was in 2000 at a model casting for a fashion shoot. She came in with her young baby and I was instantly struck at how laid-back and chilled-out she was – so elegant and warm.

"I had so little confidence back then and she really helped me realise that I could do what I put my mind to.

"Marcela is like a sister to me; we're similar but packaged differently. She's very honest with me, telling me when I'm being a drama queen. She looks out for me, and when I had to move into a smaller house after my husband died unexpectedly of cancer four years ago, she helped me move and made sure the house looked nice for me and the girls. As chance would then have it, a house in the same compound became available and she moved in almost next door. I never feel lonely knowing that Marcela is only a few doors down and that she's there for me whatever time of day."

Marcela, 36, is designer relations manager at Fashion Forward and mum to Elisa, 14 and Lilly, 10

"A mutual friend of ours had told me what an amazing photographer Hatty was and that I should get her to take pictures of me, so I did – not realising it had been a lie and that this was her very first shoot! She was shy then, and quite clumsy, but I remember thinking how sweet and feminine she was.

"Then we lost contact for about seven years, until Hatty got in touch with me just before her first solo art exhibition and we started to hang out more. She needed a lot of support then, and it was fabulous being part of it, I was so proud of her. I was going through a bit of an uneasy time, and Hatty told me about being interested in pranic healing and so I started learning about it too, which really bonded us.

"When Hatty lost her husband, I was also going through a change of circumstances, and we both found ourselves bringing up two daughters by ourselves. We both believe in fate, and believe life put us together again seven years ago, to prepare us for what was about to happen in our lives and for us to have a solid friendship that would help us both through, and it has."

Sisters Tamara & Tala Samman

Tamara, 22, is a university student

"Tala was always my partner in crime and I consider her my role model, especially during my childhood. As she was my big sister, I was convinced that she was always right and that I should follow in her footsteps, but we were very different. Tala was always interested in fashion and other girly things, while I was a real tomboy, interested in karate, football, business studies and maths. I see our differences as a good thing though, as we both have different career goals and support each other – something I'm very grateful for.

"The most defining moment of our relationship was during my first year of university. I had moved in with Tala in London, where she had already been living for three years. We started to become dependent on one another and listen to each other's advice more. After that, without a doubt, we've been closer than ever, in terms of honesty, support, interests and our mindsets, which have all seemed to align. Also, our relationship is completely based around inside jokes and things that make us both laugh until we can't speak any more."

Tala, 24, is editor of myfashdiary.com

"Tamara was born when I was two-and-a-half years old and our mum always used to dress us the same, but that's where the similarities ended. Not only did we look different – believe it or not, Tammy was blonde when she was little – but we had completely different interests, even from a young age. I loved my Barbies and make-up, whereas Tamara was into cars, Action Man and the action figures from cartoons. Although one thing we both loved was role-playing – we would recreate classrooms, families, and supermarkets and play make-believe for hours.

"Tamara was always an academic child, and I never had any doubt that she was going to excel in whatever she did. I'm incredibly proud of the challenges she took on at a young age, such as studying in Spain for a year to learn the language (she now speaks Spanish fluently), and using her summer breaks to intern at different companies to find out what career she wanted to follow.

"We have the same sense of humour, but personality-wise, we are completely different. This can be tricky, but I also am really grateful for it because she'll have a completely different opinion from me. I don't really speak to many people about obstacles or ask for advice, but Tamara is one of the few people I can count on to talk to about anything from business ideas to general advice." **AQ**

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