

Pippa Moves In to Help Kate

With Kate Middleton struggling, her sister rushes to her side

Every girl dreams of being a princess, but the reality is proving to be anything but a fairy tale for Kate Middleton. Since marrying Prince William in April, Kate has found life to be surprisingly lonely. With her husband often away for days at a

time working as a search-and-rescue helicopter pilot, she has found herself home alone in the royal couple's remote cottage in Wales, with nothing but her thoughts to keep her company.

The isolation has taken its toll: In the months since for days at a Kate became

LOVING SISTERS

Now that Pippa's staying with her, "Kate won't feel so lonely or dependent on William," a family friend reveals.



While William worked, Kate felt isolated in their little cottage.

From Lonely Cottage to a Palace With Pippa

Kate needs some girl time and someone to confide in apart from her husband. "The Palace wants to ensure she's happy," notes a friend.

Duchess of Cambridge, her weight has plummeted, and William has grown increasingly concerned about his wife's well-being.

Now he's come up with a plan: When he's away, Kate, 29, will live in London at the couple's two-bedroom apartment in Kensington Palace with her new roommate — her beloved sister and best friend, Pippa. "Pippa and Kate can't wait to move in together," gushes a family friend. "Pippa recently spent time with Kate in Wales, which Kate loved, and William is relieved because Pippa will be able to keep an eye on her sister and make sure she eats and takes care of herself."

Protecting His Wife

William, 29, saw how his mother, Diana, suffered in her life as a princess, battling depression and bulimia. He's determined to do everything he can to ensure the woman he loves doesn't suffer the same fate — and the queen and the rest of William's family support the move. "The last thing William and the Palace want is a repeat of the Princess Diana early years, when she felt cut off,

lost, isolated and lonely," the pal admits.

William also hopes the 28-year-old Pippa, who competes in triathlons and eats healthy meals, will be a good influence on his wife. "Although Pippa's very slim, she's very healthy and has a sensible approach to fitness and diet, so she'll be able to guide Kate and put some weight back on her," the friend notes.

Technically, Pippa will act as an unofficial lady-in-waiting — a fancy way of saying assistant — for her sister. But more important, she'll be a companion. So instead of spending cold nights in Anglesey, Wales, watching movies on DVD, Kate is looking forward to spending time with her sister shopping, hitting Pilates classes, sharing takeout from one of her favorite restaurants and supporting fund-raisers and charities.

The most important thing is that Pippa will be there to support her sister as she continues to adjust to the challenges of her new life. "The girls can't wait to spend time together again," the pal beams. "Kate's really missed her little sister." **LS**

WILLIAM'S OFTEN AWAY

The prince's shifts as a helicopter pilot often involve overnight stays at a base in Anglesey, which means Kate has spent a lot of lonesome nights waiting for her husband to come home.



GETTY (4)