

# Taylor-made collection set to dazzle jewel fans

Auction is attracting world-wide interest

**"YOU can't cry on a diamond's shoulder, and diamonds won't keep you warm at night. But they're sure fun when the sun shines."**

So said Elizabeth Taylor and, with a collection of 269 jewels valued at \$30 million and counting, she was more than qualified to tell us.

According to the auctioneers Christies, she had: "The greatest private collection of jewellery ever assembled in one place."

In mid-December, Christies will host a two-day sale of the actress's most-treasured pieces at New York's Rockefeller Centre.

This will be followed by a sale of 400 of her favourite haute couture items, representing a who's who of 20th century designers including Chanel, Valentino and Versace.

Not only can you

By Ian Lloyd

buy her wedding dresses from her two marriages to Richard Burton but you can also buy the bride's wedding rings, too.

The collection is currently on a global three-month tour, taking in Moscow, Geneva, Paris, Dubai and Los Angeles.

This weekend it reaches London where, for £10, fans of Taylor can see this astonishing collection at Christie's King Street saleroom, off Piccadilly.

Taylor never appeared anywhere in public without being festooned in diamonds,



■ Elizabeth Taylor with husband Richard Burton meet with Princess Margaret, who tried on the famous Krupp Diamond ring.

rubies, sapphires and pearls.

When she met Princess Margaret, herself no stranger to the odd bauble or two, at a society wedding in the late 1960s, Margaret clocked the Krupp Diamond ring that blazed away on the actress's hand.

"Is that the famous diamond?" queried HRH.

"Yes," said Elizabeth, lifting her hand so it caught the light.

"That's the most vulgar thing I've ever seen!" declared the Princess, and in the same breath, asked "May I try it on?"

Taylor slipped it on to the royal finger, before cheekily declaring: "It doesn't look so vulgar now, does it?"

Elizabeth Taylor was more than a collector, she was a connoisseur.

Like her dress collection, Taylor's

jewels boasted examples of the very best of the best, with designers including Cartier and Tiffany.

Key pieces include the Krupp Diamond ring that made a princess green with envy. The diamond, listed as "internally flawless" was a gift from husband number five, the love of her life, Richard Burton.

Bought for £237,000 in May 1968, it is estimated to sell for between \$2,500,000-\$3,500,000, comfortably within the bank balance of David Beckham, who is alleged to be bracing himself to spend £2.9 million on Taylor gems for his wife Victoria.

Despite living in such a rarified atmosphere, surrounded by her priceless pieces, the actress was a realist when it came to their future.

"They will all be up for auction one day," she said.

"They will be scattered to the four corners of the world, and I hope whoever buys each piece, loves it as much as I do and takes care of it and realises that having jewellery

is a temporary gift. Nobody ever owns anything this beautiful."

For more info see [www.christies.com/elizabethtaylor](http://www.christies.com/elizabethtaylor)

● Ian Lloyd is author of Elizabeth Taylor: Queen of the Silver Screen.



■ Two-day sale of Liz Taylor's jewellery will take place in New York.