Modelling in London was like being thrown to crocodiles

But I arrived with £25 in my pocket and didn't look back



■ Emily Barroso

has written an award-win-ning book based on her ex-when we travelled to see my stepdad's family in the coun-

thor of After The Rains which tells the story of a young girl facing difficulties growing up in the former British colony of Rhodesia.

gent's Park, left the country aged 12 in 1980 when it became the independent state of Zimbabwe.

She said: "The book is a work of fiction but builds on a collective Rhodesian and Zimbabwean experience and also some of the catastrophic events which impacted my step father directly.

identities and why others de- Underground. cide to conform."

lish mother Johanne and her step-father Paul came from a wealthy British family. Emi-

A model-turned-novelist ly says: "I lived in the city but periences of growing up in try we would go by convoys with women holding guns Emily Barroso is the au- out the back of the trucks.

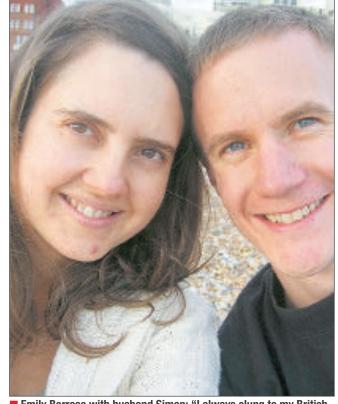
"It could be scary. As a white girl in Africa you get a sense of dislocation and I always clung to my British side, becoming interested in Emily, of Laxton Place, Re-the country's humour, music and culture."

The family moved to South Africa where Emily forged a successful career as a fashion and magazine model. She adds: "I came to London with £20 in my pocket and never looked back.

"I have lived in Camden for 25 years. Camden had a really interesting music scene in "I explore why some white the 1990s and I dated guys in and black people who grew bands before starting my up in apartheid swim up own group which performed stream and forge different in Dublin Castle and Camden

"It was a hedonistic time She grew up with an Eng- but eventually I ended up homeless."

Emily took a masters' degree in creative writing and



■ Emily Barroso with husband Simon: "I always clung to my British

Young Writers Apprenticeship in 2005 for After the

modelling in London compared to my experience in young girl." Cape Town.

flesh and bones and focus on is married to Simon.

won the Jerwood/Avon being skinny and looking a certain way.

"You lose some of your creativity and intellect and stop She adds: "It was like being doing things in a creative thrown to the crocodiles way. And I had always loved writing growing up as a

Emily has two children 'You realise you are just Luca, 14, and Grace, two, and

Could you be a foster carer?