

A HEART IN CONFLICT EXCERPT:

“Well little lady, what do you think of this lot?” Steve’s accountant leant against the doorframe.

“Interesting,” she allowed, sipping her drink.

He grinned. He was attractive in a decadent sort of way. A lover of the good life, she mused. Fiftyish, stocky and of medium height, crowned by a thatch of silvery hair.

“I hear you’ve recently been promoted.” He held out a hand and gripped hers warmly. “Let me congratulate you. I know what a hard taskmaster Steve is, so know the good wishes are deserved.”

“Thank you. That’s kind of you to say so. I don’t think I know your name.” Georgie tugged her hand free. “I’m Georgie.”

“I know. I’m David.” He wiggled eyebrows that matched his silver hair. “David Neil at your service.” He winked and Georgie laughed at his audacity. “What a smile! My God I’m in love.” He held a palm over his heart and sighed lavishly.

“Something tells me you’re a lady killer.” Georgie poked him on the arm.

“Go home to your wife,” her boss ordered from behind Georgie, and she turned to see him shaking his head.

“Okay, I’m on my way.” David didn’t look too happy with the prospect. Reaching for Georgie’s hand he planted a soft kiss on her knuckle, murmuring, “Until we meet again, sweet child.” After slapping Steve on the back, he strode out.

“He’s harmless,” Steve said. “And incorrigible.”

Georgie decided it was time to call a cab. She’d proved she could be as genial as the next person. Her head ached after all the polite chitchat. If she still worked at Sophinia’s next year she’d find an excuse to opt out of the Christmas do. The guy she recently started dating had invited her to a disco. She seldom went out, and it would have been fun to go dancing with Gary.

Georgie watched as Steve’s parents said goodbye. His mother grazed his cheek with her lips, and his father took his hand. Bemused, Georgie thought of the hugs and kisses she and her sister exchanged constantly. Their parents might have left them penniless but they’d left a legacy of love. Sofia treated her son like a distant acquaintance.

That was probably why her boss was so stiff and cool. He’d obviously never been hugged. Georgie stifled an overwhelming desire to go to him and throw her arms about his neck. She smiled to herself as she imagined his face freezing with disdain at such impetuosity.

“Can we give you a lift?” She jumped when Simon appeared at her side, his arm about Sharon, the woman who had joined him for a cigarette outside. He made a performance of hanging onto her. Did the creep think it would upset Georgie?

“No thanks, I’ll get a cab.”

“Suit yourself.” He said goodnight to Steve and left.

The caterers were packing up with Grace Fisher overseeing them. She bustled back and forth to the kitchen. Georgie had found her boss’s housekeeper friendly earlier when she’d been stiff with boredom. Grace coped splendidly with organizing everything.

“Would it be all right if I ring for a cab?” Georgie asked.

Steve, keys in hand, was telling Grace, “I won’t be long.”

Marika arched her immaculate eyebrows and asked sarcastically, “No car, Georgie?”

“No, I’m saving up for one,” Georgie claimed. “I like to walk, but it’s not wise after dark.”

“Go ahead.” Steve gestured to the phone on the hall table. Marika hooked an arm through his, blatantly asserting her claim on him. “If you’re gone when I get back, have a happy Christmas, Georgie.” He gave her a small smile, already turning away; a hand at Marika’s back to guide her through the door.

Georgie made her New Year’s resolution then and there. If it was the last thing she did she’d get him to smile properly at her.

“Thanks boss, you too.” Turning her back on them she ground her teeth. It was enough to make her ill watching that snaky creature maul him. Why did he put up with it? What a stupid question. She was probably hot stuff in bed.

REVIEWS:

5 stars **Loved it!** by BOOKLOVER64 at KOBO

A very cute love story! I really enjoyed this book. I cannot wait to read the last one. I'll be reading these over again soon!

5 stars By Liz Gavin

"This is the first book by Tricia McGill that I've read but it surely won't be the last one. She delivers a fun and truly romantic story in this A Heart in Conflict.

Personally, I'm a huge fan of third person omniscient POV, so the shifts didn't bother me as they were quite easy to follow. My editor might not agree with that as she never lets me do it though. LOL Moreover, I fell in love with Georgie and Steve's story right from the start. I loved her youthful spirit so in contrast to his somber one and it was delightful to see her gradually winning him over to the bright side of life, so to speak. Every new exchange between this two creates a new crack in his defense walls until he has no way of denying the obvious:

Georgie has shown him how joyful life can be when one allows it. There's also an undeniable chemistry between them that leaves the reader breathless in the best sense possible. Plus, the build-up of their relationship is believable yet steamy. Kudos to the author! Well, as I'm not one to give away spoilers this is as much of the plot as I will discuss here so I won't ruin anyone's reading experience.

Besides the engaging storyline, Tricia McGill also fleshed out her characters brilliantly. They're realistic and likable. The main couple is fun and hot to watch/read as I mentioned above; but the secondary characters are just as delightful. Jimmy, Steve's son, stole my heart since his first scene. I personally know a couple of twelve-year-old kids who are just as bright and endearing as he is so I could totally relate. Lucy, Georgie's sister, is just as intelligent and quick, and such a sweetheart. I loved her as well. Georgie and Lucy's housemates are colorful characters who add to the fun of reading this story. I recommend this fast-paced, quick read for all readers looking for some romantic fun."

Anne Carter Beacon Street Books

"This is a fast read, and the plot is easy and not overly complicated, for those times when you're looking for nothing more than a highly entertaining, non-challenging story with a satisfying ending. Aussie McGill adds a decidedly "down-under" flavor to the story, which absolutely delights this reader, and it's clear she knows the fashion industry well. Can't wait to read more from this talented romance author."

Christine Janssen

"Take a stuffy, unemotional executive, pit him against a pint-sized ball of exuberance, stir into a fashion design house that needs a little more flair, and you have a pattern for a terrific read. Tricia McGill has written an absolute delight, a witty, tender, charming romance that will warm your heart and make you smile."

Jaycee for Romance Reviews Today

"This is a delightful story written in the style of the Harlequin Presents. Ms McGill writes with the kind of humor and skillful characterization that keep you turning the pages. All in all a very good story, one you'll want to pick up and enjoy while sitting in your favorite chair with your favorite drink."

Tonya Ramagos

"This is a fast paced, action-packed romance that is truly a delight to read. With her distinct writing style, Tricia McGill has created a cast of characters that come to life before your eyes and draw you in until the very end. I definitely recommend this book to anyone who loves a good romance."

Jan Springer

"This book flows smoothly, quickly and easily as Tricia McGill delivers passion, warmth and strong family values in this fresh romance that touches your heart. This book is an emotionally satisfying read."

Susan R. Sweet

"A must read for all romance lovers. The antics of Georgie and the consequent effects her actions have on Steve, found this reader riding the emotional roller coaster of heart-stopping romance and gut busting laughter. Truly a book you can't put down."

Fran Keighley

"Tricia McGill has created a story with a charming spirited heroine, a virile masterful hero, delightful supporting characters, and a thoroughly satisfying finish. Her familiarity with the fashion industry is evident. This is the first Tricia McGill book I've read, but it won't be the last. I highly recommend it if you want a good read."

Marie-Nicole Ryan

"Aided by Steve's son and Georgie's younger sister, this mismatched pair can't help but fall in love. A thoroughly enjoyable read filled with humor and love."

Lynda LaPorte

"Georgie's voluptuous charms and vivid style captures more than the executive's attention. And Steve's unbridled passion for Georgie leads to a partnership that goes beyond plan or design! This down under charmer by Tricia McGill is sure to please!"

4 stars **Enjoyed these characters and their story!** Gerianne Slavinsky/Southern Yankee Book Reviews

"Two people who seem like complete opposites with no time or desire for love are put together in this story and find themselves re-thinking what they thought they wanted. The characters are very well written and you learn a lot about each one and why they are like they are and how they came to the conclusions about love they have. Georgie is following her dream and is responsible for her younger sister, but she is doing it. Her boss, Steve, is busy with his life and his son, but is drawn to Georgie, no matter how much he tries to deny it. I really enjoyed this read and found myself smiling at the end."

4 stars By Aleen~Lampshade Reader

"**This is a Contemporary Romance set in Australia.** A charming heroine and a brooding, will not let love in, hero make for a sassy and sexy read. That trope may seem a bit hum drum, but I liked the backstories of the characters; it made the story a bit more interesting.

Not sure if I liked Steve and that's saying a lot, since I love brooders. The fact that he had a short fuse and didn't really treat Georgie right, left me a bit irritated with him. I felt like he was using her to babysit in some parts as well. So glad that he somewhat redeemed himself, even though his sudden love for Georgie was expressed, I just wasn't buying it.

Georgie is a character that at times displayed low self-esteem; she just didn't know her worth. I liked that she also grew as a character, but her love for Steve, kind of kept her going in circles. Their arguments were plenty and there were times I thought that maybe they were too opposite in their personalities.

I really think Steve's son played a huge role in this love story. I felt like he was the glue that kept them together. He was my favorite character. Now his love story I wouldn't mind reading one day.

Overall, I did like the funny dialogue and cute secondary characters. It made for a fun read. Although, the character POVs changed without warning so it kind of threw me off. This is the first book I read by Tricia McGill and I'm interested to see what else she comes up with."

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

4 stars **A nice beach read** By Elf2060 on July 19, 2016

"A Heart in Conflict" by Tricia McGill follows Georgette (Georgie) McNamara, who navigates the challenges of pursuing her dream of becoming a big name in high fashion while dealing with the responsibility of caring for her younger sister and resisting the allure of her boss, Steve Tanakis. Steve has his own challenges, including a young son who looks up to him and parents who are less than supportive, and he is unwilling to risk his heart ever again, no matter how intrigued he is by the petite whirlwind known as Georgie.

This contemporary romance with an Australian flair is a quick read that evokes the feel of traditional series romances with exotic locales, a somewhat naïve but plucky heroine, and a brooding older hero. I enjoyed the brief glimpse into the world of fashion and wish there was a little more development of some of the secondary characters such as Georgie's housemates but understand that the brevity of the story undoubtedly limited what could be described. Those who are concerned with such things should be forewarned that there are frequent shifts in points of view but I think this was still a fun beach read for those who want a light romance set in foreign climes. I particularly enjoyed the younger characters and hope they eventually get to star in their own stories."

A copy of this story was provided to me for review.

4 stars **ideal beach reading** Veronica Slavinsky

"It's a sweet romance, short, easy but very pleasant, ideal beach reading.

Steve needs a wife, especially a mother for his child Jimmy but wants an uncomplicated marriage, so no love. He already had enough disappointments but it's hard for him to resist the charm and sweetness of his new dependent Georgie. But Jimmy like her very much and she is very good with him. And if she was the right one?

Steve is a successful man, charming, loves his son and tries to dedicate to him all his free time. Georgie is a shy girl, naïve but very strong, she had to grow up fast: when her parents died she had to take care of her little sister of 11 years old with little money and a mortgage on the house. Jimmy is an adorable little boy, cute, smart. Together they form a beautiful family. The author keeps you enthralled and engrossed throughout the book, a lovable, fast-paced story. If you enjoy reading sweet romance, then definitely pick this up!"

Review by Jennifer Macaire

"This is a fun romp through the fashion world in Australia. Steve Tanakis is a dark, brooding hero with a fragile heart and a penchant for neutral colours. Georgie is a free spirit who surrounds herself with bright hues and lots of laughter. Their love story is touching, funny, and very moving. How Georgie wins her man and finds her dream job, and how Steve conquers Georgie's heart, is a fast-paced, beguiling story that kept me turning pages until way after midnight."

Amy L. Turpin for www.timeless-tales.net 4 and a half stars.

"This is one of the most charming stories I've read. Georgie is a spitfire and poor Steve is simply along for the ride. Ms McGill did an amazing job defining the age and maturity differences in her two lead characters within the story and character development was astounding. In this story, it's the heroine I wanted to shake some sense into, and I found that refreshing. I'll certainly be giving this book a second read!"

Faith V. Smith for Romantic Times Book Club 4 & a half stars.

"Tricia McGill's delightful tale has all the key ingredients of a true romance: the characters are real, the conflict is believable and she delivers the type of ending that all romance lovers hope for."