

REMNANTS OF DREAMS EXCERPT:

Sara followed him to the small kitchenette at the back of the house. Brian had built cupboards along one side and Sara ran her fingers along the pale yellow bench top as she leaned against the wall that was covered with pretty floral wallpaper.

"This is so nice." She looked about admiringly as he filled the kettle and lit the burner on their new stove. "You've made a good job of it."

"Thanks." He turned to close the door. Sara shivered and he asked, "Are you cold?" The room wasn't very large and he seemed twice as big in the cramped space.

Sara shook her head, looking down as one of his large hands reached for one of hers. "Your skin is so white," he muttered, and she began to tremble all over. His palms rubbed up and down her arms then and she could feel the small calluses on them.

Goose bumps rose all over her skin. "Why, you must be freezing," he said softly, his voice growing husky, as if he had a catch in his throat.

"No." As she denied this a tendril of her hair brushed his face and he gave her a startled look. His fingers seemed to have a life of their own, for they wandered slowly on her skin, exploring. Sara sighed with pleasure. Brian stared at her mouth.

"Don't look at me like that," he scolded, meeting her eyes. He'd moved so close his warm breath stirred the hair at her temples, wafted over her face.

"Like what?" Her voice sounded low and husky, and somewhere deep inside a pulse throbbed.

His palms cupped her jaw and his thumbs began to stroke her cheeks. "I hope I'm mistaken, but all my senses tell me I'm not."

"You're not, and you know it," she whispered. "From the first moment I set eyes on you I wanted you for my own. I could have killed Jane for getting you."

"But you're married to Dennis and I'm married to your sister--it's much too late for these declarations," he rasped, his hands moving to her shoulders and cupping them to shake her.

"And I hate him!"

"Ah, love." He swallowed hard. "But you're stuck with him, Sara, and I'm..." He lifted his shoulders in a helpless shrug.

"We could run away together. You, Rosy, and me," she broke in desperately, her eyes widening hopefully.

"Don't be daft, love." He turned to move away.

Sara grabbed his arm and protested, "Don't tell me you don't feel something for me. I can see it in your eyes. You feel the same as me."

His fingers curled about her upper arms as he brought his face so close she could see her reflection in his eyes. "You're a witch, Sara. And you're so beautiful you would bewitch any man with half a mind and a pair of eyes. But don't run away with the idea you can charm me into jumping through hoops for you. Because I won't be in it, do you hear me?"

She couldn't hold back the tears. She began to sob. His fingers tightened on her arms as he said savagely, "I couldn't ruin the lives of loved ones by being so selfish." He swallowed again, this time convulsively, then dragged her into his arms, whispering hoarsely, "God Sara, don't cry. It's the way it is, and we can't do anything about it."

His voice broke, and Sara began to cry all the more. With an anguished groan of surrender he bent to take her mouth with a kiss that was almost savage.

Sara clung to him as her legs grew weak, a small moan rising in her throat as his hot mouth devoured her. The world fell away. His arms closed so tightly around her she couldn't breathe. But she didn't care; didn't care if she died now. Her head spun as he pushed her against the wall, his hands frantic as they ran up and down her body.

"Brian," she cried, something akin to triumph coursing through her as a wild madness swept through her veins. His heart thumped erratically beneath her palms as she pressed them flat against his chest, and his body was as hot as a furnace.

With trembling hands she started to unbutton his shirt.

Suddenly his body went rigid and he dragged his mouth from hers, his hands stilling as he stared down at her from desire drugged eyes.

"Oh my God!" He swore viciously beneath his breath. "This is wrong." He staggered back a pace, his breathing uneven. The kettle was sending out clouds of steam and absently he turned off the gas. She could see he was trembling as violently as her as he pushed his hair back.

Sara knew this was the last chance she would ever get to fight for him, and she wasn't about to give in so easily. "I love you, Brian. Desperately. I'd do anything for you!" She reached for him, wrapping her arms about his middle.

"Oh Sara, love," he rasped, rubbing a thumb across her parted lips. "This is foolish, just foolish." But as if driven by needs beyond his control he began to kiss her again, as if starved for her, for the taste of her.

REVIEWS:

5 stars by Violet--**Excellent**

"This book touched me deeply. Perhaps that's because I was born in North London and the places and people were familiar. I could not put it down. I can honestly say it is one of the best in the genre I have read."

Jennifer Macaire.

If you loved 'Angela's Ashes' and 'A Tree Grows in Brooklyn', you'll adore 'Remnants of Dreams'. Following the lives of two women – mother and daughter – from the First World War to modern times, this is a lesson in courage and the importance of love. Alicia is a heroine you won't forget. Times are hard, yet they give all they have to raise their numerous children. Their house rings with laughter, their family is closely knit; even tragedy cannot shake Alicia's devotion to her husband and family. Sara, Alicia's daughter, is a beauty. History repeats itself as the rumors of war grow, and Sara falls in love with a soldier. **Ms. McGill romances her own family's history, and brings an unforgettable story with remarkable heroines to life.**

5 stars By Jean **A Fantastic heart-warming story.**

"Another great book. She certainly knows how to write a page turner. This is the 3rd book of hers I've read, and they just keep getting better. Keep them coming, they're brilliant."

Kay James for Romance Reader at Heart

"I loved this story, although there were times when I felt tears welling in my eyes and an enormous lump in my throat. This story touched me deeply, and I won't forget it. Watching a family struggle so desperately is not easy, but seeing them triumph over tragedy is uplifting. I enjoy long, intense family sagas like this. Tricia McGill writes so realistically that the joys and sorrows portrayed made me laugh and cry. **This is a novel of great emotional depth.**"

Mary Allyce

"If you think this is a predictable novel you will miss not only a sweeping story of joy and sorrow, triumph and tragedy, but also an amazing overview of the century seen through a family saga. Tricia McGill takes a bold step into mainstream fiction with this book that flows like a gentle stream on the surface, but **conceals a strong undercurrent and unexpected depths.**"

Timeless Tales

"Miss McGill continues the tradition of Angela's Ashes with this intimate look of two generations facing the grim threat of war. It deals with the heartbreak of death and the recovery only love can bring. At moments it's tear jerking, but you won't want to stop until the last page, to learn how they juggle both the heartache and the romance. Ultimately, it offers the reader a strong lesson on never giving up. No matter how many troubles impact the reader's life, there's always a silver lining. If you like books like Angela's Ashes or sagas like Cold Mountain or Memories of a Geisha, this is the book for you. **It'll hold your interest in a tight grasp, and not let go until the last page.**"

5 HEARTS Linda L at The Romance Studio

"Every book I pick up by Tricia McGill I fall in love with and this one is no exception. She has a way of spinning characters that embed into the heart of the reader and never let go. Her research is top-notch in all her stories. I adored Alicia, Mathew and all their brood of children. I love the fact Alicia is a good example to her family and her children follow in her footsteps. Each character is so well portrayed that the story seems completely genuine. The background and the emotions of the players are so well-written, this reader felt as if they had stepped

into the pages. **This poignant tale is a winner that comes highly recommended by this reader."**

Reviewed by Warren Thurston

"Tricia Mc Gills new novel **proves yet again she excels as a writer of the romance genre.** Alicia Martin and Arthur Bell find a fierce love for each other in a world of hate. Europe was on the brink of World War One, which would bring misery to millions of people. Especially for Alicia and Arthur, theirs was a special kind of misery that shrouded Alicia in a cocoon.

McGill gives the reader a look into the lives of a family struggling to cope with poverty and torn emotions. She makes her characters come off the page and walk into the reader's mind. Laying bare all their emotions with such clarity, one feels an instant empathy with them. Readers of romance will find this book very rewarding. The story flows well and keeps interest in the outcome high. It shows that life never follows the path we plan. Reaching for dreams and turning them into reality, can only come about by hard work and ultimate faith in one's ideals. A point the book illustrates quite well.

I found the book an enjoyable read, one where I could easily identify with the characters and all aspects of their lives. This is a book that will give much joy to those who read it. It is another wonderful book from a talented writer."

A.Dee Carey

"I've not had the pleasure of reading a great family saga since I last read Thorn Birds. This book rivals that as closely as any I've ever read. This all encompassing tale, tells of the real hardship people faced during the "Great War." The history was accurate, but more than simple history; you actually get in the skin of people who had to live in those terrible times. One has to admire the pluck of the women who loved and lost men to war. To pick themselves up after blow that followed blow, bespeaks of selflessness, so infrequently found in today's world. Ms. McGill writes with a powerful voice that takes the reader deep into the soul of the era. While I was on the other side of the pond, I remember well, standing with my mother at the local town hall waiting in line for our ration stamps. This story took me back to that spare gray building and the feelings of insecurity. I hope this writer will continue in this epic vein as she is well suited to it. If you want to know what really happened, not just the numbers, but the real lives that were forfeited you must read this book. **This book rates a 5 on my mascara scale** (meaning you will need tissues to read this book)"

JoEllen Conger--Conger Books Review

"Londoner, Alicia Martin has only one night of bliss to her credit... that is, until Mathew drops in for tea. This book is a historical account of how Alicia struggles to feed and clothe her ten children, and keep the rest of her family together during miserable times. She learns that during desperate times, one is often called upon to take desperate measures.

During their struggle for survival, this family saga concerns Alicia, and her daughter Sara's historical account. It will make you yearn to belong to a large loyal family of your own. It displays all the hatred and loves you might expect to find within a huge family, and how they struggle to survive."

Regina Reviewer for Coffee Time Romance

"This is an enjoyable book that takes you through the lives of Alicia and Mathew, as well as their ten children. It is well researched with respects to both historical fact, and the vernacular used at the time. All the characters both the main ones and the secondary ones are very realistic and well portrayed. If you enjoy reading accurate historical accounts with your romance then this is the book for you."

Mary Richmond

I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed your book. I spent Sunday morning reading it in one go as I couldn't put it down. At times I was crying and it made me realize just how tough life must have been at that time. So many things that we just take for granted were not available to these people. It made me realize how lucky we are. You have a wonderful talent for describing people I felt as if I knew them. It also showed that we don't necessarily learn from the mistakes of others. I will take from your book the thought of how good a life I have and I hope it will make me appreciate what I have a lot more. Particularly the wonderful husband who I probably take for granted too often.