

Goodbye toy boys! Hello Mr Mature!



After a disastrous relationship with Dieter, will *Eldorado's* Trish find happiness with Mr Big?

Most women get cold feet when it comes to dating villains, but Trish Valentine is about to fall head over heels for *Eldorado's* supercrook, Mr Big.

"I go absolutely weak at the knees when I see him," says Polly Perkins who plays good-time girl Trish. "It's the first time they've seen each other in over 25 years, but all the emotions are still there."

It seems Trish and Mr Big – real name Alex Morris – were quite an item when they were younger. "I think they both feel that splitting up was a major mistake," explains Polly, "and here they are with this second chance

that they're both not quite sure what to do with."

But their emotions take hold and neither of them can stop themselves from falling in love all over again. "It's really sweet, isn't it? Derek Martin, who plays Alex, always plays villains and he never really gets a chance to show off his romantic side, but here he is, being a big softie.

"In one of our first rehearsals together, these tears just started rolling down his cheeks. He said 'I'm sorry', but I just thought it was really sweet."

Alex is certainly a big change from Trish's last fella, tearaway toy boy Dieter. "I'm sure Trish went

out with younger men because she wanted to take control and because she wanted to hold back the years. She looks in the mirror and thinks she ought to get a facelift! And Dieter thought he could learn from her – probably in bed!

"But now that Trish has thrown away the flash clothes and the big hats, she's come to terms with her age and she's looking for something more in a man."

Alex treats Trish how she's always wanted to be treated, and makes her feel

like a teenager all over again to boot. "He's positive, he's not constantly knocking her like Dieter did. He's what she needs – someone who can offer her some solidarity."

But isn't all this going to lead to heartache for Los Barcos' cheery cabaret singer? What will happen when she finds out about his underworld dealings?

"I think she would make excuses for it. She's waited a long time for this to happen, and I think Trish would overlook it if it helped preserve her happiness. She's not going to throw away the best thing that's happened to her," says Polly.

"Men like him keep their girls in the dark about their dealings."

Surprisingly, Trish's best friend Joy is all for her new romance. "She's quite happy for Trish, who's quite a bit older than Joy. She really cares that Trish ends up okay and just as long as Alex treats her well, he'll get Joy's vote." **S**

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Trish finds love at last with Mr Big