



## A Good Heart is Hard to Find

*Trisha Ashley*

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**“It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man of over forty is in possession of a major defect . . .”**

Cassandra Leigh has woken as if from a bad dream: forty-four, childless and twenty-plus years into an affair with a married man. Max assures her they just need a little more patience and for his wife to die (!) but Cass is desperate for a baby and running out of time. Maybe Max is not the only man for her?

There's her friend Jason – though he's perhaps a little *too* rugged, and there's something strange about the way his wife disappeared . . . Or there's Dante, the mysterious stranger she meets on a dark night in his haunted manor house . . .

Cass must throw caution to the wind and claim the life she's always wanted. Suddenly, it's a choice between Mr Right, Mr Wrong or Mr Right Now . . .

**Fantastically funny and whimsical, this heart-warming novel will charm fans of Milly Johnson and Jill Mansell.**

## A Good Heart is Hard to Find Details

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Author : Trisha Ashley

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## **From Reader Review A Good Heart is Hard to Find for online ebook**

### **Susannah Bell says**

Utterly awful title - meant I was stuck with that horrible song in my head for the entire time while reading this. But WHAT a gem this book is! It's one of Trisha's older ones that has been republished and it really shows up her newer books, I'm afraid. Her most recent work has been sadly disappointing - written too quickly, FAR too much talking (which is SO much easier than actually developing a plot, describing anything or creating atmosphere.) All my favourite Trisha-tropes are here: a fab heroine who is getting on a bit, a gloomy hero, a ghastly ex-boyfriend, gorgeous countryside, several ridiculous characters and an hysterical plot. This has shot to the top of my Most Fav Trisha book list!  
(ps you need to understand that I don't read chick lit and never read romances, so if I say I like a romance, then it must be good!)

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### **MB (What she read) says**

PSA: This is a re-published early Ashley. Originally titled "Singled Out". It's utter quirkiness makes it one of my favorites, but, be warned, it is a lot odder and much less bland than her more recent writing.

I love the gothic spoofy humor.

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### **Donna Irwin says**

Trisha world really is one of my favourite places to be. This is a re-release of an older book and so is perhaps a little rougher round the edges than the latest novels, but it is still full of warmth, wit, quirky characters and great storylines. I loved Cassie (even forgave her long term affair with a married man), loved Dante, loved Cassie's friends, didn't like Max (said married man, bit seedy) and even had a soft spot for Max's recently deceased wife as she seeks vengeance from beyond the grave! As well as being a long term mistress with a ticking biological time clock, Cassie is a writer of gothic horror novels and part time singing telegram. The plots for her novels are cleverly interwoven with the story (loved the review snippets) and her late night graveyard prowling in search of inspiration is quite amusing. She meets the new owner of the local (supposedly) haunted house and from then on we are all rooting for her and broody hero Dante to get together. The supporting cast of friends and family make for a really entertaining read - especially Cassie's god-fearing father and her odd but loveable brother. Thanks, Trisha for another comfort blanket read! I was lucky enough to have a review copy (thanks NetGalley and the publisher) but I went straight to Amazon and bought a copy for my Mum as I know she will love it too!

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### **Verity W says**

\*\*\*Copy From NetGalley in return for an honest review\*\*\*\*\*

I'm a big fan of Trisha Ashley's and was looking forward to reading this - knowing it was one of her early novels reissues under a new title and thinking it was one I hadn't read. However, it was clear to me within a few pages that I had read it back in the day - before I started obsessively tracking my reading (or possibly when I was using a different book tracker which shut down and I had to migrate across and lost a few things in the process).

Anyway, this is *Singled Out* under a new title and tells the story of schlock horror writer Cass, who was disowned by her parents when she took up with a married man 20 years ago and who is now wondering whether he really is the man for her at all. She's approaching her mid40s and desperately wants a baby, but Max has just taken a job in America for a year with the disabled wife he told Cass only had a few years to live two decades ago. So she starts to look around for other options - maybe her best friend Jason, but he has a wicked temper and his wife is mysteriously AWOL or there's the new mysterious bloke up at the Hall who she finds disturbingly appealing. Add to this her twin sister - always her parent's favourite - turning up suddenly out of favour and Cass's life is taking a turn.

I enjoyed this mostly for the clues it gives to what Trisha has go on to do - there's an eccentric dad, a hippy-ish heroine, the dark and brooding hero and the tight-knit female friendships that we've got used to all here in slightly proto form. This is a bit weirder and a bit less developed than once Trisha hit her stride a few novels later and Cass is one of the wetter and weirder heroines. The big absence (compared to Ashley's most recent books) is that there's no cooking. Cass lives off pub food and shop-bought pizzas and so there's no lovely collection of recipes for baking or chocolatey treats to imagine. So it may split the established fans a bit as it's so different.

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### **Helen Edwards says**

I found it hard to get into this story, and I don't think it is one of Trisha's best books, but then, it is one of her earlier works, having been published as '*Singled Out*' around 15 years ago.

That said, I persevered (given that this was an ARC in exchange for an honest review), and I was glad I did because I found myself laughing out loud in some parts. Trisha's trademark style is present, albeit a bit less polished.

I did warm to the heroine, Cass, and felt sorry for her at times. I also liked Dante, the hero shall we say. I would have liked to have heard a bit more from him actually.

I found the Gothic parts a distraction to be honest, although I supposed they added a certain quirky charm. And that is how I would describe this book - quirky.

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### **Karen Whittard says**

A good heart is hard to find is a lovely Trisha Ashley book. Trisha has been in my list of favourite authors for some time now, and I love all her books.

This book felt a little bit different to the norm, as it was about a horror writer Called Cassandra who is having a twenty plus year old affair with a married man named Max.

As we get introduced to Cassandra she is in her forties, Max has just gone away on business for a year with his disabled wife, Cassandra is feeling the tug of her biological clock ticking away and she is desperate to have a baby. But every time she talks to Max he isn't interested in having a baby and has no real intentions of leaving his wife.

When Max's wife dies in an accident. Cassandra is handed a letter from his wife which says that she knew all along about their affair, and that Cassandra and Max would never be able to get married because it would mean Max wouldn't get her inheritance.

All at once everything comes into perfect clarity for Cassandra and she is left wondering what on Earth she has been doing for the past 20+ years.

On a mission to find a mate and have a baby before it is too late. Cassandra is left with the possibility of having one with her oldest male friend Jason. Who has never hidden his true feelings towards her or the new curator of the oldest most haunted house in the village who has moved to town.

With the chemistry at an all time high and everything up in the air. Cassandra has a lot of thinking and choices to make. Will Cassandra's love life work out and will she get her one wish that she is so desperate for?

I really enjoyed this book. Got me it wasn't my most favourite of Trisha books. But I did really enjoy it in any case. As always it was well written and it was mixed with love, friendship, hard work, wit and Trishas unmistakable ability to write a great book.

I can't wait for the next one.

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### **Angela Sandford says**

This is my second Trish Ashley book, and I really enjoyed it. It's fun and light hearted! I like reading this sort of novel, especially after reading a really intense, heavy book.

Cass Leigh is a horror novelist, and is mistress to Max - and has been ever faithful for over 20 years, in the hope that his wife will die, or he will leave her.

Max has taken a sabbatical and gone to America with his wife for a year....leaving poor old Cass to reflect on her relationship...or lack of. Cass is 44 years old and desperate for a baby.....there are other options to take into consideration....there's Jason - who's wife mysteriously disappeared one night, never to return. Or there's Jack, the caretaker for Kedge Hall.....then there's lord of the manor himself - Dante Chase - journalist come author.....which one will she choose, if any?!....

Loved the humour and gothic feel. Thought all the characters were interesting in their own unique quirky ways. The plot dealt with a lot of issues in a light hearted manor and with humour. I wouldn't change a thing about it! I'll definitely be buying more Trish Ashley novels!

5 stars ??????????

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## Noemi Proietti says

Cass Leigh is a writer of horror books but her life is far more interesting than a book. Her lover of twenty years has moved to California with his wife for a year, leaving her behind to wonder about their relationship; her estranged God-fearing father leaves messages on her machine damning her to Hell; her sister uses her as an excuse when she is visiting her lover; she dresses up as a vampire to earn more money; she yearns for a baby so badly that she is considering her friend Jason as a donor despite his temperament and his strange son; she can't stand Dante, the new guy in the village, but she can't seem to be able to stay away from him; and, last but not least, she pretends to be a ghost in a haunted house to scare visitors.

It took me a while to get into this book but, once I did, I found it quite captivating. Previously published in 2003 as *Singled Out*, this is a very enjoyable novel with a pinch of fantasy and religious elements and full of very colourful and weird characters - there is not a normal person in the whole book. Add the small village atmosphere and the ridiculous situations that Cass keeps getting herself into and you have an hilarious and engaging novel.

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## Suze Lavender says

Cass has been Max's mistress for over twenty years. Max promised her he'd leave his wife, so they could start a family together, but he never did. When he gets a job offer in America he leaves Cass behind for a year and takes his wife instead. Cass desperately wants a child and at forty-four the clock is ticking. Max's wife is disabled and he told Cass she'd die soon, but that hasn't happened and Cass doesn't wish the woman an ill fate either. Now that Max is out of the picture for a while Cass can finally start thinking clearly and maybe see his true colors?

Cass has never waited for Max to fill her time, there's much to keep her occupied. She's a horror writer and is always working on a story, she regularly visits the local graveyard for inspiration, she does crypt-o-grams, singing her telegrams dressed up as a vampire, and she regularly meets her best friends at the local pub. Her best friend Jason would love to go out with her, but Cass isn't interested and just likes him as a friend. This doesn't even change when she starts to dislike Max more and more each day. There's one man who keeps fascinating her though, Dante. He's just bought the local haunted manor and they meet on a dark and eery night. Max will come back eventually, but should Cass wait for him or follow her heart? It's time for Cass to make the right choice for her future, what or who will she choose?

*A Good Heart is Hard to Find* is a fantastic whirlwind of a story. I immediately loved Cass. She's eccentric, fierce and has a wonderful dark sense of humor. I liked her boldness and her honesty. She's a confident woman who can take care of herself and who forms her own opinions, which is something I really liked. There are several men in her life. It was obvious from the beginning that Max isn't a good catch and I kept hoping Cass would open her eyes eventually. Fortunately she meets someone much, much nicer and I loved the chemistry between Cass and Dante. I couldn't wait to find out if Cass would find her happily ever after, something she doesn't really believe in herself. She writes the most horrible stories and it was fun to read them and see what was going on inside her mind. I loved that Trisha Ashley shares them together with Cass's own story. It makes the story versatile and entertaining.

Trisha Ashley has a fabulous distinctive writing style. I love the energy she brings. The fast pace combined with many surprising twists and turns and plenty of hilarious situations are making the story a joy to read. I

was spellbound by Cass's adventures, every day brings something new in the form of family, friends and relationships. The characters in the story are colorful and vibrant with plenty of delightful flaws. I absolutely loved A Good Heart is Hard to Find, I was captivated and amused from beginning to end.

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### **Nicola Clough says**

I was really looking forward to this book as so enjoy the author but wasn't one of her best I still enjoyed it and was full of second chances and loves affairs and can they work through that. I did find at times it lost its thread in the story and wasn't as good as usual but I still enjoyed it. Cass has been having a love affair with a married man for years and she's realised she is in her forties and hasn't settled down and had children and is her time running out. Max will not leave his wife as she had an accident and is disabled and he has an affair with her but she suddenly wonders if he's the man for her. His wife dies while they are away for a year and she realises she's not right with him but who does she think is best. Is it Jason a long term friend but she isn't sure then there is Dante who she strangely meets on a dark night and he's living in a new haunted manor. She realises she needs to go for someone and settle down but who is best for her.

This is funny at times along with also being sad and heartwarming.

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### **Marjorie says**

I think Ms Ashley missed her calling, whilst her romantic comedies are actually pretty good I think her Gothic horror could be even better - judging by the excerpts in this book attributed to our heroine Cass Leigh. They certainly have the ring of authenticity of the genre and, in some cases I was more interested in how that story worked out than in Cass's story.

It did feel a little odd to be reading a Trisha Ashley novel not set in or around The Mosses if I'm being honest. However, as this is one of her early books (Singled Out) itivated up a little and released under a new name maybe The Mosses just don't exist in her literary orbit yet - although there was a nod to another book tucked discretely in there (Wish Upon A Star). As I have come to expect from her books the tale is told with a gentle humour by a self-aware narrator who you instantly feel you have known for ever.

This is a warm hug of a book that will leave you with a smile on your face and a slight sense of unease relating to graveyards.

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### **Katie says**

FUN FUN FUN.

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### **Sarah Adamson says**

I really enjoy Trisha Ashley books and my parents bought this one for my birthday. This story, starring Cass who has been a mistress to Max for over 20 years, contains all of Ashley's usual

wonderful twists and fabulous characters. I love Cass and Orla is just magnificent as the best friend. Cass is a successful horror novelist which threw me a bit as I'm not a fan of horror novels. However Ashley manages to throw enough quotes and reviews in the book to keep the plot going without adding the horror.

The book reminded me so much of Northanger Abbey - a young lady on an adventure for love and horror! Whilst it had wonderful characters and plot, this book just didn't interest me as much as some of her others. I preferred chocolate and candy and English country village shops to the horror and ghostly appearances found here.

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### **Tracey says**

An ok read , not the strongest of plots from Trisha Ashley . It's interesting to read her earlier writing and see the changes that have happened over the years.

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### **Amber Grenville-Smith says**

Great characters and lots of laughs.

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