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Tildy Wilson as a TV Concept

By Louise Ross

Change happens! What woman hasn't found herself at a crossroads in her career, her relationships, in her life?

Tildy Wilson is an audacious, curvaceous, Aussie Bridget Jones meets AbFab's Edie Monsoon – who, when confronted with life-altering changes, models the courage to explore all her options in pursuit of her best life. Tildy's explorations propel her into a succession of comic misadventures in which her vitality, self-acceptance, lack of self-consciousness and creativity prevail over common fears, misconceptions and conformity of contemporary American life and culture. She finds further encouragement to be completely authentic via a quirky set of well-developed and sustainable characters that support her message and lifestyle.

After five years living in the Western US, Tildy still feels like a fish-out-of-water. Maybe it's her accent and her use of colloquialisms like daggy, mate, drongo and strewth, or her unique personal style, or her psychic sense which **Frank**, her dad, reminds Tildy during his weekly phone calls to her, that she inherited from her mum, **Beaty**.

Beaty disapproves of Tildy living in America. She'd prefer she live closer to home, have a family, and live a normal life like **Sara**, Tildy's conservative younger sister and nemesis. However, Beaty doesn't object to Eric, Tildy's American husband, which is why Tildy neglects to tell the parental pair that she recently divorced and now lives as a singleton in a downtown apartment.

We are first introduced to Tildy when she has been working as a personal shopper at Nordstrom's department store – a job that allowed her to indulge her fashion-forward sensibilities. Alas, the Personal Touch Department has recently delivered some life-

changing news: due to the economic downturn Tildy has been laid off.

In need of best girlfriend wisdom and support, Tildy talks daily with **Isa Rubenstein**, a transplant from New York. Tildy and Isa banter tersely, much like two grabby sisters. But they understand each other totally; they have the same irreverent sense of humor.

“Hey, Isa, I’m putting the kettle on for a cuppa. Oooh, I see you’re wearing your Capri-length Calvin Klein’s with vintage cowboy boots. Not a good look! Haven’t I told you that’s a fashion oxymoron such that you look like a moron whose jeans are too short?”

“Shut up already with the fashionista wisecracks. And what is it with you Aussies and tea? As soon as I walk in the door, you always shove a cup at me. It’s happy hour girlfriend, let’s go get a Margarita and talk about you getting your ass back to work!”

In need of a job, she puts out an APB to all her friends. Enter **Max and Jeff** the coupled gay best friends; Jax Junior is their one-year old son. Max offers Tildy part time work at his and Jeff’s upscale daycare center. Tildy accepts his offer. She likes the idea of being around kids since she’s not sure whether or not she wants to be a mum juggling baby and career. In that regard, M&J are beaut role models: they’re terrific parents, they run a thriving business, and they live in a chichi, urbane loft apartment where they love to throw gala dress-up bashes.

“Well, look at you! Hon, you’re the belle of our ball.”

“Maxy, darl, that’s because I’m the only belle amongst all the balls!”

“So, just pretend you’re the drag queen act for the night and all the boys will start gushing. On second thought, no point trying to be queen for the night coz I’ve invited your ex and we all know Eric has a knack for royally one-upping you.”

Tildy is on the ropes from her divorce from **Eric Blakenship**, a colorful character and successful sculptor from Southern California. What an unconventional marriage that was: his constant urging that she use her Nordstrom’s employee discount to buy the latest Versace – for *him*, that is. After five years quarreling about who wears the frock, Tildy is so over Eric’s cross-dressing fetish, nonetheless she’s

still best mates with her ex.

“Babes, who is this guy on your answering machine, are you dating that nerd?”

“Eric, we haven’t spoken in weeks, and suddenly you’re on my doorstep needing a shower. And because I said sure, you’ve littered my bathroom with your stinky socks and wet towel, and for some reason this false sense of intimacy has led you to assume you can have entrée to information about my private life?”

“I’ll tell you about mine, if you tell me about yours.”

“Cripes, are you kidding! Do I sound like I wanna know who you’re shagging?”

“Oooh, I love it when you get all feisty! How ‘bout a smooch?”

While working at M&J’s daycare center, Tildy discovers she is quite the resourceful entrepreneur: she collects the kids’ unclaimed brand-name clothes and sells them on LostNowFound, her e-bay store, along with gear she finds dumpster diving. She also sets up her own daycare of sorts, walking her neighbors’ dogs five mornings a week. Feeling vital and confident once again, Tildy finds the nerve to get back out and date.

Nikov Nikovic is Tildy’s love interest. He’s a smooth and gorgeous, seductive Croatian war refugee, a secular Muslim who has been living in the US for several years. His ex-wife, an American, and their 7-year old daughter, Ellie, live nearby. Nikov and Tildy are drawn to each other because they’re different: he’s an apparently uncomplicated but still-waters-running-deep kind of guy; she’s a self-absorbed but endearing fashion snob who’s afraid of turning 40. When Tildy shows up alone at Nikov’s Eastern European restaurant, there’s immediate and ongoing chemistry.

“Ah, Tildy, my beauty, you are here this evening to meet your friends?”

“Actually, I’m here alone tonight.”

“Tildy, excuse me, but you do look very sexy in the leather.”

“Me? Yes, that’s me, all sexy and leathery, I mean ... um, never mind, perhaps I should just sit down before I have a severe attack of foot-in-mouth.”

As Tildy’s relationship with Nikov develops, she decides spelunking in dumpsters after dark is getting old, and so is starting the day repeatedly yelling “heel” to six unruly charges, followed by afternoons as a human hand towel to a dozen small people. Despite its character building demands, this is not the kind of workday a glam girl such as she imagined for herself. Fortunately, she’s able to say “goodbye” to her part time jobs when Nikov proposes she work for him as the manager and hostess at his revamped café, which he names *Breakfast at Tildy’s* in honor of “*You my beauty, and that restaurant in New York City what is called Breakfast at Tiffany’s.*”

In need of waitstaff, Tildy hires **Sunshine**, her Dead Head, 20-something psychology-student neighbor. Although Sunshine is nice enough – they often hang out in each other’s apartments – Tildy finds her a hippie-dippy. She especially has trouble getting past the tie-dye hemp, Crocs, the German tourist hairy-armpits, and sheep-turd dreads – until Sunshine comes into work after a visit to Angelstar, the local hair stylist.

“Like, don’t say it, man! I can tell what you’re thinking and I don’t want to hear it!”

“You look gorgeous, you really do, neighbor. Angel’s done a nice job chopping it all off. From dangling dreads to tufts of goood-up hair standing to attention à la miniature erect dreads. The shorn sheep-look, it’s beautiful!”

“Dude, I feel like a total freak’n square.”

BAKING AT MIDNIGHT and its sequel, BREAKFAST AT TILDY’S: THE MISADVENTURES CONTINUE present topics and comedic situations perfectly suited to being fleshed out and adapted for 30-minute TV episodes. As a TV show Tildy’s ironic take on American pop-culture offers wide ranging subject matter that is current, sustainable and marketable to a highly desirable American, Australian, and international audience.

Actor Wishlist

Tildy Wilson: Miranda Otto

Frank and Beaty Wilson: Barry Otto and Jacki Weaver

Isa Rubenstein: Julia Louis-Dreyfus

Sara Wilson: Radha Mitchell

Max and Jeff: Ricky Gervais & Greg Kinnear

Eric Blakenship: Steve Carell

Nikov Nikovic: Sacha Baron Cohen

Sunshine: Isla Fisher