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## Heart Breaker



**CORRIE STAR**  
**MICHELLE KEEGAN**

Why Tina is revved up  
for revenge

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# LOVE HURTS

Chainsaw-wielding firecracker **Michelle Keegan** tells *buzz* why her Corrie alter ego Tina McIntyre is armed, dangerous and out for revenge

Words Paul Simper  
Photographs Neale Haynes

**B**UZZ'S PHOTOSHOOT THEME of a lover wreaking revenge is making Michelle Keegan laugh. As she spins around on her chair in make-up, she is loving the idea of taking a massive chainsaw to a bunch of 3D love hearts for the sake of her romantically spurned alter ego, Coronation Street barmaid Tina McIntyre.

Yet she admits that in real life this vengeful scenario couldn't be further from the truth. "The most I've ever thrown at a boyfriend in anger is a pair of socks," she says, rocking with mirth. "That's how hardcore I get!"

But she is all for her character Tina getting stuck in. "It's about time she started smashing up a few things again," she says. "I hope this is the return of feisty Tina. I've missed her."

Truth be told, we all have. When she first stropped her way on to the cobbles four years ago and started dating devil child David Platt,

viewers rubbed their hands together at the prospect of another recruit to that proud line-up of fiery Corrie females that stretches all the way back to Elsie Tanner in the 1960s.

But ever since Tina hooked up with lovable, quirky but essentially drama-free window cleaner Graeme Proctor (Craig Gazey), she's been coasting in the middle lane.

So there's good news for one and all, then, as it looks as though Graeme is about to hand her a lifeline when he kisses Tina's dull-as-ditchwater best pal Xin (no, we'd never heard Tina mention her before she showed up either) at a party this week. And all this after he'd already married her to help her to get a visa.

Standing proud in the studio, eyes blazing, dark mane whipped up by our wind machine while Rihanna belts out Only Girl (In The World), Michelle looks every inch the Tina of old. It's good to have her back.

At the same time it must be slightly galling

for her to be watching Tina lose Graeme to someone as boring as Xin.

"I guess Tina is more unpredictable than Xin," says Michelle, tactfully. "Maybe Graeme is sick of that. He just wants a bit of security and stability, and with Xin he gets that. Xin is more like a comfort blanket."

"Actually, I know how that feels. I've had my own comfort blanket since I was 14. I used to have a teddy bear till my mum took it off me. So I got this little yellow top from Primark and it's been with me ever since."

She's not lying. Her faded yellow rag is present and correct for Michelle to cuddle and scrunch while she's in make-up. Unlike Tina, she's not one for chainsaw- or baseball bat-wielding-confrontation.

"I'm very laid-back," she says. "Sometimes too laid-back. In fact, the only thing that makes me lose my temper is when I'm driving. I'm a bit of a Jekyll and



Stylist: Nicola Ahmed. Clothes - Michelle wears Look one: Black studded dress by Topshop, black shoes by PPO for Office, silver and red Swarovski ring by Guess, Jewellery, red heart locket necklace by Thomas Sabo. Look two: Black dress by Renee London at Topshop, shoes and ring as before. Hair and make-up: Colette Casey at Industry People using Ardeco Makeup. Pictures: Opticphotos.



Hyde when I'm behind the wheel. I remember one time after I cut a guy up, I spotted him shaking his head so I pulled up right next to him at the lights. I made him wind his window down and shouted: "What's your problem?"

"It was only then that I realised he wasn't shaking his head at me at all but actually talking on his Bluetooth. I was so embarrassed that I've never done that again. Cringe."

**MEET THE BOYFRIEND**

It's not just the lack of a confrontation gene that makes Michelle the polar opposite to Tina right now. For while Tina is about to contemplate the prospect of being back out there as a singleton, Michelle is cock-a-hoop thanks to her blossoming

relationship with The Wanted's closely cropped Mr Handsome, Max George.

She's been talking a bit about Max, 22, in the press of late and today she's doing her best to be the least gushy she possibly can, but there are updates of course. After six months of dating, it would appear that momentous developments are about to take place in the bedroom.

"I said to him the other day that he can have his own drawer at my house," reveals Michelle. "In fact, he can have his own side of the wardrobe. It hasn't happened yet - but that's just because I've got so much stuff in it and need to have a big clear out first."

It was Max's dad who first played matchmaker on his son's behalf when he and Michelle just happened to get talking at Coronation Street star Simon Gregson's wedding last November.

"Max's dad kept coming over to me and telling me that Max was sorry that he couldn't be there," she says. "Then he said to me: 'Would you like to have Max's number?' I said: 'I'm not taking a lad's number. He can have mine.' I could never ring a guy up. That's just not me. So Max called me and that was it."

Amazingly, the pair had spent their whole lives just down the road from each other in Salford, Greater Manchester, but had never met. But if Max's father was Cupid personified, Michelle's dad Michael was another matter entirely.

"You know Robert De Niro in Meet The Parents? That's my dad," says Michelle. "Dad's a police inspector. He's retired now but that just gives him even more time at home to check up on what I'm doing."

Michelle tells a hilarious tale of being practically frogmarched home by her dad in front of her mates when she was a teenager ("You. Home. Now!"). It's clear that in the past, Pa Keegan has had no truck with Michelle's boyfriends. She shakes her head at the memories.

"When I was at college I went out with a bit of a bad boy," she admits. "He was always in and out of the courts for things like being drunk and disorderly

and having arguments with policemen. My dad hated him without even knowing about the court cases. Thank God he never arrested him!"

So how did Max fare when the day of reckoning came? "It really was like Meet The Fockers," she says. "But I can tell you that Max passed the test. My dad really likes him and they're both Manchester City supporters, which sealed it."

In fact, it's a massive thumbs-up from both her parents. Michelle recently took her mum Jackie along to see The Wanted in concert and couldn't believe it when her mother turned into a screaming fan.

"Mum acted really cool at first," says Michelle, "and then as soon as Max



TV hearts

**FIRST TV CRUSH**

Jason Donovan when he played Scott Robinson in Neighbours. I had his album. I've still got Scott and Charlene's wedding on videotape at home.

**TV GIRL CRUSH**

Jennifer Lopez on American Idol. Her face is gorgeous and she looks amazing for a 41-year-old.

**TV WEEPIE**

One Born Every Minute. One woman was struggling to give birth so she had to have a Caesarean. She started crying and then the dad started crying - so I started crying as well.

**BEST TV SHOW EVER**

Care Bears. I had Care Bears wallpaper with a duvet and pillow to match.

**ONE SHOW THEY SHOULD BRING BACK**

Big Fat Gypsy Weddings [above]. I never thought I'd get so excited to go home and watch a programme like that. I loved the extravagance and seeing their world. But I wouldn't want my wedding dress to be like that.

TV hates

**MADE IN CHELSEA (RIGHT)**

I'm a TOWIE fan. I don't like it when they just do the same show again in another location. I love Amy, who I think is so sweet, and Arg is so endearing. But Mark is such a bad influence. I don't know how he and Lauren have stuck together.



**HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU**

I don't actually hate it but I just don't get the humour. You need to know about politics to get the gags - and I don't. I prefer Celebrity Juice. Although downing that congealed pint of white stuff when I was on the show was vile.

**SHAMELESS**

I feel that Shameless has lost the plot. I used to love it in the early days but characters I loved, like Lip and Debbie, have gone. It all seems a bit sillier now.

**BIG BROTHER**

I was a fan in the beginning but I think it got really tedious. People were doing it for the wrong reasons - it became a fame-hungry show.





End of the affair?  
Tina and not-so-golden Graeme

came onstage she started screaming her head off, trying to get his attention by waving at him. I was like: ‘Mum, put your hands down!’”

**CATCH IT IF YOU CAN**

There have been many great celebrity couplings in recent years, from Hollywood A-listers like Brangelina to the pairing of Jordan and Peter, creating the Jandres. Now, soap stardom and boyband fame has melded Max and Michelle as Maxelle. But don't expect a duet anytime soon.

“I have no singing voice at all,” she says. “I’m tone deaf. So no, there won’t be a karaoke Maxelle duet. Max’s voice is too good. I’d show him up. It would be so embarrassing.”

She’s also coming up short right now in the marriage stakes. A recent wedding for the first of her gang of Salford girlies to get hitched should have provided a bouquet-catching opportunity that would have had us all out buying hats faster than you can yell: “Wills and Kate.” But nada.

“I was a bridesmaid,” says Michelle. “I had my strapless, navy blue floor-length dress with a posy of white tulips. But I didn’t get to catch the bouquet – because she didn’t throw it!”

Instead, Michelle had to console herself with winning first prize for the most original outfit on the hen do.

“We went to Edinburgh for the weekend,” she says. “The theme was cowboys and saloon girls. The bride was the saloon girl and all the other hens went as Daisy Duke cowgirls with short skirts, little rolled tops and pigtailed. I went as a man with a ‘tache. They called me Pablo. I looked like their pimp. I was so embarrassed.”

So what else has she got planned for the future, cross-dressing hen nights aside?

“There was a possibility that I might be doing some work as a talent judge with a modelling competition,” she says. “It fell through because of my other work commitments, but I would quite like to have a go at that – although I might not be critical enough.”

So with her own ambition in that area, what



“IT WOULD BE GREAT IF **TINA** GOT BACK WITH **DAVID PLATT**”

does Michelle think of Cheryl Cole landing the US X Factor judging job?

“Cheryl seems a really nice, down-to-earth girl so good luck to her,” she says. “I don’t think there will be a problem with her accent. She’s so gorgeous that everyone will be looking at her more than listening to her anyway. But Simon Cowell and Cheryl are going to be a great loss to The X Factor in the UK. I don’t think the show will ever be the same without them.”

And now that Tina is about to be firing on all cylinders once again in Corrie as she guns for Graeme, what should we be hoping for?

“Man-wise, she might have a go at Tommy Duckworth, or Ciaran McCarthy when he’s back from his cruise, although she’d have to get past Kym Marsh’s Michelle first,” she says. “But I think it would be a great storyline if Tina got back with David Platt.”

“I loved Tina and David together. Tina and Kylie don’t get on anyway, so Kylie should look out. All I can say is: watch this space.”

**WATCH IT!**  
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