

TURN MY WORLD UPSIDE DOWN

By Maureen Child

St. Martin's Paperbacks, 2005

Reviewed by :: Emily Veinglory

This book started out like any lite, supermarket shelf romance. Jo and Cash deal with their unresolved sexual tension by bitching at each other constantly. The narrative is littered with paired off and pregnant sisters—presumably from earlier books. But as the chapters progress Maureen Child starts to reveal just what brought her hero and heroine to this romantic deadlock.

The Marconis run a small town construction company. Left to run the company and care for her young half-brother, Jo is a tough lady who is far too busy looking out for others to deal with the demons from her own past. Cash is a woodworker who seems like nothing more than a happy-go-lucky charmer, but he is running scared from some traumas of his own. Their friends and family quickly become a comedy ensemble cast providing an amusing backdrop for Jo and Cash's fiery feuding.

So maybe I found Cash just a little implausibly perfect, but his point of view was written so charmingly that I didn't sweat it. Jo is a wonderful flawed, feisty heroine who really deserves her happily ever after. There aren't many big adventurous plot twists but the complex interactions between the characters draw you into their personal world.

'*Turn My World Upside Down*' is funny and quirky on the surface with some serious issues at its heart. Just don't get put off by the totally irrelevant cover art—two characters who don't match the hero and heroine's appearance frolic on the beach (an event which never occurs in the book). I suspect most readers will enjoy this book more if they start with the stories of the other Marconi sisters first—but I bet that if you do you don't stop 'til you get to the end of Jo's story, too.

4 Kisses