



Toff and her King Charles spaniel Monty share a cuddle opposite the London Eye



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW AND PHOTOS

**A NEW CHAPTER FOR GIRL ABOUT TOWN
GEORGIA
'TOFF' TOFFOLO
AS SHE TALKS ROMANCE, WRITING AND
HER LOVE AFFAIR WITH LONDON**

It's the city that made her famous, when she starred in Bafta-winning structured reality show *Made in Chelsea* (MiC). And London remains one of the greatest loves of Georgia "Toff" Toffolo – something she's happy to shout from the rooftops.

The fun-loving star, who turns 26 this week, took in the sights of the capital – accompanied by her puppy Monty – kicking off this exclusive whirlwind HELLO! tour of London at Buckingham Palace. And while there may be fewer tourists than usual on a drizzly October day, the scene was still full of life as Toff posed on the Queen Victoria Memorial for our photoshoot – feeling right at home in front of the palace as *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!*'s former queen of the jungle.

"If you don't live in the city, some people just don't know how magical it is," she tells us, revealing that walking her dog while exploring parts of London she didn't know kept her going during lockdown.

"If I didn't have the dog I would have gone barking mad, to use a better phrase," jokes the star, whose weekly



JACKET & BELT: PAUL COSTELLOE, SKIRT: SANDRO, BOOTS: KURT GEIGER

'If you don't live in the city, some people just don't know how magical it is... London has been good to me'



Queen of all she surveys, former *Made in Chelsea* star Georgia is the perfect 71 guide for HELLO!'s exclusive London tour – starting with Buckingham Palace



Monty takes the lead as Toff revisits her old TV stamping ground beside the Albert Bridge and (above) a coffee stop at the Bluebird café on the King's Road

'I had plans to be a barrister, but I kind of changed course'

Good News column in **HELLO!** brightened up our days earlier this year by sharing happy, non-Covid-19 news from around the world.

"I keep on calling it 'the great pause,'" Toff continues. "I always run around like a headless chicken, but I just stayed at home and kind of embraced everything that I haven't really embraced since I moved to London. Just walking around the parks, taking it all in."

Devon-born Toff moved to London when she was 18 and shot to fame after joining *MiC*, which follows the lives of wealthy 20-somethings in the capital's well-heeled borough. "London has been good to me," she smiles, as she also shows us around Trafalgar Square, Albert Bridge and the South Bank.

So it's no surprise the capital provides the backdrop to her debut novel *Meet Me in London*, a romance about an aspiring fashion designer, Victoria Scott, who works in a bar on the King's Road to pay the bills, but dreams about opening her own clothing boutique.

"I can't believe I've written a book,"

(LEFT) JACKET: VINTAGE YVES SAINT LAURENT. SHIRT: GOAT. TROUSERS: RUSSELL & BROMLEY. BELT: MANGO. (TOP) DRESS: ALESSANDRA RICHI. TIGHTS: FALKE. SHOES: LINZI

'I feel a little bit sorry for this year's I'm a Celebrity... contestants. Wales is going to be freezing and damp. We had the experience of the rainforest'

she says of the project, published by the home of romance, Mills & Boon. "It's my first venture into fiction and I've been working on it for just under two years. For me as an avid romance lover – not only books but movies, everything – it's been the most amazing process. I want to do it forever; I feel like I've found my thing."

Has she always wanted to be an author?

"From when I was young I've always been a bit of a swot," she says. "I was kind of cool at school but I was more academic than cool, and I was really blessed with wonderful English teachers; there was one in particular who ignited something in me that made me love writing and reading."

"When I moved to London I had great plans to be a barrister, but I kind of changed course because I joined *Made in Chelsea* and loved it."

"I always felt – it wasn't guilt – but I never felt fully content unless I was doing something, whether I was talking about politics or current affairs, or writing... it's very

important for me personally that I have this.

"Not only do I have a wonderful career with television and social media, but I'm stimulating my mind and I strongly believe that in 20 years from now I will be doing this. And hopefully the other stuff too."

FRIENDS FOREVER

Meet Me in London is the first of a four-part series and although Toff's genre is romance, the importance of female friendship is the overriding theme at the heart of her stories.

"It's about four young girlies, and they went through a really horrible accident at the age of 18. They're all over the world with one in Devon, one in London, one that just flips all over the place, and one in Hawaii, where the second book – which I've been working on in lockdown – is set."

Of course, her own friendships were explored thoroughly on *MiC* – often at the Bluebird café, which we visit on our shoot and where Toff has filmed a lot of intense scenes with cast members. "We ▶

Toff moved to the capital from Devon when she was 18. After planning to become a barrister, she instead joined the 73 cast of *MiC* and went on to win *I'm a Celebrity...* in 2017

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still all congregate there. I think we'll probably all be going there in 20 years. All the oldies from *Made in Chelsea* – we'll all be grey. Maybe our children one day will be meeting there: the second generation," she jokes.

A return to the show is out of the question for Toff, who left in 2018 after four years and wants to focus on being an author. "It's the thing I'm proudest of."

She doesn't watch the show any more either – "When I hear that theme tune it gives me the creeps because I think impending doom is coming!" – but she will tune into this year's *I'm a Celebrity...*, which is being filmed in a castle in Wales instead of the Australian jungle.

"I'm not sure I would have wanted to go to Wales," muses the 2017 winner. "It's going to be freezing and damp. In my year it was wet for a month, but at least we had the wonderful experience of being in that rainforest. I'm sure I was so sunny, happy and positive because every morning you wake up, you're soaking wet, you're starving hungry... but I would hear the sounds of the rainforest, and it gave me such joy. I feel a little bit sorry for this year's contestants."

CASTING CALL

"However, there's nothing wrong with the fresh new format," she continues. "I mean, how long has the show been going on for? Nearly 20 years. I think it will be exciting and fun, and thank goodness it's going ahead because it really is a pillar for everyone's year and we all need it."

Toff says she would love to see her novels made into films – "I'd have to have Hugh Grant and maybe Julia Roberts; a Richard Curtis vibe," she smiles – but for now, she's just excited to see the reaction to the first book.

"When I used to watch *Made in Chelsea* at school, all the scenes set in places like Chelsea Physic Garden and down on the Embankment, they used to give me goosebumps. I wanted to take that magic from the telly and try and put it into a book."

She adds: "I hope I've **H** done it."

INTERVIEW: ROSIE SMITH
PHOTOS: NICKY JOHNSTON

STYLING: ANDREA VILLANUEVA DE MILNE
HAIR: CLAIRE HEALEY
MAKE-UP: JACINTA SPENCER

Meet Me in London is out now, published by Mills & Boon, £7.99.



Toff (lighting up Trafalgar Square, above) is proud to have added yet another string to her bow with her debut novel (left), written for romance publisher Mills & Boon. "Not only do I have a wonderful career with television and social media, but I'm stimulating my mind," she says

'I was kind of cool at school, but I've always been a bit of a swot'



Hoping her book will be made into a film, Toff would like “a Richard Curtis vibe”, referring to the director of romcom *Notting Hill*