

## The Miranda Affair

By Margaret R. Davis

**Ambitious Katie Carlisle struggles as her climb up the corporate ladder is hampered by two rivals, a ruthless male efficiency expert and the CEO's sexy girlfriend.**

It's 1989, San Francisco, and ambitious 39-year old Katie Carlisle works for a large corporation. Katie is optimistic about the future: she's being groomed by her manager to take his place when he retires in a few years, and she is secretly developing a strategy that she believes will help her company prosper. Enter Barry Bryce, an equally ambitious, upwardly mobile efficiency expert who ends up undermining Katie's position to advance his own.

Further complicating the situation, their CEO insists the company find a position for his current love interest, Miranda Peabody. Although both Katie and Barry initially regard Miranda as an annoying but temporary distraction, her hiring turns out to have serious consequences for them both.

As Katie struggles with office politics, her love life—which she describes as “an iffy proposition at best”—continues to confound her. Barry also struggles—in his case, to balance the demands of his career with a challenging marriage. When the 1989 earthquake shakes San Francisco, everyone's life is changed.

Many readers will see *The Miranda Affair* as a parody of large company life: employees who joke that “procrastination is our middle name,” the company officer who professes concern with cutting costs but who also seeks a “well-paid spot” for his current mistress, an employee's earnest efforts to produce an honest report on a failed project, only to be told the report must be written as a whitewash so as not to distress the shareholders.

Moral of the story: Be comforted to know that in an equal-opportunity employer, your enemies are as likely to get the shaft as you are.



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### About the Author

**Margaret R. Davis received a doctorate in Sociology from Stanford University, specializing in the sociology of the family and formal organizations. Her first book, *Straight Down the Middle*, is a story about a lesbian couple who pay an acquaintance to father a child. She worked for many years as a management consultant in a large California corporation. She is the author of two works of non-fiction (*Families in a Working World* and *Organization Design*.) She is also the author of several published short stories.**

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