

COMPILED BY MADELEINE MARR FROM MIAMI HERALD STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

IRONS

people

LA VIDA LOCAL

A real life Gossip Girl speaks out

For someone who bashes New York socialites in her first book, *Gilding Lily* (Avon, \$13.95), **Tatiana Boncompagni** sure looks the part.

But don't let that stick-thin figure, tailored Searle dress and coiffed hair fool you.

Boncompagni, 31, is one of us. Even though she lives on the Upper East Side and is married to the heir to the Hoover vacuum fortune, she sleeps in boxer shorts, skips manicure appointments and feels paranoid when she hears whispering.



The novel (not really) is about a simple girl from Nashville who is never quite embraced into the *Gossip Girl* lifestyle.

The reality is that a former government brat from South Dakota was never quite embraced after marrying Max-

imillian Hoover, 35.

"I didn't really belong there," admits Boncompagni at her Wednesday night book party held at EPIC residences. "I had a lot of wonderful friends but I was very aware there were people who didn't want me to be a part of their group."

After putting up with snarky comments about her humble upbringing, Tatiana (aka Lily) finally had it when the weight jabs came after giving birth.

"These girls are very vigilant about their diets,"

says the Georgetown graduate. "There is rampant drug use and they smoke to stay thin."

Not that we'd ever see that in the magazines.

"They never eat, smoke or drink in front of the photographers — it's an old rule," she says, adding, "it would smudge their lipstick."

Still Boncompagni has a soft spot for the women who cured her writer's block.

"I love socialites — they give the city its glitz and energy," says Boncompagni, sipping Prosecco.

"They're just very ambitious and territorial — you can't take it personally."

— MADELEINE MARR



BONCOMPAGNI AT EPIC PARTY