

New gentle crime series set in Mallorca bucks the trend with a balanced, happy, female sleuth

Submitted by: Burrobooks Ltd

Monday, 14 October 2019

The Devil's Horn, the first in a gentle crime series by Anna Nicholas, the most prolific author writing about Mallorca today, introduces 33-year-old Isabel Flores Montserrat, an eccentric, fearless, lateral thinking sleuth who keeps a pet ferret and is addicted to sunflower seeds, Chupa Chups lollies – and calories.

Unlike many female leads in popular British crime fiction today, Isabel is happy and balanced. She loves her family and community, and her pampered hens. Best of all, she doesn't have any hang-ups.

She lives in a mountain village in the idyllic northwest of Mallorca and indulges in good food and wine and goes swimming in the Mediterranean Sea at 6am every morning. Isabel eschews diets, self pity and doesn't suffer fools. She's not interested in fashion, time, social media or trending. Isabel's world is all about the good life and living for the moment.

A former detective, Isabel has turned her back on her old life to run her widowed mother's ailing rentals agency in rural Mallorca. Suddenly her sunny, laid-back existence is turned upside down with the abduction of a young British girl from a popular tourist beach, murder of an elderly man in her village and emergence of a dangerous drug cartel. The National Police come knocking on Isabel's door for help. What's a girl to do?

Racing against the clock, Isabel and her potential love interest, Chief Inspector Tolo Cabot, join forces to uncover a web of crime and restore peace to the island once more.

Following the success of her current travel series of six titles set in Mallorca, Anna Nicholas was the first Briton to be awarded the Siurell de Plata by the Balearic regional government for promotion of cultural values.

The second in the series, Heart of Stone, will be published in September 2020.

Price: £9.99|Paperback|Publication date: 10th October 2019|Publisher: Burro Books Ltd
ISBN: 978-1-9996618-4-7|Category: Crime/Fiction|Distributor: Turnaround Publisher Services

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NOTE TO EDITORS

Biographical details:

A freelance journalist and inveterate traveller, Anna has lived with her family in Soller, northwest Mallorca, for 19 years. Together with Alison, an English chum, Anna is on a mission to be the first women

to climb all the island's 54 Tramuntana peaks over 1000m, and as of September 2019 has completed 38 of them. Anna is a fellow of The Royal Geographical Society and has taken part in many tough global humanitarian expeditions with her British veteran explorer friend, Colonel John Blashford-Snell, CBE, and runs an international marathon annually for her favourite causes.

She handled events for the late Princess Diana while a rookie press officer at the national charity, Help the Aged, and once organised an expedition to carry a grand piano up the Amazon with John Blashford-Snell, which became the subject of A Grand Adventure, a BBC2 TV documentary.

For further information and interview/editorial requests, please contact:

Maggie Tyler
+44 7774 811 633
info@burrobooks.co.uk