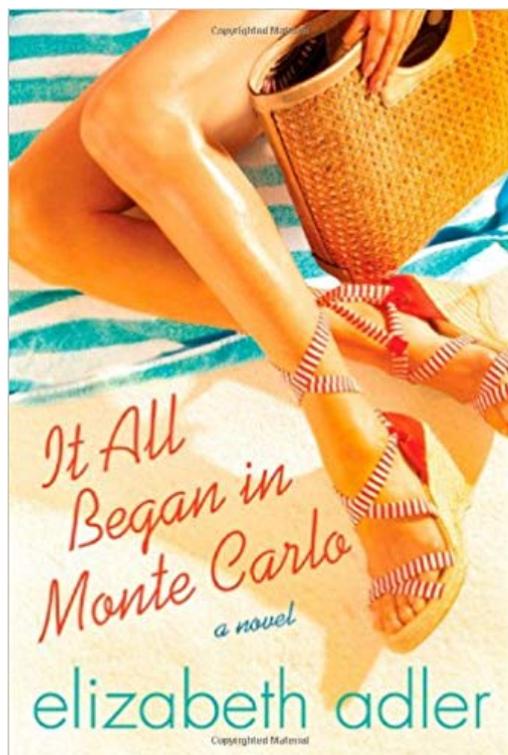


It All Began in Monte Carlo by Elizabeth Adler



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Author: Elizabeth Adler

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Beach reading suspense from the New York Times bestselling author of *There's Something About St. Tropez* Sunny Alvarez and Mac Reilly always seem to find trouble in the south of France. This time, all the trouble began in Monte Carlo. Sunny's relationship with Mac is in jeopardy and Monte Carlo beckons. Soon Sunny is pulled into a web of intrigue involving a series of robberies of high-end jewelry stores. Then there's her wanna-be-new-friend, who turns out to be a sociopath, involved in the sale of sex and in blackmail. Plus there's Sunny's old friend, movie star Allie Ray, who owns a vineyard in France and who comes to help sort Sunny out, while at the same time sorting out the life and appearance of her old friend, Pru Holster, with a makeover that not only changes her dowdy overweight appearance, but changes Pru into an amateur detective. If Sunny doesn't untangle this plot, she might end up an unwitting accomplice to theft, blackmail and even murder. When Mac shows up, he's ready to do anything to get Sunny back, not the least of which is to solve the crimes and save her life.



Reviews of the *It All Began in Monte Carlo* by Elizabeth

Adler

Mox

I have just discovered Elizabeth Alder as I am reading books that take place in the South of France. This book is a must read for romantic thriller readers. Any book that Elizabeth Alder writes you will just not be able to put it down. Very entertaining.

Painshade

I loved this book, probably because I lived in the South of France and toured the entire region for over a year. There is simply no place like France, Monaco, southern Italy and both the tiny villages and Monte Carlo, Nice, Cannes, Paris, and Prague. If you need a satisfying vacation in exquisite vinues this will be a good start.

generation of new

I choose this rating as i really enjoyed her book, always makes you feel you are in the country or area of the story

FEISKO

It was great. I would recommend it to all of my friends. I chose this rating because I REALLY liked this book.

Wel

This book shipped very fast and is in amazing condition. I saw it at Borders Bookstore and almost bought it for an outrageous amount, but happily found it online. This seller's service was great!

lucky kitten

This book is shallow, mean-spirited, offensive, and poorly written. Most of the pages mention brand name designers, eating caviar, or flying first-class. The antagonists are constantly described as ugly, fat, buck-toothed, poorly dressed, old, and stupid. The main antagonist's mismatched brand clothes (she wears Dior earrings with a Chanel bag! Oh, the humanity!) are described every time she appears.

The protagonists are beautiful, skinny, wear elegant designer clothes and are young and described as clever. A plump overweight friend of the protagonists is constantly berated for eating or being hungry. The main antagonist is into "icky" sex acts, because only bad people enjoy handcuffs or use vibrators. The primary character of color is described as mystical and exotic in every appearance. Sexist remarks, such as "men don't cry" or "it was just like a woman to think of shoes at a time like this" abound, and grammatical errors can be found on almost every page. Several descriptions are repeated verbatim. Several chapters consist of phone conversations followed by a character summarizing the phone call to everyone in the room. The characters have very little depth; the main character's personality is constantly described by other characters as clever, funny, and bubbly, but these traits are never actually displayed by her. (by the way, see the semicolon I used in the last sentence? You won't find any of these in the book. Ms. Adler prefers comma splices.)

This is, frankly, one of the nastiest books I have ever read.

Gindian

As usual, Ms. Adler writes a good novel. I am new to her writing but enjoy her vivid descriptions and feel-like-I;m-right-there scenery.

The plot had some great twists and I enjoyed that. However, I was repulsed by the exaggerated and pompous pretention of the characters regarding beauty. Don't get me wrong. I love confidence. But the superficial feeling I got from these characters about weight, good looks and plastic surgery left me turned off.

Sunny seemed whiny with her "it's all about me" approach to life. Especially because Mac didn't want to marry her again. Ms. Adler's characters don't usually affect me this way, so I wondered if this was done for effect...maybe to suggest the superficial arrogance and pretentiousness of celebrities. Not sure.

But some of the characters were full bodied, richly done and likable. Maha was one. I liked Allie's husband too. It was Allie, Mac and Sunny that tuned me off.

I cannot believe this is the same author who wrote *Leonie* and *Fortune is a Woman*. Her writing style is completely different now, and not for the better I'd say. I like women's fiction with a little mystery thrown in, and having beautiful locales and scrumptious food and fabulous clothes and shoes are icing on the cake. That's why I gave the book 2 stars - for the location descriptions, the food and the fashion.

Sunny's character is supposed to be a highly successful public relations firm owner with celebrity clientele, yet she comes across in this book as a 16-year-old teen who just broke up with her first love. The choices she makes are immature and not worthy of a savvy, street-smart businesswoman. And the dialogue and scenarios for Kitty Ratte were hysterical - and not in a good way! Does anyone else find it hard to believe that an over-the-hill, chubby hooker in her cheap clothes and run-down Louboutain's and dangly Dior earrings would not be tossed out of the bar at a 5-star hotel (in Monte Carlo, no less) the moment she stepped foot in it? Let alone be allowed to play her games and ply her trade with the very wealthy guests of the hotel? Please..

The Kitty character and all the plots surrounding her were unnecessary and did nothing for the book. The jewel-courier-trip-to-Mumbai-just-to-prove-to-Mac-she-was-her-own-woman was ludicrous. Why would a successful PR woman need a second job as a jewel courier? I could go on, but what's the point. I can't believe I read the whole book.

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