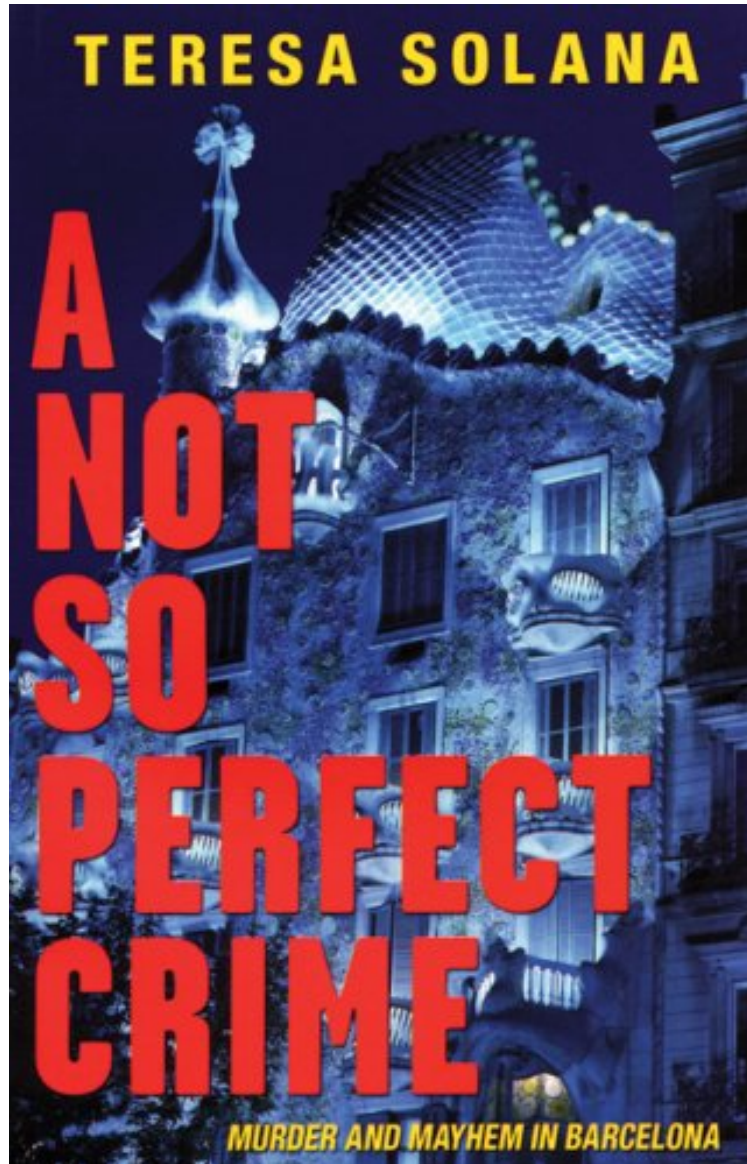


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A Not So Perfect Crime (The Borja and Eduard Barcelona Series)

Teresa Solana

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Teresa Solana : A Not So Perfect Crime (The Borja and Eduard Barcelona Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Not So Perfect Crime (The Borja and Eduard Barcelona Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Central Characters Great Fun, Story Not So Much By Anne Mills This is the first novel in an engaging series set in Barcelona. The main draw here is the characters, in particular the two protagonists. They are a pair of brothers who have set up a private enquiry agency, but they are very, very

different -- one, in fact, has created a whole new biography for himself. The way they live, their interaction, and their assorted friends and family were interesting enough to keep me reading, and indeed to buy the next book in the series. As to the setting, its social dynamics are interestingly presented, though there is not much that conveys to me a strongly Catalan sense of place. The story, last and unfortunately least, is less than compelling. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very pleasant read

By William Mulligan
Well-written, some neat observations on high society in Barcelona and well-drawn main characters, especially the twin brothers. The ending came out of nowhere - I thought. I sense that the unfolding of the mystery is less important than the atmosphere and the social dilemmas that the protagonists find themselves in

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. murder and mayhem in barcelona

By Gamma
This is another treat from Bitter Lemon Press, the UK publisher that has translated a number of foreign crime fiction novels. I learned about this book from their newsletter and promptly ordered it. This is a really intriguing tale - the pace is just right, and the main character (the narrator) is likeable and easy to relate to. I wish I had a map of Barcelona with me (and deep knowledge of Barcelona). You can tell that much of the humor of the novel requires "insider" knowledge of Barcelona and Spanish "high society." However - it is impressive that the novel is a heck of a good read, even if you don't have that perspective (I certainly did not). I read the whole novel in 1 sitting - it just pulled me in and pulled me along. You can enjoy it on many levels - for the richly drawn characters, the light humor, the plot twists and turns or simply as a travel diary - a glimpse into European life. I recommend it!

“A scathing satire of Spanish society, hilarious dialogue, all beautifully dressed up as a crime novel.”—Krimi-Couch
“A first novel that’s spread like wildfire by word of mouth.”—El Avui
“Teresa Solana is great proof of the vitality of the roman noir in Catalan. . . . A wonderfully ironic hymn to the city of Barcelona.”—Diari de Balears

Another day in Barcelona, another slimy politician’s wife is suspected of infidelity. Lluís Font discovers a portrait of his wife in an exhibition that leads him to conclude he is being cuckolded by the artist. Concerned only about the potential political fallout, he hires twins Eduard and Pep, private detectives with a supposed knack for helping the wealthy with their “dirty laundry.” Their office is adorned with false doors leading to nonexistent private rooms, a mysterious secretary who is always away, and a broken laptop computer picked up on the street. The case turns ugly when Font’s wife is found poisoned by a marron glacé from a box of sweets delivered anonymously. This is a deftly plotted, biting funny mystery novel. A satire of Catalan politics and a fascinating insight into the life and habits of Barcelona’s inhabitants, diurnal and nocturnal.

Teresa Solana lives in Barcelona. Born in 1962, she studied philosophy and worked as a literary translator and essayist. She has written several novels kept quietly in her drawer. A Not So Perfect Crime, her first published title, won the 2007 Brigada 21 Prize for the best Catalan mystery novel.

From Publishers Weekly
Solana's sparkling debut pokes sharp fun at Catalan politics, society and pretensions. Despite different names and personalities, Eduard Martínez and Borja Masdeu are not only twins but partners in Frau Consultants, an extralegal outfit that provides discreet services to Barcelona's well-to-do. Lluís Font, a powerful MP with presidential ambitions, hires the brothers to determine if his wife, Lídia, is having an affair with the painter of her portrait. That assignment is right up their alley, but when Lídia is poisoned via a gift box of marrons glacés, the brothers are out of their depth. Borja, who's remade himself as a member of the upper class, is a confident and amusing operator, while brother Eduard is a family man with scruples and misgivings. From their false front of an office and the secretary who exists only as a lingering scent and a bottle of nail varnish, the brothers bumble and stumble to the truth and hopefully to further adventures. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist
Solana's excellent debut novel, set in the streets and parlors of Barcelona, offers both probing social commentary and a riveting crime story. Twins Eduard and Borja (except no one knows they are brothers) run an off-the-books investigative agency, and they think they've have landed a big fish when a famous MP contacts them, suspecting his wife of infidelity. What seems like a run-of-the-mill crime in upper-class Barcelona becomes much more complicated when the lady in question is found dead of poison on Christmas Day. Despite the leisurely investigative style of the brothers, the story moves along quickly, carried by the expertly paced plot, the fascinating details of daily life in Barcelona, and the myriad fascinating characters, from Eduard's alternative-lifestyle guru wife to Borja's high-society "aunt." Suggest this one to readers who have enjoyed Chris Ewan's Good Thief series (Good Thief's Guide to Paris, 2008).

--Jessica Moyer 'Scathing satire of Spanish society, hilarious dialogue, all beautifully dressed up as a crime novel'--Krimi-Couch
"A first novel that's spread like wildfire by word of mouth."--El Avui
'Teresa Solana is great proof of the vitality of the roman noir in Catalan... A wonderfully ironic hymn to the city of Barcelona.'--Diari de Balears