



El mensajero de Atenas

Anne Zouroudi

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Un excelente exponente de la nueva narrativa criminal europea

Thiminos es una pequeña isla griega perdida en las azules aguas del mar Egeo. Durante una bella jornada de primavera, la joven Irini Asimakopoulos es hallada muerta a los pies de un acantilado. A ojos de la policía local, no hay ninguna duda: es un accidente. Caso cerrado. Sin embargo, un desconocido procedente de Atenas se traslada a Thiminos para reabrir el caso. A medida que avanzan sus investigaciones, la isla revela su verdadero semblante: los inviernos son eternos y la vida allí es monótona y cruel. Nada es lo que parece. Pero también los habitantes de la isla empiezan a preguntarse quién es ese hombre que parece conocer los más recónditos detalles de todo lo que ha ocurrido en la isla desde hace décadas.

El mensajero de Atenas es una novela que palpita en torno a los enigmas; no tan sólo sobre la misteriosa muerte de Irina sino también sobre la inescrutable realidad de Thirminos, un espejismo de idílica armonía en donde nada es lo que parece. El misterio se cierne también alrededor de la inexplicable aparición de Hermes, a quien nadie ha llamado ni nadie conoce, pero que parece saber todo lo que se oculta detrás de la irreprochable vida de los habitantes de la preciosa isla. Hermes - alias el «Hombre gordo»-, es un nuevo Hercules Poirot, con quien comparte su ácido humor y su irreprochable elegancia.

Articulada en torno a los siete pecados capitales, la siguiente entrega, *The Taint of Midas*, será publicada por Duomo próximamente.



Anne Zouroudi nació en el norte de Inglaterra y vivió durante un tiempo en las islas griegas. *El mensajero de Atenas*, publicada en junio de 2008, recibió una excelente acogida por parte de la crítica y quedó finalista en la última edición de los Premios ITV3 y del Premio Desmond Elliot. En la actualidad, Anne Zouroudi reside en Derbyshire & Peak District, con su hijo.

«Una lectura de verano increíblemente buena.» *The independent*

«Absorbente y maravillosamente bien escrita.» Jessica Mann, *Literary Review*

<http://annezouroudi.com/>



<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/the-messenger-of-athens-by-anne-zouroudi-859663.html>

The Messenger of Athens, By Anne Zouroudi

(Rated 3/5)

Reviewed by Tom Boncza-Tomaszewski

When the battered body of a young woman is discovered on a remote Greek island the local police seem in far too much of a hurry to get the body buried and catalogued as a case of accidental death. Anne Zouroudi's hero, Hermes Diaktoros, generally referred to as "the fat man", arrives on the island to investigate the crime apparently uninvited, and uncovers a sordid mess of lies and secrets: the death is anything but accidental.

In places the story is highly promising. Hermes's methods are unorthodox. He seems to know much more than he should about the islanders' history. It's even unclear whose authority he is acting on. He is, in fact, the book's biggest mystery.

Once upon a time crime stories had something to do with dreams – often very bad ones, and Zouroudi seems aware of this. In the 1920s Fantômas novels a "battered" body would be likely to be served up with chips; in any of Chandler's stories the plot rests on poetry. Very little is off-limits to a reader's imagination. This novel tries and often succeeds in working a similar kind of spell.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2008/oct/11/anne-zouroudi>

The Taint of Midas

More transported Agatha Christie here, this time to a Greek island setting with modern land-grabbing by unscrupulous developers. This is the second book in Zouroudi's Hermes Diaktoros series, and the subject is greed - the first, *The Messenger of Athens*, dealt with lust. It's good news for readers that there are five more sins to go, because Diaktoros is a delight. Half Poirot, half deus ex machina, but far more earth-bound than his first name suggests, the portly detective has an other-worldly, Marlowesque incorruptibility as he waddles through the mean olive groves. There is also a cracking plot, colourful local characters and descriptions of the hot, dry countryside so strong that you can almost see the heat haze and hear the cicadas - the perfect read to curl up with as the nights draw in.



<http://uk.annezouroudi.com/press-room/>

ITV3 Crime Thriller Awards

The nominees have now been announced for the inaugural ITV3 Crime Thriller Awards, which will be hosted on 3rd October by Alan Davies.

The glittering, star-studded bash will be held at London's Grosvenor House Hotel, celebrating the very best of the crime thriller genre, with awards focusing on the best of British and international crime thriller novels, films and TV series. The Crime Thriller Awards are the culmination of a seven week Crime Thriller Awards Season on ITV3.

Host Alan Davies said: "The nominees for the ITV3 Crime Thriller Awards are so varied - from Ashes to Ashes to The Dark Knight - it really highlights the breadth of the crime thriller genre and the amazing standard of work that is available at the moment"

The nominees:

Author of the Year:

Peter James (Not Dead Enough, Pan), Robert Harris (The Ghost, Hutchinson), Lee Child (Bad Luck and Trouble, Bantam) and Ian Rankin (Exit Music, Orion).

International Author of the Year:

Jeffery Deaver (The Sleeping Doll, Hodder & Stoughton), Stieg Larsson (The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, Quercus), Karin Slaughter (Skin Privilege, Arrow) and PJ Tracy (Snow Blind, Penguin)

Breakthrough Author of the Year:

Chelsea Cain (Heartsick, Pan), Stuart MacBride (Broken Skin, Harper), Michael Robotham (Shatter, Sphere) and **Anne Zouroudi (The Messenger of Athens, Bloomsbury)**

ITV3 Writer's Award for Classic TV Drama:

Colin Dexter, Ian Rankin, PD James, Lynda La Plante, Val McDermid and Ruth Rendell.