



Then. Now. Always.

Isabelle Broom

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**Hannah can't believe it when she's offered a trip to sunny Spain with her best friend and dreamy boss
... what's the catch?**

Twenty-eight year old Hannah is ready for an adventure. She and her colleagues are in Spain for a month to film a documentary, and it's a dream come true. Not least because Hannah will get to spend long summer days with Theo, her boss (and crush). If only Tom (Hannah's best friend and cameraman) and Claudette (the presenter) would stop getting in the way...

Then things become even more complicated when Nancy, Hannah's half-sister arrives. What on earth is she doing here?

For once in her life, can't Hannah just have one perfect summer, free of any drama?

Praise for Isabelle Broom

'Well-written and perfect for a lazy afternoon on the sofa' Daily Mail

'Gloriously escapist, unashamedly romantic, witty and hugely enjoyable' Sunday Mirror

'This book takes you on holiday' Adele Parks

'A gorgeous story of heartbreak, forgiveness and self-discovery' Giovanna Fletcher

'Brilliantly evocative' Paige Toon

'Combines a wonderful setting with the poignancy of self-discovery and a touching romance' Katie Fforde

Then. Now. Always. Details

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Author : Isabelle Broom

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Jo says

This was one that was a slow burner for me but i love this authors writing style. the setting is just stunning as in her other books - makes you want to visit each location - which was funny as my cousin was on holiday in Mojacar whilst i was reading the book. Enjoyed the characters and their relationships and basically cannot wait till the next book.

Gem ~ Bee says

I've struggled with this review because I really loved Isabelle Broom's previous book and I appreciate the effort involved in writing a book. However, I really did have a difficult time connecting with this novel. Stars are earned for a fantastic location which sounds idyllic, the Spanish paradise of Mojacar; as done previously with Prague, the author transports you to the sights and history of the area, and the ancient mystical Indalo stories were captivating. What was lacking for me was a gripping plot line amongst the characters which I just unfortunately found shallow and stereotyped. The main character was immature, spent the whole book focussed on impressing a man which i really didn't connect with, it all seemed very teenage drama and her uttering "I hate you all" and sulking when she didn't get her own way only furthered my disappointment. I can understand due to her childhood the inner child that never grew up and the animosity she felt towards her half sister but despite the heart to heart at the end of the book I still didn't feel a huge amount of sympathy for her or that her demeanour was justified, I just couldn't get past the needy swooning and tantrums. I just prefer an inspirational independent character in novels, and certainly a greater sense of sisterhood amongst the female characters than this book which really did seem to pit most of them against one another. Unfortunately not my type of book.

Clo says

Enjoyable

Took a while for me to get into this but eventually I start to really enjoy it. I wished it hadn't ended the way it did because I want to know more now

Rachel Gilbey says

Set in the beautiful town of Mojacar in Spain, this is an enchanting story, focusing on Hannah, and her half sister Nancy and her crush Theo, which by the time the book had finished left me with goosebumps, as the ending was rather unexpected.

Having read Then. Now. Always I feel as though I was transported to Mojacar and could probably find my way around the town reasonably well. It is one of those hidden gems of Spain, that isn't overrun with tourists and has a mystical history, which is what Hannah and her colleagues are most interested in.

Hannah went on holiday to Mojacar for three summers when she was a teenager and has never forgotten the place, so when the company she is working for wants to do a documentary about a place with an interesting history, she puts the town forward and is delighted when she is allowed to accompany the others on the month long production trip.

Theo is Hannah's boss, and she has had a long term crush on him for years, and is hoping this Spanish trip will be the opportunity to make an impression on him. Tom, the cameraman is also on the trip, and he is Hannah's best friend, although people seem to think there could be more to their relationship than meets the eye. Claudette is the French presenter of this documentary, who will be sharing an apartment with Hannah and they really are quite different, so Claudette adds quite a bit of background colour to the book.

However Hannah isn't too pleased when her half sister Nancy shows up in Mojacar, without any notice or explanation, especially since she has a complicated relationship with her. All of the dynamics of the group change once Nancy arrives and I found it really interesting to see how things unfolded, especially trying to work out the reason she is in Spain.

Then. Now. Always is a story of relationships and friendship, with a stunning setting, beautiful descriptions and it was a book that kept me engaged from start to finish. I wanted to keep checking in with the characters to see how they were getting on, and to catch more sun! I have a feeling this book could do wonders for tourism in Almeria and it definitely has made me want to catch a flight!

Thank you so much to Netgalley and Michael Joseph for this copy of the book which I have reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

Joanne says

This is the first of Isabelle Broom's books which I have read having somehow not got around to previous books such as *My Map of You* and *A Year and a Day* which I have heard others raving about. Be warned that if you haven't already booked your summer holiday before you read this book, you will want to go to Spain after you've read it!

One thing I had heard about Isabelle Broom's novels were that she creates an amazing sense of place and that was absolutely true. In fact, last week I read about one blogger who had just returned from a trip to Prague having booked it after reading *A Year and a Day*.

The storyline follows Hannah, a tv researcher who has the opportunity to go to Mojacar in Southern Spain with her boss Theo who she has a huge crush on, her best friend Tom and Claudette, the presenter who Hannah doesn't have much time for. She hopes that among the beautiful surroundings and in the heat, some passion may grow between her and Theo as she uses her knowledge of Mojacar to show him around and impress him. While there, she meets artist Elaine and becomes friends with her as she finds out more about the artist's colony which used to be in the town. To her annoyance, her half-sister Nancy turns up unexpectedly. She has never really got along with Nancy, feeling resentful of her relationship with their father, who left Hannah's mother when Hannah was only two.

The setting of this book, Mojacar is a town in Southern Spain which is in the Almeria region, close to the Mediterranean Sea and is stunningly beautiful. The author's descriptions of the town reminded me very much of Mijas, further along the coast not far from Malaga, where I have spent several holidays. Isabelle Broom

paints a vivid picture making easy to visualise the white of the houses shimmering in the heat with splashes of pink from the bougainvillea trailing over balconies and the deep blue of the sky and the sea. I could imagine the heat of the sun, the coolness of the sea and almost smell the lemons in the air. The author certainly created a perfect sense of the location of her novel.

I enjoyed following Hannah as she lusted after her gorgeous boss and tried to engineer ways for them to be together. She reminded me a little of the hapless Bridget Jones with her lovelife though was much more together than Bridget in her professional life. The relationship between Hannah and Nancy was really interesting too. Hannah felt abandoned by her father and that he favoured Nancy. I could completely understand her hurt at being let down at some crucial points in her life such as when her dad didn't come to a school show or didn't take her to a friend's party in a country manor. She was clearly hurting and saw Nancy as the source of this rejection. The way the relationship between the sisters developed over the course of the book was a really strong part of the story for me.

Then. Now. Always., a quote from the book about love in case you were wondering, is a very enjoyable read, perfect to get you in the mood for a holiday or to enjoy on a lazy sunny afternoon. It's escapist and romantic and shows that the love you think you want, isn't always the love you really need.

Julie says

A lovely read that takes you to the heat of a Spanish village in summer - and the weather is not all that's sizzling! I loved the descriptions of Spain and the characters were deftly brought to life. The ending wasn't contrived or trite so all in all a great romantic read to take on holiday with you or just curl up in front of the fire and dream of heady days to come.

Betty says

This book was a slow burner. Once you get past the first couple of chapters you won't want to set it down. A feel good story. I liked it

Charanya says

I wanted to give this book 5 stars - I really did. But i heard the small, very tiny voice in my head that was so surprised by the ending of this book in a bittersweet way that I had to pull out a star. Do not get me wrong, this book was brilliant - I loved the humour, I loved the characters. Hannah was easy to laugh with and relate to. I wound up liking each and every character in the book, especially Elaine. So the people who have read the book know why the ending was bittersweet - I was ecstatic for Elaine and maybe not so much for the other part

This book can almost serve as a travelogue for Mojácar. Such stirring descriptions - my imagination was right along with Hannah inhaling the scents and visualizing the scenery and gave me a good dose of travel-lust.

There was emotional growth, there was friendship, there was sibling drama and there was romance. I can feel the author deliberately dropping hints throughout the book, making you want to turn every page and get to the end of the story and when you did there was a worthy emotional payoff but not the kind I expected, it was different and yet so lovely. Things in life aren't always epic and movie-like and sometimes that's okay

A very enjoyable read and I look forward to reading more from this author

Agi says

Oh my, mea culpa, it took me over two months to sit down and write this review. I think I know why it took me so long - "Then. Now. Always" by Isabelle Broom is getting raving reviews, and really guys, I started reading this book with so many expectations but quickly found myself almost in desperation wondering if I am reading the same book as other people, singing praises. Don't get me wrong - I adore Isabelle Broom, and her debut novel was absolutely brilliant, but I just couldn't get this newest release, and it made me so sad, as I had so much hope and wanted to love this story so much. But - Isabelle Broom is the ultimate person to turn to when you need to get into holiday mode - she sets her books in the most gorgeous settings and she brings them easily and effortlessly to life. "Then. Now. Always" is set in Spain, in a beautiful, gorgeous town, full of sunshine, adventures and secret places.

So guys, between you and me, there was one thing that almost made the book totally kaput for me. And it was the main character - it is really hard to love a book when the main hero is driving you crazy. Hannah was at the beginning, and through almost the whole story, a pathetic, feeling sorry for herself person who didn't know what she really want. She was unhappy with everything and everybody surrounding her. I admit, it was a risky move from the author to make her character fall in love with her boss but I am sure it was a very conscious move. We know about this crush immediately, so I tried to be patient with Hannah but there came a moment when I couldn't stand wondering what Theo would say or if he's thinking about her at the same moment she's thinking about him, anymore. I liked how this played out however, it was not too cheesy, too fairy - tailish.

Then I couldn't grasp how come people stick with Hannah for so long, with her being so needy and whinge-y and stubborn. She didn't want to hear what other people have to say, and the way she was around Tom... well, she just him took for granted, the same as so many other things in her life. The bickering with her half-sister Nancy was annoying and her saying one thing and then doing the other as well. Hannah wanted to spend one summer without any dramas but let's be honest, wasn't she the one who has created all the problems? I just couldn't get past the fact that the characters were supposed to be adults but behaved like children.

What saved the book for me was the ending. It was not obvious and it was not predictable and I really liked how it turned out. It was different to all the endings. I actually think that if it weren't the weak characters, the book would be perfect. But OK, let's stop with moaning and focus on the good things. It was a great story offering a huge piece of escapism. The events in this book were likeable and there were tricky situations aplenty to make this plot as twisty as the Spanish roads. The author so flawlessly handles the complex story that it was a real pleasure to read. I also appreciate the fact that Isabelle Broom tried to make out of a supposedly lightweight novel a much more emotional and complicated story. Right at the beginning we have this being in love with your own boss situation, which I could feel in my bones is going to end in tears, then she adds a bit of half - sibling rivalry, and while Hannah's sister Nancy was very one - dimensional and predictable, and Hannah's reactions were, in my opinion, much too exaggerated, and the two girls behaved like spoiled, immature teenagers, showing their shallow sides behaving in a really awkward way, this

element added some depth and was well captured.

Altogether, this book gives you what you can expect: gorgeous setting of Mojocar, twists and turns, adventures and unconventional romance. It is quick - paced and there is enough of drama to keep you on your tenterhooks. There is this added bonus of Mojocar's history and traditions, myths and legends that I enjoyed very much. A story about building bridges and forgiving and I am really sorry it didn't work for me - I really, truly wanted it to work! However, I am already looking towards Isabelle's next book, I'm sure it's going to be (another) cracker!

Copy provided by the publisher in return for an honest review.

Jessica says

Be prepared to be whisked away to a perfect wee place in Spain. Reading this book will leave you heading straight for the travel agents to book a holiday.

Hannah is heading on a work trip for a month to Spain, with her boss that she has a big crush on, her best friend Tom and Claudette her colleague.

But with her drama packed life the drama follows her to Spain with the arrival of her half sister Nancy which puts a strain on Hannah's relationships with her colleagues and her best friends Tom and Rachel.

The way the author has described the destination is fantastic and leaves you dreaming of a holiday there, you visualise every part of Hannah's trip and the surroundings are perfect - even when it rains.

This is definitely a book to watch out for this summer.

Thebooktrail says

Visit the locations in the novel: Then. Now. Always.

Isabelle Broom you really should get a job in a travel agency - actually I'm not sure you could sell anymore holidays if you did? First Greece, then Prague and now Mojocar in Almeria, Spain!

Every book is like a postcard - drawing the best and the quirky from every location sprinkled with the Broom charm of fun characters, meaningful stories, laugh out loud scenes and touching moments.

Hannah has to spend time producing a travelogue and so chooses Mojocar as she remembers the place from her childhood. She goes with her work colleagues but also her boss who she's secretly pining for. When the blurb asked For just once in her life, can't Hannah have one perfect summer, free of any drama? I thought, haha no, imagining Isabelle Broom rubbing her hands with glee as she wrote it.

There's plenty of Spanish flavour, Spanish fun and lots of sunshine. It's a strange sensation returning to a

place you'd be known as a child or from years ago and I think Isabelle picks out the feelings of confusion and nostalgia well. The town hasn't changed too much in many ways, its' beauty still evident but Hannah changes as a person whilst there. And it's both a humourous and very moving story! She's a bit of a wet blanket at the start of the book so well done Mojacar for waving its magic!

‘Mojacar showed me who I was, and who I wanted to be‘

Well Hannah and Isabelle, this book made me want to go to Mojacar and see what magic I might discover there too!

Julia says

Then. Now. Always by Isabelle Broom is a contemporary romance that I really loved and devoured. Then. Now. Always is a study of love, life and human relationships. We all need love to function. It comes in different forms, all of which are valuable.

The novel encapsulates hope, using the motif of rainbows. "I come here every morning to watch the rainbows." Rainbows offer the promise of something brighter to come after the rain. "The darkness that had enveloped her is pierced now with brightness: the future contains hope."

Another theme is that of appearances. People may show one face to the world but the person behind the smile may be very different.

Everyone needs friends. Friends who will support you no matter what. The novel has a very beautiful friendship in it which the reader observes.

Family is important. Family relationships can be difficult. Past hurts may influence relationships. Fractured families may project hurt and insecurities but ultimately everyone is looking for love. "Family is everything." Fantasy and reality collide within the novel. "Fantasies are safe... Reality is very different." With the novel being written in the first person, the reader is privy to the fantasies of Hannah. The reader also witnesses when reality kicks in.

Isabelle Broom has some wonderful vivid descriptions within the novel. The reader experiences a real treat as they travel to the warmth of a Spanish village. The scenery comes alive for the reader who travels without ever leaving the sofa. Isabelle Broom's novels are always set in exotic locations, tantalising the reader's senses and contrasting with the darker British weather.

Isabelle Broom has presented a fabulous study of what is important in life - family, friendship and love in its various guises. Then. Now. Always is a delectable read and highly recommended.

I received this book for free. A favourable review was not required and all views expressed are my own.

Mairead Hearne (swirlandthread.com) says

‘Hannah can’t believe it when she’s offered a trip to sunny Spain with her best friend and dreamy boss . . . what’s the catch?’

Then. Now. Always. is the new release from Isabelle Broom.

Published by Michael Joseph Books (Penguin), prepare for pure escapism to the Almeria region of Spain for

a little sunshine and sangria.

If there's one thing Isabelle Broom does brilliantly in her novels, it is the evocation of place.

In her previous novels the reader has journeyed to Greece and to Prague but in *Then. Now. Always.*, we are swept off to the province of Almeria located on the South East coast of Spain overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

Hannah Hodges works in a media production team. Completely infatuated with her Greek boss Theo, Hannah spends her days dreaming of the future they could have. Having never spent any 'real' time in his company, Hannah is beside herself when asked to join Theo and the team on location in Mojacar, a village in Almeria.

It is Hannah who first introduced the idea of doing a feature on Mojacar, as it is a place that she holds very dear to her heart. Having spent many a holiday there with her best friend, Rachel during their teenage years and in her early twenties, Hannah has very special memories of this glorious region of Spain.

Hannah's home life has not been the best, with her father leaving herself and her mum when she was quite young. Now, with a stepsister Nancy that Hannah appears to despise and a love-life that permanently resides in her head, Hannah is ready for adventure.

On arrival in Mojacar, memories come flooding back. Hannah quickly remembers the fun she used to have and decides that this trip is the perfect time to make a few changes in her life, one of these being her relationship with Theo. Up to this point Hannah always remained in the background. She was always up for a laugh and a few jars down the pub but now she wants Theo to see a more mature Hannah, a person he could easily fall for.

Hannah finds out quite a lot about herself on this trip and really goes on a pilgrimage of self discovery. I have to be honest and say that this was a journey that was more than necessary. Up to this point Hannah's relationships with people was quite childish and immature as she herself alluded to at one point that her grumbling represented that of 'a sulky teenager'

Hannah at times sweet, at times naive and many times quite childish discovers that she needs to re-evaluate her life and decide what it is she truly wants to be.

One very interesting individual that Hannah meets, who helps her on this journey, is Elaine. Elaine is an artist who has lived in the village for years. Originally from England, Elaine settled in Mojacar after an unsettled upbringing and made a home for herself amidst the scent of lemons and the sound of the cicadas.

'I'll never forget how it felt to look up at the Old Town for the very first time....Mojacar is unique in that the view looking up from the playa towards the village is actually better than the one up here looking back down to sea..'

Hannah and Elaine develop a very strong connection over the few weeks and Hannah soon realises that Elaine's secrets run deep. I think this is the point where Hannah finally grows up

'Mojacar showed me who I was, and who I wanted to be'

Scattered throughout *Then. Now. Always.* are references to the beauty of Mojacar, and it is within these

descriptions that I got totally lost for awhile.

'On the south-east coast of Spain, in the final foothills of Sierra Cabrera, there is a place both hidden and proud. A village that seems to shimmer as you look upon it, the cluster of the white buildings a honeycomb shot through with moonbeams of colour. There is a neat harmony of simplicity here, an exquisite union of nature and creation, and as you take the steep pathway leading into the heart of this architectural utopia, you will feel your spirit begin to sing.'

Then. Now. Always. is not just a story of a young woman finding her way. It is much much more than that. Isabelle Broom writes beautifully and very passionately about a place that is obviously so very special to her. I have never been to Mojacar but as a result of this book I have been trawling the Internet looking for holiday deals so that I can too can absorb and witness the beauty of a place that sounds like my idea of paradise. Mojacar is described so exquisitely by Isabelle Broom....go discover a slice of sunshine yourself by picking up a copy of this enchanting book.

Karen Whittard says

There are no words to how much I simply loved this book. It is absolutely beautiful romantic and lovely. Such a wonderful read. I would highly recommend to all.

Irena says

This is the best Broom's novel yet!
Review to come.
