



Cutting Right to the Chase

Stefania Mattana

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"It represents a small literary experiment that deserves praise apart from all the rest."

"If you were born with the hounding instinct you can never really change."

"Fascinating mysteries for a charming character, suitable also for children and young adults"

What if you are an ex Scotland Yard British detective stuck in a stunning medieval Italian city? Mystery and humor in Cutting Right to the Chase.

Chase Williams's life seems to be filled with crimes and mysteries to solve, even if he is not working at Scotland Yard anymore. In Tursenia, a pretty, Medieval city in the heart of Italy, Chase tries to live a normal life as an import/export executive for an international cashmere firm, but it's not as easy as it appears.

Chase's investigative eye never stops catching glimpses of crimes despite his career change. Throughout these six detective short stories of 1000 words each, Chase deals with a sequence of mainly minor but baffling offences that anyone could stumble upon.

Strange flights, teenagers at the mall, quirky neighbours and a special mission with Chase's childhood friend, Inspector Angelo Alunni, will introduce you to the Tursenian world, where other, nastier crimes can happen.

Cutting Right to the Chase Details

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Author : Stefania Mattana

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Genre : Short Stories, Mystery, Humor, Cultural, Italy, Cozy Mystery, Crime

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From Reader Review Cutting Right to the Chase for online ebook

Andra Weis says

I obtained a copy of Cutting Right To the Chase from the author, Stefania Mattana, through Goodreads - a free e-copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

The six short stories were well written, intriguing, fast paced and enjoyable. Easily read in one sitting. The stories certainly wet my appetite for a longer tale as I usually do not read short stories, longer novels being my usual fare.

Jonny Bell says

Very interesting stories.

I'm not the type who would read this type of books because they typically don't interest me. However, this book was recommended by a friend , so i decided to give a try. I'm going to consider similar books like these in the future.

Good stories.

Dermot Davis says

I liked the fact that this is a collection of unrelated short stories all involving an ex-patriot British detective living in a small town in Italy. Even though he struggles with the language and customs, his nose for crime and mischief is not at all impeded. The crimes he gets himself involved in range from the petty to the seriously criminal and all of them have a sweet charm which brings a smile to the lips.

Liz Barnsley says

Thank you to the author for a copy of this book to review.

This is a collection of short stories featuring former Scotland Yard detective Chase Williams. Each one depicts a rather unusual case that Chase finds himself embroiled in, sometimes when he would really rather not!

This is such a terrific little book to just have on your kindle for those odd moments where you are waiting for something and can't read for long, or like me, have a Sunday Afternoon where you just want to dip into something fun and involving. Each story is short and sweet - I would say the average reader could complete

one in 15 minutes. All are intriguing and Chase is a perfect character to spend a few moments with and its a joy to go along with him as he solves some rather intriguing mysteries. He has a dry sense of humour and an ironic outlook - I related to him very well.

There are 6 stories in the collection, each one a little reading gem. Highly recommended for anyone who is trying to reboot their reading self and for those of us who love a quick, easy short story just to get us through the odd moment of boredom. Great stuff.

Happy Reading Folks!

Alan Hardy says

6 short stories featuring Chase Williams, a former British policeman, now living and working in Italy in the city of Tursenia where criminal cases and episodes seem to follow him around; his detective background enables him to solve the criminal conundrums that keep peppering his attempts to live a normal existence. The stories involve a chase through the winding ancient streets of Tursenia's medieval city centre; Chinese gangs; a gang of shoplifters; a fraudster; and even a pigeon-poisoner. They are witty, urbane, quirky and clever. Check them out. They are something special.

MaryAnn says

This is a collection of short stories featuring Chase Williams. I enjoyed the odd snip its of stories that occur to this interesting individual. Each story was of a different situation, so the plots were developed quickly before moving on to the next story. I will look for a full length story featuring this interesting ex-cop.

Thanks to the author for allowing me to read this book in exchange for a review. My rating is an unbiased 4 out of 5 stars.

Martina Munzittu says

Imagine you're at the bus stop, or waiting at your GP surgery, or have only a few minutes available. You'd like to read something, but don't feel like starting a new book, or continue reading a full novel. You could do with a short read, something brief that entertains you, something with a beginning and an end. Well, this is exactly the kind of thing you need. A collection of short stories, 1,000 words each. It takes you about 10 minutes to read each one of them.

Chase Williams used to be police officer in Scotland Yard. For reasons not yet revealed, he moved to Italy and he's now working for an import/export Company in Tursenia, a lovely medieval city. There are six crimes depicted, one for each story. They are quite unusual crimes, and yet credible. Somehow Chase finds himself involved, often unwillingly. I loved the way he faces these bizarre situations, his attitude towards the local people and his dry British sense of humour. He's never awkward, despite the fact that his

cultural background is very different. He fits in well, and his ironic take on Italian life is quite endearing. Probably because of his past, he's able to figure out what is going on in the various situations he faces. This book is a little gem, I'd love to read more about this author.

Simon Okill says

Cutting Right to the Chase by Stefania Mattana is a welcome respite from reading lengthy novels. The author has cleverly encapsulated Detective Chase Williams' life upon leaving Scotland Yard for Italy in six short stories. Each wonderful episode exudes charm Italian-style and left this reader wanting more. I especially enjoyed the shoplifting shorty as it reveals how crime can be under our very noses in the most mundane of circumstances.

Well done Stefania for accomplishing a difficult task with such panache and thoroughly entertaining me on so many levels. Can't wait to read book #2!

A FIVE STAR mystery compilation and highly recommended.

Nadia says

I was asked to review this book. it was well written and left me wanting more. can't wait to read a full book written by this author.

Liza says

Cutting Right to the Chase consists of 6 short stories where Chase Williams, a former Scotland Yard detective who moved to Italy, always ends up uncovering some dirty business going on.

1,000 words per story make reading this book a breeze; accessible to everyone and in every situation (in line at the post office or at the bank, travelling on a train or on the bus, or just standing in the kitchen waiting for your pasta).

I liked how we're thrown straight in the middle of the action, rather than learning all the details first; and I loved how we can catch hints and glimpses of the Italian culture and lifestyle throughout the entire book (street names, cities structure, people).

Speaking of which: the author is from Italy and I guess we can see that popping up sometimes, but she's done a really good job. I mean, writing a book in a language other than your own? Wow! I am honestly impressed, and I can't wait for the next one. And whatever your currency is, at this price, it's a steal! Recommended.

Christoph Fischer says

"Cutting Right to the Chase" by Stefania Mattana is a selection of several very short crime stories, all rather unusual and very entertaining. With powers of observation, wit and some with great humour they describe odd cases and mysteries solved by former British detective Chase Williams, who now lives and works in Italy.

The stories are anecdotal in nature, clever, well told and very worth while reading.

Great entertainment.

Abby Vandiver says

This book was a collection of short stories of the fortuitous detective, Chase Williams. Excellent read.

I really enjoyed this book. Haven't ever read a collection of short stories about the same person, but I found it engaging and interesting. In each story you find out a little more about the character, seeing him in different situations, in each, however, it seems that Chase solves cases with more luck than intuition. He always seems to be at the right place, doing the right thing, at the right time. Mattana writes well, in each short story the reader is fully engaged, and nothing is left out. the stories are quick, smart and flow very well. It is amazing to me to be able to pack so much and give the full picture in so few words.

I have Volume 2 of the series and will definitely read it. I highly recommend the book and the writer to everyone.

Rita Monticelli says

Scroll down for the English version

Fulminanti e taglienti

Questa piccola raccolta di racconti ha in sé tanta originalità, a iniziare dall'accostamento tra un ex-detective inglese che vive in Italia. Questo aspetto già di per sé permette di mettere a confronto le caratteristiche personali di un personaggio tipicamente british in un ambientazione che per lui è in qualche modo esotica. Un secondo elemento di originalità è la scelta di scrivere dei piccoli racconti di appena mille parole fatti su misura per una lettura rubata nei cosiddetti tempi morti, per esempio quando ci si muove in autobus o sulla metro. Questa scelta rappresenta un piccolo esperimento letterario che merita un plauso a prescindere da tutto il resto, poiché si propone a un target ben preciso.

Il terzo elemento di originalità è l'autrice, nata e cresciuta in Italia, che si cimenta con grande maestria nella sua seconda lingua, riuscendo a trasmettere al lettore l'autorevolezza del madrelingua sia per quanto riguarda lo stile in sé sia per il modo in cui si cala nel protagonista Chase Williams.

A tutti questi elementi, che sarebbero sufficienti a suscitare la curiosità del lettore di questo genere, si aggiungono delle ottime storie, delle vere e proprie perle, che si fanno leggere in un attimo, non solo per la brevità ma soprattutto per la capacità di catturare l'attenzione e obbligarti ad andare avanti fino alla fine. E succede che dopo il primo racconto non puoi fare altro che passare al secondo, e poi al terzo e così via.

Dopo questo breve sguardo nel mondo letterario di Stefania Mattana sarei proprio curiosa di immergermi di nuovo in esso, magari all'interno di un bel romanzo.

Fast and... cutting

This small collection of short stories has so much originality in itself, starting from the combination of an English (former) detective living in Italy. This aspect in itself allows us to compare the personal characteristics of a typically British character in a setting which for him is somehow exotic.

A second element of originality is the choice to write short stories of just a thousand words made for a "stolen" reading in the so-called idle time, for example when travelling by bus or on the tube. This choice represents a small literary experiment that deserves praise apart from all the rest, since it is proposed to a

specific target.

The third element of originality is the author, born and raised in Italy, who is wrestling with great skill in his second language, managing to convey to the reader the authority of the mother tongue both in terms of style and for the way in which she is able identify herself in the protagonist Chase Williams.

To all these elements, which would be sufficient to arouse the curiosity of the reader of this genre, you add some great stories, some real pearls, which let themselves be read in a moment, not only for the sake of brevity but also for the ability to capture your attention and force you to go on until the end. And it happens that after the first story you cannot help but move to the second one and then the third one and so on.

After this brief look into the literary world by Stefania Mattana I'd be curious to dive back into it, maybe in a good crime novel.

Domizia Parri says

A collection of short stories that are more like flashes illuminating bits of the main character's life. And what an interesting life Chase happens to live, albeit quite unwillingly! A Brit policeman in his mid 30s, who moved to a fascinating little medieval town in central Italy. Chase goes about saying very little and thinking a good deal more than most people, and so he keeps stumbling upon everyday mysteries and crimes, that he typically can't help but solve.

Mattana's sober writing has what it takes to capture the reader and have him asking for more. I wish she gave us more descriptions and details, but this might be just my personal taste. I was left with many questions, about the intriguing mr. Chase: how did he end up there? What about his past? What does he look like, since I've got a feeling he's pretty interesting? I trust the author will provide us with more fascinating adventures of this mystery Brit very soon.

Joseph says

Cutting Right to the Chase: 6x1000 Word Stories of Unusual Crimes by Stefania Mattana is a refreshing crime chapbook. Mattana was born and raised in Italy and currently lives in London. She has a masters in sociology and uses it as a community planner. You can read her other work on *The Huffington Post UK* and *OnRugby*.

One of the nice things about Twitter is the people you meet. The other day I got a message that Stefania Mattana was following me on Twitter. I looked at her profile and saw it was another writer so I gave her profile a quick glance through, expecting the next of many emo vampire or apocalyptic Christian novel writers. I was pleasantly surprised to see a young woman with a defiant look about her and a warning to be nice or you'll wind up in her next he next crime novel. I was sold on giving one of her books a try.

I chose the first book of the short crime stories featuring former London Police Officer Chase Williams. Williams, since leaving the police, has moved to Tursenia, Italy. His time is occupied assisting Inspector Alunni in a variety of minor, but unusual, crimes. Chase, seems like a good guy, maybe a little cocky, but he does solve the mysteries others can't. I tried to place where I might know Chase from and it dawned on me. For those old enough to remember the *Encyclopedia Brown* mysteries, Chase may well be who Encyclopedia Brown grew up to be.

The stories are good and very complete considering the word limit. At risk of dating myself again, they were very reminiscent of the *Two Minute Mysteries* series of books I read as a young adult. After a brief exchange

with the author I found out that the books were intended for adults but some readers and reviewers have attached the Young Adult label to the books. The author is not bothered by this and welcomes the larger audience.

I enjoyed the writing style. English is a second language for Mattana, but her writing is clear and unaffected by any language barrier. In fact, I very much enjoyed the writing style. The English was excellent, but it had something extra. The author's Italian came out in more than just the setting and a passing phrase. The writing seems to hold an intriguing accent to the English language in a very positive way – Think of Sophia Loren speaking. Mattana can also turn a phrase. “...he only knew that Pollicino was married to a tall woman with a nose so sharp that you could cut glass with it... “

This was quite an enjoyable book and a very nice break in my steady diet of non-fiction. It is also nice to be able to pick up a book and know that you are able to finish the chapter even if you only have ten minutes. It is also nice in modern electronic world to find new authors on other continents and make the short trip to Amazon.com and pick up their latest book and have it delivered to your Kindle. There are a few more books in the Chase series and I am looking forward to reading them. Truly and enjoyable experience.
