



Holiday that will change everything

TWO DAYS IN BIARRITZ by Michelle Jackson published by Poolbeg priced £6.99

ANNABEL and Kate are having a mini-holiday in Biarritz. They're old friends and, hurtling towards 40, they've come to a turbulent time in both their lives. Annabel is married to a dull, selfish man who provides her with financial security, but is more interested in socialising with the golf club set than spending time with Annabel and their children. Artistic Kate is surprisingly pragmatic about the recent break-up of her marriage. Her twin boys, by her first husband who died in an accident, are safely in boarding school and she felt she was drifting apart from her husband for a long time now.

Kate is the glamorous one – she lives in France and is an artist, Annabel had to give up her arts degree when she was younger, because her father died. Annabel increasingly feels like the dowdy, sensible one in this friendship and the cracks are beginning to show.

But Kate is devastated by a long-kept secret which Annabel reveals after one drink too many at a holiday bar. And what of the two surfers, Nico and Brett, whom the pair encounter? Will dangerous romance blossom? And what of Shane, the love that Kate left behind long ago?

One thing's for sure – this holiday is going to change things for both women, in ways they could never have forseen when they packed their suitcases.

If you're looking for a beach read, this is the one for you.

Two Days in Biarritz is a racy page turner of a read, that provides plenty of twists and turns to keep you hooked.

I liked the fact that Michelle Jackson was brave enough to show a female friendship, warts and all – the petty jealousies, the memories of teenage humiliation and the feeling that each girl has something that the other one wants.

And the feeling of unfulfilled longing in both women's lives.

I found myself especially cheering for Annabel, longing for her to be able to fulfill her potential and live the life she always wanted. But she's stifled by a

husband, who only thinks of himself.

A recurring theme throughout the book is the fact that change brings plenty of turbulence in its wake.

A good one to pack in your holiday suitcase.

LOUISE MCIVOR

