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Murder in Marrakech sample
NOT FOR SALE

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Murder in Marrakech
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Chapter One

Julie Norton looked out of her hotel room window. Her hotel room was on a high floor, so she had a great view. There were sand-coloured buildings everywhere. She could see across the roofs of the houses. The roofs were flat. The sun was bright. It looked hot outside.

I'm in Marrakech in Morocco, she thought. This is going to be a great trip. The weather is better here than in England.

Julie was an interior designer. She designed rooms in people's houses. She selected the colours, and the items, such as carpets, paintings, sofas, and chairs. She loved her job. Her new client was very rich. He lived in London. He wanted items from Marrakech in his living room. He wanted a carpet, some lamps, and a decoration for the wall. He paid for Julie to go to Marrakech. Julie planned to go to the souks. The souks are markets in Marrakech. They sell many items – carpets, lamps, clothes, spices...everything.

It was 2:00pm. *It's too hot to go outside, thought Julie. I will have some mint tea in the hotel cafe, and read a book. I'll go to the souks when it is cooler, at about 5:00pm.*

Julie picked up her book and walked out of her hotel room and closed the door. The door locked automatically. She got into the elevator and went down to the ground floor.

"Good afternoon, madam," said the man on the front desk.

"Good afternoon," said Julie. She went to the small café and sat down. It was dark and cool. The air conditioner was on. She ordered some mint tea and opened her book. The book was a guidebook to Marrakech's souks. She looked at the pictures.

This is going to be a great experience, she thought.

The waiter brought her tea, and she spent a few hours in the café, reading and thinking about the design for the man's house. She looked at her watch. It was nearly 5:00pm.

I'll go to the souks now, she thought. She paid for her tea, and put the guidebook in her bag. She walked out of the hotel. Julie was wearing a long cotton dress and sandals. It was still hot. She walked through the narrow streets. There were brown houses and buildings on both sides of the streets. Some children were playing in the streets. She saw some women sitting outside a house. She looked at her map.

The souks are very near, she thought. Soon, she arrived at the souks.

The smell is wonderful! she thought. She could smell spices. *And it is so noisy and busy!* There were many people shopping, and many people selling items. The sellers were shouting to the customers. *I'm going to enjoy this,* she thought. She took a list out of her bag and looked at it. *I need a carpet, some lamps and a wall decoration.* She entered the souk. The souk had a narrow street in the centre, and shops on both sides of the street. The street was covered, so it was dark and cool. She could hear many languages – Arabic, French, English and German. There were many tourists. There were many small streets to the left and right of the main street.

I have to be careful in here, thought Julie. *Maybe I will get lost!*

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