



The Kazak Contract

by Paul Purnell

PRESS RELEASE

Ex-marine with a dark past, James Ballantyne, is thrown into a dangerous world of gangs, trafficking and Russian oligarchs in this high-octane international thriller.

Court-martialled and dismissed from the marines amid accusations of manslaughter, thirty-year old James Ballantyne's future looks uncertain —especially after his application to join the Foreign and Colonial office is immediately denied. But when the Kazakhstan desk gives him an unexpected, and lucrative, offer to oversee a commercial contract how could he possibly say no?

Travelling immediately to Kazakhstan for the assignment, he meets his alluring Russian minder, Oksana Petrova, who is tasked with guiding him through the politics of big business in Central Asia. The sensational buildings, limitless wealth and extravagance astound him. But as events unfold, Ballantyne gets dragged into the darker side of the Ministry's dealings leading him to an unexpected discovery

and to the rescue of a US special agent. Confused over who he can trust, Ballantyne's life starts to spiral as he is forced to recruit smugglers to get the agent away from Kazakhstan. The escape route is dangerous and it becomes clear they are being monitored every inch of the way. Are his new romantic feelings about Oksana clouding his judgement and is she the one behind the surveillance? Or has his own team been infiltrated? With ambush and deception at every corner, getting out of Kazakhstan alive will draw upon all of Ballantyne's military skills, and a lot of luck. But with Oksana suddenly thrown into danger, Ballantyne needs to decide on whether he should follow his instincts or finish **The Kazak Contract**.

The Kazak Contract is the first in Paul Purnell's thriller series starring damaged hero James Ballantyne. A dangerous and fast-paced debut novel this is the perfect next read, and holiday companion, for fans of crime and international thrillers.

About the author: Based in London, Paul Purnell has worked for over forty-years as a Criminal Law barrister. After serving five years stationed in Germany with the British Army, Purnell began his career as a trial lawyer prosecuting and defending in serious criminal cases across the country. Later he was appointed Queen's Counsel, a role which has seen him engaged in court cases both across the country and to far flung destinations including the Cayman Islands and Kazakhstan. His extensive experience and understanding of the criminal world has provided the inspiration for his short stories and his latest Jack Ballantyne series. When not writing, or in court, he enjoys racing around the country on his motorbike and spending time with his three children and grandchildren. Previous titles include a series of well-received short stories; *The Hireling* (2015), *Scaramouche* (2015) and *The Storm* (2016). The first in the Jack Ballantyne series, **The Kazak Contract** by Paul Purnell (published by Clink Street Publishing 23rd May 2017 RRP £7.99 paperback RRP £3.99 ebook) is available to purchase from online retailers including amazon.co.uk and to order from all good bookstores. For more information please visit <http://paulpurnell.com> and follow on Twitter @purnell14

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