

GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLIE!

Cheshire residents may feel a little differently about some local haunts after reading the work of Holmes Chapel erotic novelist Mollie Blake, writes Janet Reeder





Novelist Mollie Blake

FOR Mollie Blake every day is an opportunity for action between the sheets with a romantic hero.

The sheets, however, are of the paper kind, as Holmes Chapel-based Mollie is a writer of steamy erotic fiction.

Mollie was something of a high flier who came down to earth when she found she was pregnant in her early 40s and ended up swapping the boardroom for the nursery.

'It was a huge shock. It took a bit of adjusting and I was telling everybody "I'll return, don't worry, I'll read my email,"' says the former financial director.

'But when I went back I really didn't want to leave my little boy. So I was lucky in that as a board we decided we'd sell the company. It was like a management buyout but I was a leaver.'

The upside was that more time at home gave her the opportunity to catch up on her reading and by chance she stumbled upon *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

'I read it before all the hype and I loved it,' she tells me over coffee in Corks Out, a Knutsford wine bar.

'I loved the mix of romance and eroticism, even though the plot started to run out of steam by the third book, but I went on to read a lot more erotic fiction after that and it's just been a lot of fun.'

Before reading *Fifty Shades*, Mollie had been toying with the idea of writing a children's book but she became inspired like never before, in more ways than one...

'I was turning 50 and didn't really want to be 50 but it rekindled my relationship with my husband, Alan. We had met in our late 20s early 30s and suddenly I was enjoying a better sex life,' she reveals.

'That's over three years ago now and I've not looked back.'

At first she self-published her work because

she just 'didn't want to leave it in a drawer' but last summer Mollie decided to send her second book to a UK and American publisher. In September stateside Black Opal Books got in touch.

'They emailed to say they loved my style of writing, they loved the story and they wanted to offer me a contract,' says Mollie.

'And they plan to publish it this year. It's called *The Secret at Arnford Hall*. Arnford is an imaginary village that I've created near Knutsford.

'I refer to places in Knutsford and the main character's sister stays temporarily at The Cottons Hotel. There's no raunchiness there but there is some raunchiness in The Wizard's Thatch B&B at Alderley Edge.

'Part of the story is that he's almost blackmailing a school-teacher to do his bidding for a year. I set out with the intention of creating somebody the reader won't like but then begins to understand why he was like he was, forgive him and fall in love with him.'

Cheshire locations also figure in the first book which

is set around Nantwich and Crewe.

'I Googled a mansion at a small village near Crewe and I made that the hero's house. He calls it *The Sway*,' says Mollie.

'The character is a former male prostitute who is under the control of a sadist madam and then he breaks away from that and lives as a recluse and is celibate for three years until he meets a girl and things change.'

'I like to have a good plot that hooks you in. This is the danger element and in his case his best friend was murdered by a cruel pimp and he set out to prove that he did it.' ♦

Mollie is active on social media and can be contacted at www.mollieblake.co.uk Facebook www.facebook.com/mollieblake.54 Twitter www.twitter.com/MollieBlake0

MOLLIE'S RECIPE FOR AN EROTIC VALENTINE'S DAY

Pre-dinner drink

Manhattan cocktails with a maraschino cherry. The shape of the glass and the redness of the liquid is evocative. I slip my piece of fruit into his mouth during the first kiss of our 'date'. We go light on the alcohol.

Appetiser/

Amuse-bouche

Baked honey fig with toasted almond and vanilla cream. The fig creates an erotic vision to whet the appetite for the evening. The almonds contribute to the production of dopamine in the brain; this is the 'reward' chemical enabling us not only to see the reward but to take action to move towards it.

Main course

We don't want to over indulge or, dread the thought, feel tired! So I keep it light and healthy.

A good cut of lean fillet steak comes complete with magnesium to beef up his testosterone. I serve an accompaniment of Mediterranean vegetables: roasted sweet potato, courgettes, aubergine, red onion and tomatoes.

Dessert

Now I turn the heat up with servings of cool fruit and warm liquids. Pieces of watermelon, pineapple, strawberries. Contrasting colours and flavours dipped in melted chocolate. We start to feed each other, leisurely savouring the taste, enjoying each other's pleasure. The dark chocolate contains phenylethylamine, otherwise known as the love drug. I am assured by scientific research that this will enhance our mood. So the mind is relaxed and the body is primed..

Next...

I light candles of jasmine and vanilla. I turn on some music - a little of Rhianna's 'Skin' and a bit of Judy Tzuke's 'Stay with me till dawn'. My sexy playlist will linger in the background.