



The Expansion

by Christoph Martin

PRESS RELEASE

Engineer Max Burns finds his life hanging in the balance when the United States goes head-to-head with China over the world's largest trade route: the Panama Canal in this globe-trotting political thriller.

In politics and big business, truth is a matter of opinion.

British-born geomatic engineer Max Burns' revolutionary water-saving system has won him the esteemed position of head engineer for one of the 21st century's most politically contested mega-projects: the expansion of the Panama Canal. For Max it is a dream come true; not only is he able to work closely with construction giant and old high-school friend Godfredo Roco in one of the most beautiful tropical environments, but it's the kind of job Max has been working toward his entire career.

Yet in the arena of global trade and diplomacy, stakes are high, and when a senior official of the Panama Canal Administration is found dead, Max finds himself in the frame for sabotage and murder, and at the center of a web of political intrigue and betrayal that reaches far beyond the idyllic shores of Central America. The only person Max can trust is his new-found love, Karis Deen, a scientist with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. Except Karis herself holds a secret that could not only destroy Max, but could change the entire balance of world power.

Crossing the globe from Panama to Switzerland to Washington and London, **The Expansion** by Christoph Martin is an exhilarating and high-stakes first entry in a planned four-part thriller series. Delving into the more relevant-than-ever themes of government surveillance and political dealing with a mix of intrigue and fast-paced action, readers will find a new favorite of the genre.

About the author: Christoph Martin is the writing team of Christoph Martin Zollinger and Libby O'Loughlin. Christoph Zollinger is a Swiss entrepreneur whose career spans legal, military, corporate and private enterprise. Christoph graduated with a law degree from the University of Zürich, after which time he went on to live and work in Panama in corporate and private enterprise for more than a decade. In 2012 he returned to Switzerland with his wife and children. He divides his time between his home in Zürich and a tiny Alpine village in Graubünden. Libby O'Loughlin is an Australian novelist and prize-winning short story writer who has a career in narrative media production, including film and television, as well as print and digital publishing. She has lived in the UK, USA and Malaysia, and she now lives with her family in Switzerland. **The Expansion** by Christoph Martin (published by Clink Street Publishing May 2nd, 2017 in paperback and ebook RRP TBC) will be available to purchase from online retailers including Amazon and to order from all good bookstores.

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