



GARY SMILEY • VILLAINS' REUNION / TRIKKSTER

VILLAINS' REUNION

A premium international thriller series

BASED ON THE NOVELS BY GARY SMILEY

Two novels. One reluctant leader. A global criminal network hiding in plain sight.

PRESTIGE DRAMA • INTERNATIONAL THRILLER • MYSTERY

GARY SMILEY

The hook

**She wants to make wine.
Instead, she inherits the
underworld.**

Matilde Urbano, 21, dreams of escaping her family's centuries-old secret criminal organization and building a quiet life in Portugal's wine country. But after a deadly reunion, she becomes the leader of the very empire she wants to leave.



A character-led global thriller

THE ENGINE

Every attempt Matilde makes to do the right thing creates a new vulnerability—and gives rivals a way to manipulate her.

THE TENSION

Family loyalty collides with self-determination. The people closest to Matilde may be the people most capable of betraying her.

THE WORLD

Portugal's vineyards and coastal cities open into a shadow network spanning Europe, Asia and the Americas.

Format: 7 × 60-minute episodes (proposed) | Genre: international thriller, mystery, character drama

Matilde Urbano: the accidental boss

A dreamer with a dangerous inheritance.

- Wants a vineyard, meaningful work and a life she has chosen for herself.
- Inherits leadership of The 30 before she is ready—or willing—to accept what the role demands.
- Believes her parents intended something better than the organization's brutal legacy.
- Her compassion is a strength, but it can also make her easy to deceive.



A family of competing agendas

RUI URBANO

Matilde's ambitious brother, convinced the leadership should have been his.

WES TURNER

An American outsider and Matilde's boyfriend, offering a glimpse of ordinary life.

NUNO LEÃO

Mentor and kingmaker whose guidance may conceal his own agenda.

LUGER LANDPROV

A dangerous strategist who wants to reshape the balance of power.

ISADORA ROSA

The charismatic Brazilian 'Queen of the Caipirinha,' who knows how to read and exploit people.

DIVISION 89

An obscure Interpol unit pursuing the shadowy organization—and fighting to be taken seriously.

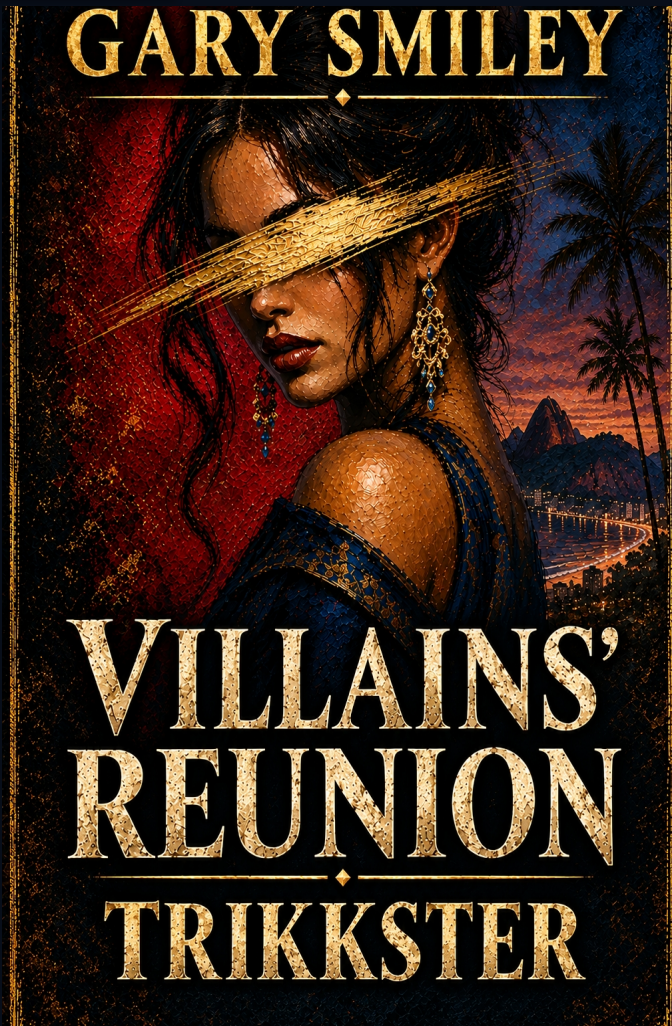
Season One: the escape that becomes an inheritance

Matilde and Rui survive an assassination attempt in the Algarve and flee north. In Aveiro, Matilde tries to disappear into an ordinary life under a new identity—but a pickpocketing incident brings Interpol's Division 89 closer to the family secret.

- A sniper attack destroys Matilde's fragile attempt at anonymity.
- She and Wes escape through Aveiro's streets, canals and bridges.
- A trail leads toward a stolen family portrait and a reunion at Casino Estoril.
- The mission turns into a succession crisis: Matilde becomes leader of The 30.



The next chapter: Villains' Reunion — Trikkster



**Five weeks later, the dream is real.
The cost is, too.**

Matilde is tending vines in the Dão region by day and governing The 30 from a hidden, soundproof 'Doom Room' before dawn. The life she fought for now shares a wall with the criminal empire she cannot seem to escape.

TRIKKSTER is the sequel title.

Trikkster: the trap inside the ledger

- Luger Landprov and Isadora Rosa form an alliance to remove Matilde from power.
- They exploit Matilde's need to believe her parents were reformers, using secret ledgers as bait.
- The ledgers connect powerful Brazilian figures and criminal activity across borders.
- Matilde follows a trail of clues, believing she is uncovering the truth—while her enemies steer her toward a public failure.
- The hunt reaches from Portugal to Brazil and onward through an international web of money, influence and hidden accounts.



The stakes are personal before they are global

MATILDE'S BLIND SPOT

She wants to clear her parents' names—and that longing makes her vulnerable to people who know exactly what she wants to believe.

THE RELATIONSHIP COST

Wes represents the normal future she longs for, but the secrecy and moral compromises of leadership threaten that future.

THE RECKONING

When she realizes she has been manipulated, Matilde must rebuild trust, own her mistakes and reclaim her authority.

At its core: identity, belonging, family, love, leadership and the price of self-determination.

A world built for cinematic contrast

PORTUGAL

Aveiro's canals and alleys. Lisbon's power centers. Casino Estoril. The Dão vineyards and a hidden room beneath a rural home.

BRAZIL

Isadora's cachaça empire, public charm and private alliances. The ledger trail puts powerful interests at risk.

BEYOND

Interpol's international reach, offshore money, secret accounts and a network where art, family history and criminal power intersect.

Wine and cachaça culture ground the thriller in specific places, rituals and livelihoods—not just anonymous global backdrops.

Prestige thriller with wit, intimacy and momentum

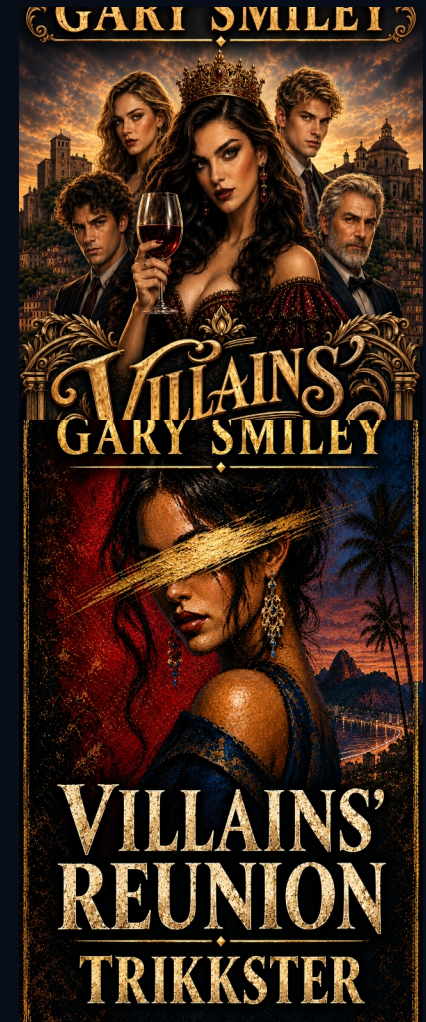
The series pairs the propulsion of an international conspiracy thriller with the emotional pressure of a family drama.

- High-stakes suspense: surveillance, betrayals, secret ledgers, hidden vaults and shifting alliances.
- Character-driven drama: every player believes they are the hero of their own story.
- Moral complexity: Matilde wants to do good while exercising power inside a criminal system.
- Humanity and humor: romantic friction, eccentric mentors and moments of absurdity cut through the danger.

Tone references to discuss: The Night Manager × Succession × The White Lotus.

A continuing series with a clear engine

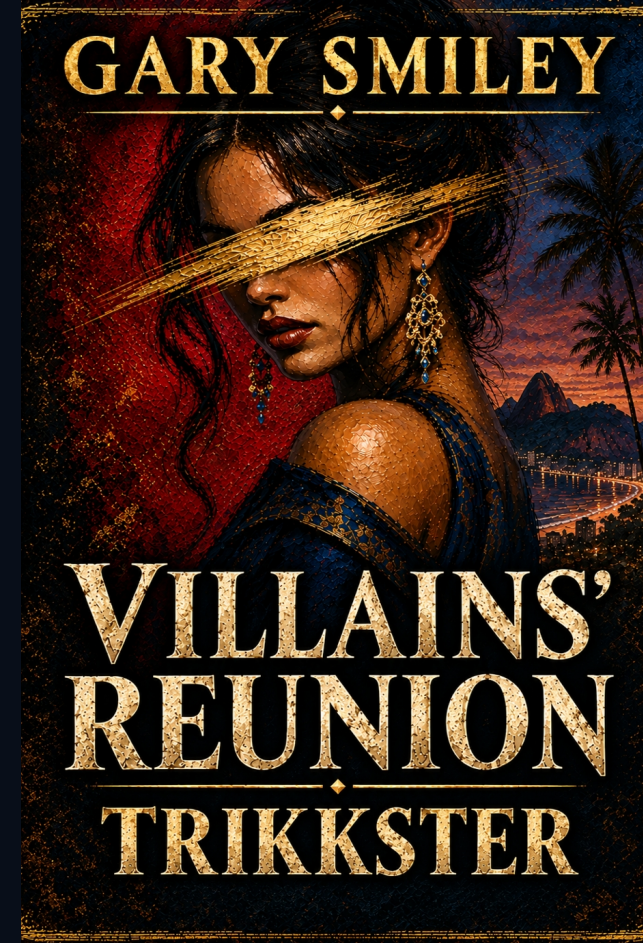
- Each season brings a self-contained international crisis tied to The 30's sprawling network.
- Matilde's central dilemma evolves: reform the organization, control it, or find a way out.
- Rui's ambitions remain a live threat—and a family wound that cannot be neatly closed.
- New countries and industries create fresh worlds while the vineyard remains Matilde's emotional anchor.
- The wider universe supports future seasons across the Americas and beyond, with wine, cachaça and other local cultures woven into the story.



One franchise. Two distinct book identities.



VILLAINS' REUNION



VILLAINS' REUNION: TRIKKSTER

Created by Gary Smiley

Gary Smiley's novels combine international intrigue with character-driven storytelling rooted in Portugal and extending into a wider criminal world.

The series is designed as a premium, internationally accessible drama with a strong female lead, a distinctive sense of place and a continuing story engine. The first novel provides the Season One foundation; Trikkster opens the next chapter.

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