

PILAR MORENO

(Age: 19. Born: 1973)

(This is ALSO her long-term storyline ...)

Pilar lives in the Old Town, with Marcus Tandy. She is, for the moment, his girlfriend. She is not of the area. Not a Costa girl, or a City girl either. She comes from the interior of Spain. Her father is the foreman of a large ranch, where some of the best bulls in the country are bred for fighting. The ranch is owned by a wealthy, aristocratic and old Spanish family the head of which at the moment is a woman. Pilar was the youngest of several children and was for most of her young life accorded the status of servant. The family wasn't exactly poor - indeed her father was so famous and respected in his profession that he was relatively well-paid. (There were even attempts by rival ranches to headhunt him - but he had intense loyalty to the family he'd worked for since he was a boy.) For years Pilar had been unhappy with her situation and her prospects. There were several elder sisters to enter the marriage stakes before her, she was always conveniently forgotten. The possibility of a job wasn't even discussed - she was more useful to the family staying at home all day and being an unpaid housekeeper, or skivvy. And Pilar could imagine that state of affairs continuing into the distant future. It was hard to discuss her feelings. The family was ultra-traditional. The girls stayed home and did the housework. The men went out to work. The girls were lucky if a suitable husband was found for them, and they escaped. Pilar, at 18, could see that she wasn't going to be one of those lucky ones. Unable (mostly forbidden) to express her frustrations she would either have to put-up with things as they were - or, do something which, in her family, would be considered dramatic. Pilar went for the latter - raided her father's wallet, borrowed from a sister, and ran away ... She hitched, walked her shoes into

the ground and slept rough. Eventually she reached the coast. (She'd only been to the sea twice before in her life.) She looked a mess, made worse by the fact that all the other young people she saw looked clean, scrubbed and colourful. Fashionable, even. (Well - fashionable in Pilar's provincial eyes ...) She had little money, nowhere to stay and was famished. She was also in constant fear that at any second her father or one of her brothers would turn up to take her back home. Her first meal was at Burger-King ...

She spent her first night sleeping on the steps of the Scandinavian Church in Fuengirola. She awoke, depressed and tired, and already starting to regret what she'd done ... She bought some food for breakfast from the market, and started asking around for work and accommodation. Pretty soon she heard that they were looking for people (men?) to work at the riding-stables just outside the main town ... She knew about horses - had grown up with them - would that give her a greater chance at getting a job? She slogged to the stables and applied (to a Spaniard) for a job. In turning her down, he almost laughed ... As she was leaving, the English partner arrived, and wanted to know what was going on. He was told and he seemed to think that she should be taken on. She was given an 'audition' and proved to be more adept at riding and looking after horses than the owners. It was, after all, second-nature to her. She was taken on and - for the time being at any rate - could get board and lodgings at the home of the Spaniard and his wife. (She'd be expected to help out around the house with cooking and cleaning ... THAT was second-nature, too, of course!) She settled into the job well and over the weeks had enough cash left over to buy herself some little luxuries - like clothes and make-up ... The things she really had her heart set on (like the Walkman) would have to wait ... As she got up her courage she started to venture into the town some evenings at the weekend. Soon she found herself within her own group of friends ... Girls her own age - town girls-

who adopted her like a pet ... One night they all went to a disco ... it was cheaper for girls, as they were allowed in free ... And who should be there (and the first to ask for a dance) but her English employer. The other girls were jealous as hell as Marcus was something of a dish ... He flashed his money around and bought them all drinks ... For the first time in her life, Pilar got a bit tiddly ... He invited ^{her} home - for coffee and to sober up - but she refused ... From then on, at the stables, he paid her extra special attention. The next time they met at a disco and he invited her back to his place, she refused again. But the third time, she accepted ... Communication was difficult. He knew a LITTLE Spanish and she knew only a few standard expressions that she needed to be able to speak to the tourists ... They managed ... Marcus was very charming and romantic. This wasn't exactly new to Pilar - she'd experienced the same from the boys in the village. But, she LIKED Marcus ... (And he was solvent - rich, even... He could be a way out and the answer to her prayers.) Sex wasn't as awful as she feared it might be ... Maybe it was because Marcus was very experienced at this sort of thing ... They started a relationship. Her English improved as did his Spanish ... She continued working at the stables for a while till he suggested she junk it - he didn't really like his lady working. This seemed fine at first. A 'lady of leisure' who could get up in the morning late - have lunch out ... sleep in the afternoon and dance all night ... And he bought her wonderful gifts. Clothes and jewellery ... She looked wonderful and sexy on the end of his arm, and they made a great couple ... She even got her Walkman. But, he was difficult ... He could be moody and argumentative - even though, in the middle of rows, she only understood every fifth word ... And she became scared of him: behind the words there seemed to be a threat of violence. She kept cool, and left him in control. She didn't want trouble - but also she didn't want to be thrown out into the street. She may be acquiring 'things', but she never got any cash - and, if he did kick her out,

he'd probably demand the things back. If she wasn't careful she could end up exactly as she'd started. Under the influence and power of someone else she felt almost as if she'd never left home ... Marcus would go off for hours (days sometimes) and leave her on her own, and she was starting to get bored ... She wanted something to DO. What she actually wanted was a JOB. All her life she'd been a worker - now she was getting withdrawal symptoms ... Shopping at the supermarket one day she got into conversation with the woman at the checkout, who was also the owner. They were looking for someone to help out ... in the supermarket during the day and in their pizza-parlour (an annexe of their restaurant) during the evening ... Would Pilar be interested? She was ... But, how to tell Marcus? When she did tell him - he went mad ... No woman of his was going to be working at a supermarket checkout ... and dashing round the town at night on a scooter delivering pizzas. They had a fight - and for the first time he almost hit her ... She fled out of the flat and straight to the restaurant, and accepted both jobs that had been on offer. The woman and her husband found her somewhere temporary to stay and she started work the next morning. That meant early start cleaning at the supermarket and stacking shelves and then opening up and serving ... Then, it was siesta ... then it was open up again ... Then, a short break and off to the Pizza place ... Long hours and exhausting work - but she got a great buzz out of it and loved the people ... She liked them especially because they didn't ask questions about her home life. After about a week, Marcus turned up at the supermarket. Fearing the worst Pilar was suddenly scared. But he smiled and was charming and asked her - please? - to come back ... It was the first time that Pilar had experienced feelings of power. He wanted her back, and he was obviously prepared for her to continue working. Pilar agreed ... Controlling and manipulating Marcus became an important part of the relationship. Useful when they were in bed - when he was inclined to get a bit too rough for Pilar's taste ...

^{know}
(She doesn't/it, but her lover is Antibody Positive.)