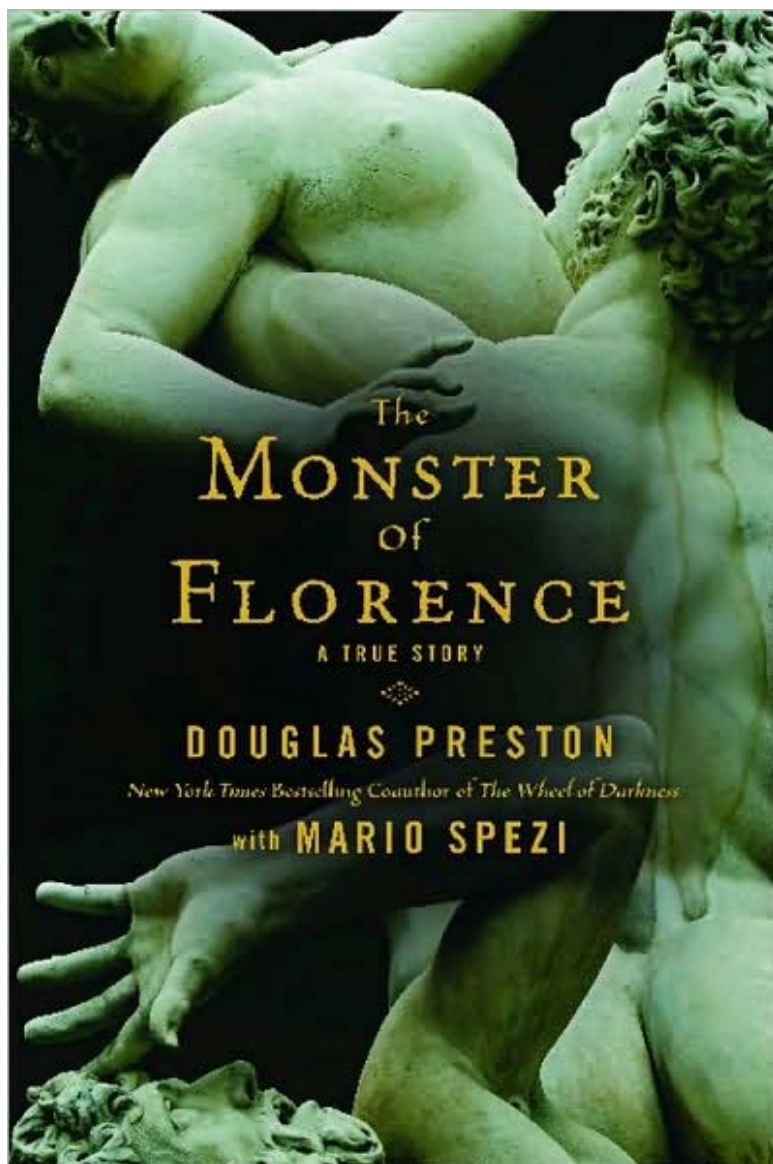


The Monster of Florence

by Douglas Preston & Mario Spezi

Reviewed by Beth Andrewes – 3/12/2010



The authors, an American writer and an Italian reporter, collaborated on this well written story of 12 still unsolved and gruesome murders of young couples in the 1990s near Florence, Italy. Eventually one author was put on the 'not allowed to visit Italy' list and the other put in prison for a short time. Their reporting highly offended the prosecutors because the suspects the authors came up with were much more viable than theirs and the prosecutors wanted a quick fix, fame and a move higher up the judicial ladder, regardless of whom the real murderer was. By the end of the book you find out who the authors suspect and why - and you will agree with them.

The Italian justice system moves at a glacial pace, as anyone who has followed the Amanda Knox trial has come to realize. Interestingly enough, the Public Minister of Perugia, Mignini, who relied heavily on a dubious psychic to find evidence in the Monster of Florence case (only in Italy!) where there was none and who was finally censured, with others, late in the case, is the **same** person running the case against Amanda Knox!

Do not expect a fast paced real crime thriller. This is a true story rich in details about a series of crimes that could easily have been solved and about an inept and corrupt Italian judicial system that shows no signs of changing.

~ Beth Andrewes

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