



# **Murder in Italy: The Shocking Slaying of a British Student, the Accused American Girl, and an International Scandal**

*By Candace Dempsey*

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**MURDER IN ITALY** (Penguin/Berkley Books) is the true story of fresh-faced Amanda Knox, the American college student convicted of killing her beautiful British roommate in an Umbrian hilltop town.

Did Amanda stab Meredith Kercher to death during a marijuana-fueled "sex game gone wrong," as the prosecution claimed? Or could she be innocent?

**\*Get the real story behind the tabloid headlines and secrets that weren't revealed in court.**

**This is Eat, Pray, Love gone horribly wrong. Under the Tuscan Sun on the dark side.**

**John Grisham couldn't invent this plot or cast of characters:**

**Two lovely young women adore Italy and go there to study.**

**Only a few months into their Italian dream adventure, one roommate is stabbed to death; the other is sentenced to 26 years for that killing. The prosecutor claims Amanda killed Meredith during a drug-fueled orgy assisted by Knox's rich Italian boyfriend and a drifter she barely knew.**

**So who killed Meredith Kercher? How did Amanda Knox become the prime suspect? Was justice done?**

**Based in Seattle, Knox's hometown, the award-winning, Italian-American journalist Candace Dempsey unravels the mystery, drawing upon trial transcripts, autopsy photos, crime scene videos, prison diaries, Facebook pages and interviews with the key players for the prosecution and the defense in Perugia, Italy, where she flew often to cover the events up close.**

**Dempsey covered this sensational case from the very beginning on her true crime blog, hosted by seattle pi.com, featured on Newsweek.com and CNN Anderson Cooper 360, and read around the world.**

**From the publisher:**

**The true story behind the notorious international murder**

**In Perugia, Italy, on November 2, 2007, police discovered the body of a British college student stabbed to death in her bedroom. The prosecutor alleged that the brutal murder had occurred during a drug-fueled sex game gone wrong. Her housemate, American honor student Amanda Knox, quickly became the prime suspect and soon found herself the star of a sensational international story, both vilified and eroticized by the tabloids and the Internet.**

**Award-winning Italian-American journalist Candace Dempsey gives readers a front-row seat at the trial and reveals the real story behind the media frenzy.**

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

MURDER IN ITALY by Candace Dempsey was the first book published on the Meredith Kercher murder and it remains one of the very best, beautifully researched, well-written, and clearly organized. Dempsey was the first journalist in the United States to raise questions about the Amanda Knox case, and the first to look deeply into the facts and begin to uncover the shocking truth. If you want to know the real story of this enormous travesty of justice that sent an innocent American girl to an Italian prison for four years, you must read this book, reprinted after Knox's acquittal with a new ending. --Douglas Preston, co-author of *The Monster of Florence*.

**\*Winner Best True Crime Book 2010 Editor's Choice and Reader's Choice awards.**

**\*Library Journal Bestseller.**

Murder in Italy, a real-life mystery as compelling and terrifying as any work of fiction. --P. Segal, *Femme Noir*

I think Candace Dempsey has written the definitive book about the arrest and trial of Amanda Knox. I found it to be fair and quite objective. It reads like a novel, yet is dense with details most people don't know. --Frank Shier, KIRO 97.3 Radio

Candace Dempsey's accuracy and fairness while examining the evidence made her one of the most knowledgeable American journalists on the case. --Ashleen Aguilar, *The Daily of the University of Washington*

Reporter Candace Dempsey has grabbed hold of the true-crime story of a lifetime --Jim Kershner, *The Spokesman-Review*

Shocking headlines exploded to tabloid proportions claimed Amanda Knox and boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito murdered Kercher in an evil sex game. Was this young woman capable of murder? Read **Murder In Italy** and find out. --Dana Neuts for *Virtually Yourz*

Murder In Italy is a fascinating read... a thorough account and timeline of the events relating to Meredith's murder, immensely helpful in understanding the case against Amanda, Raffaele and Rudy Guede. -- *Seattlest*

From the Author

**Candace Dempsey talks candidly about *Murder in Italy*, the true story of Amanda Knox, the U.S. college student convicted of killing Meredith Kercher her college roommate. Interview by Amy Mikel of *Seattlest***

**I'm a Italian-American writer whose life got sideswiped by the Amanda Knox case.** Before I got pulled in, I'd been a magazine editor, a newspaper editor and a Web producer at MSN. I'd written for many newspapers and magazines, including *The Chicago Tribune*, and many of my travel stories had been anthologized. I fully intended to do a travel book called "From Rome to Africa," but once I began covering

Amanda's case, I couldn't write about anything else.

Everything changed in November 2007. I'd just returned from the Rome to Tunisia adventure when I heard that British student Meredith Kercher had been murdered in Perugia, Seattle's sister city. Amanda Knox, the main suspect, was from Seattle, my hometown. She was an honor student at the University of Washington.

All of that struck me as horribly ironic and sad. Because who hasn't dreamed of Italy? Who wouldn't want to study there? I'd dreamed of doing that myself, but I'm the middle child of seven children. I worked my way through college. I could barely afford my tuition, let alone anything extra.

### **Why has the Amanda Knox case mesmerized the world?**

It's a once-in-a century crime story. Sex, drugs, lies, videotape, money, beautiful young people. Characters that John Grisham couldn't invent. Trial by media in Italy, the U.S. and the U.K. Paparazzi. British tabloids. Facebook, MySpace, leaked diaries, wiretaps, a prosecutor under indictment.

It reads like a novel, but it's all true: Two lovely college students from two different nations dream of studying in a hilltop town and become roommates. Right after Halloween night, one roommate is stabbed to death; the other is locked up for killing her. Why? How? What does it mean? Who's telling the truth?

The Amanda Knox case is a train wreck. I couldn't look away. I still can't.

### **When did you start covering the Amanda Knox case?**

Right away. I wrote about Meredith's horrific murder on my blog, hosted by [seattlepi.com](http://seattlepi.com), and got a tremendous reaction from all over the world. But nobody wanted to talk about the victim. They only wanted to shout about this horrible Amanda Knox, aka "Angel Face," "Foxy Knoxy," "Luciferina." The girl the Italians called "a huntress of men, insatiable in bed." I didn't know anything about Amanda Knox. Didn't know anybody who knew her. But my readers wanted her lynched. They said it was too bad that Italy didn't have the electric chair.

That made me curious. Who killed Meredith Kercher? How did Amanda Knox become the prime suspect? Could she possibly be innocent?

In those days Amanda Knox's guilt was simply assumed, everywhere in the world. She was Meredith's killer. Case closed. I wondered how we could be so sure. She was an excellent student and had no motive. No criminal record. She'd known Raffaele Sollecito, her boyfriend and supposed co-conspirator, only six days. Raffaele had never met Rudy Guede, their alleged co-conspirator.

So I started checking the facts. I wrote "Trial by Trollerazzi," and "What If She's Innocent?" I reaped the whirlwind. I got attacked all over the blogosphere. *Murder in Italy* grew out of all that.

### **Can you give me a rough timeline of how *Murder in Italy* came together?**

In February 2008, I pitched *Murder in Italy* at the Whidbey Island Writers' Conference. By then I had many sources in Italy and the U.S. and was working on the Amanda Knox case 24/7. At Whidbey I met thriller writer William Dietrich, a Pulitzer-prize winning investigative reporter, and he gave me tips on how to research a crime tale. He referred me to his agent, Andrew Stuart, who sold *Murder In Italy* to Penguin/Berkley Books.

Also at Whidbey I met Erik Larson, the author of *The Devil in the White City* and he advised me to

write *Murder in Italy* in chronological order, focusing on Meredith Kercher and Amanda Knox. That's what I did.

Instead of just reproducing the courtroom drama, I used the testimony to weave a mystery story, a la Ann Rule of Seattle, my favorite crime writer. The book unfolds like a movie, starting with a happy Italian Halloween. I divided it into three acts, ending with Amanda and Raffaele's conviction.

**Were you ever concerned that you wouldn't be able to get your hands on enough of the source material to research and write a book?**

Never. Perugia is like a true crime store. Italians leak everything from autopsy photos to letters, diaries, videos, and wiretaps. All of those I used in the book, along with the courtroom testimony. I went to Perugia often, at great personal expense, and interviewed the key players, including prosecutor Giuliano Mignini. In addition, the suspects all kept Facebooks, MySpace pages. I interviewed Amanda's family and friends, in Seattle and Perugia. I was in court when Meredith's friends testified; I used their actual words in the book, never needing to invent or exaggerate anything. As one tabloid reporter said in regards to the amount of information out there, "It was a feast."

In fact, my only problem was trimming the book down. My fabulous editor, Shannon Jamieson Vasquez, said I had enough for eight books. She's Italian-American, had studied in Perugia, is fluent in Italian, and had edited many mystery books. She helped me decide what to leave in, what to take out.

**What has the overall reaction been to your book?**

I love it when people tell me that *Murder in Italy* reads like a novel. That means I've told a good tale, as well as done the hard reporting. I also like it when people come to my readings, have opposite ideas about Amanda's guilt, and yet can have civil conversations. That never happens on the Internet, where everything is polarized and vicious. I've had husbands and wives disagree completely about the case and yet tell me that they enjoyed talking to each other about my book. I also love to hear from readers and find out what they think.

From the Back Cover

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## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Patricia Rodrigue:**

Hey guys, do you would like to finds a new book to study? May be the book with the concept Murder in Italy: The Shocking Slaying of a British Student, the Accused American Girl, and an International Scandal suitable to you? Often the book was written by well known writer in this era. Typically the book untitled Murder in Italy: The Shocking Slaying of a British Student, the Accused American Girl, and an International Scandalis the main of several books in which everyone read now. This kind of book was inspired a number of people in the world. When you read this reserve you will enter the new shape that you ever know prior to. The author explained their idea in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to know the core of this e-book. This book will give you a lot of information about this world now. In order to see the represented of the world with this book.

**Miguel Willis:**

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book specifically book entitled Murder in Italy: The Shocking Slaying of a British Student, the Accused American Girl, and an International Scandal your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a reserve then become one type conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get ahead of. The Murder in Italy: The Shocking Slaying of a British Student, the Accused American Girl, and an International Scandal giving you an additional experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful facts for your better life with this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

**Suzanne Brooke:**

E-book is one of source of information. We can add our expertise from it. Not only for students but additionally native or citizen have to have book to know the revise information of year to be able to year. As we know those guides have many advantages. Beside many of us add our knowledge, may also bring us to around the world. By the book Murder in Italy: The Shocking Slaying of a British Student, the Accused American Girl, and an International Scandal we can acquire more advantage. Don't you to be creative people? To be creative person must like to read a book. Only choose the best book that suited with your aim. Don't always be doubt to change your life at this time book Murder in Italy: The Shocking Slaying of a British Student, the Accused American Girl, and an International Scandal. You can more desirable than now.

**Joseph Robison:**

A lot of people said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a publication. They are directly felt that when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose the actual book Murder in Italy: The Shocking Slaying of a British Student, the Accused American Girl, and an International Scandal to make your reading is interesting. Your own personal skill of reading skill is developing when you including reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the impression about book and looking at especially. It is to be initial opinion for you to like to open a book and study it. Beside that the book Murder in Italy: The Shocking Slaying of a British Student, the Accused American Girl, and an International Scandal can to be your brand new friend when you're feel alone and confuse in doing what must you're doing of this time.

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