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Rick Montoya takes a break from his translation business in Rome to join his college buddy Flavio in the Italian Alps. Heavy snow has brought enthusiastic skiers to the picturesque ski town of Campiglio, where the food tastes even better after a day on the slopes. But Rick's holiday is interrupted when a body is found in the deep snow under a ski lift. With a push from his uncle, an Italian policeman in Rome, Rick is drawn into the investigation. The victim is an American banker, but the suspects are all Italian. Well, all except the dead man's beautiful sister, now the sole heir to the family fortune.

As Rick and an eccentric local policeman poke around Campiglio, small town politics and personal rivalries quickly widen the list of suspects. There's the bombastic mayor and his ex-wife, a cut-throat real estate investor, the victim's lanky landlord, a hotel owner, and even the gray-haired lady who runs the best bakery in the valley. But whoever is behind the murder, they don't seem pleased with Rick's involvement in the investigation, if two suspicious brushes with danger are any indication.

Rick's vacation is proving to be more demanding than his normal work routine in Rome. Between the investigation and fending off the lovely heiress, he hardly finds any time to ski with Flavio. But the murderer must be found, or Rick himself could become another victim.

Death in the Dolomites Details

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Author : David P. Wagner

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loretta says

I love this series more with each new book. I'm traveling to Italy without leaving my house! Though the real thing would be better, these mysteries are the next best thing. This little mystery got a little confusing with all the various characters and actions, but it's so pleasant to be in Italy with Rick Montoya as he works and dines that I'm willing to sort it all out.

Brace1737 says

Rick Montoya goes for a nice quiet weekend of skiing and gets far more than he bargained for. He is asked to translate during a murder investigation. Will he end up the next victim?

I have enjoyed the other novels in this series. This one could have used better pacing.

Susan says

uh-oh

You know a mystery is in trouble when a new character is introduced late in the book.

Nevertheless, I enjoyed this second Rick Montoya Italian Mystery. Montoya is a translator with dual Italian and American citizenship. His uncle is a high-ranking policeman in Rome, so Rick finds himself pressed into service, officially as a translator / liaison between Italian police and the murder victim's American sister, but as a de facto investigator when he finds himself a target.

I enjoyed the novel, but I would have liked it better if the whole range of suspects had been introduced from the beginning - for my own sleuthing satisfaction!

LadyTechie says

I really did love Death in the Dolomites! I received an early release copy in exchange for a review and I am truly sorry it took me so long to read it. I did not realize there was a previous book in the series when I started it. I had to stop and find a copy of the first book which my library borrowed a copy for me to read. I wish I had read it a long time ago because it really has kicked up my longing for going back to Italy. This time, Rick is skiing with his college buddy Flavio in Campiglio which is great because this is an actual town

in Italy. The details given by the author were so vivid that I literally could see some of it in my mind while I read. I love books that do such a wonderful job with location and imagery.

While Rick was visiting Campiglio, a police detective from a nearby town comes because another American visiting Campiglio with his sister has disappeared. The other police detective requests Rick's assistance with translating to English with the missing man's sister. I love Rick. He is a regular man who has a diverse background. He has family in Rome, an uncle who would really love for Rick to become a police detective despite Rick's mom's opinion. Rick becomes deeply enmeshed in the mystery because as things go in small towns, everyone knows everyone, even the visitors. This means not much goes on with the investigation that everyone in town doesn't see or hear about. This becomes quite dangerous for Rick. I found it very interesting that everyone underestimated Luca, who was an obviously intelligent man that came to the same conclusion for who was the murderer as Rick but, through different means and experiences. Flavio was also a great character in this book and I hope to see more of him in future books. I am a huge fan of the food and wine talk in the books also. It gives the reader a great experience with how it is to eat in Italy if you do things the way Italians do when visiting Italy. I look forward to the next book in this series! Review can also be seen at LadyTechie's Book Musings <http://ladytechiesbookmusings.blogspot.com> .

Alan says

Very good murder mystery set in the Italian Dolomite town of Campiglio. Rick Montoya, son of a New Mexican diplomat and an Italian mother, works as a translator in Rome. He is up in the Dolomites for a skiing vacation with his university friend, Flavio, when he is again pulled into a murder investigation. Fun. Lots of good food, pastries and wine.

Lorrie says

This mystery is set in a quaint skiing town in the Italian Alps. I don't ski, but the author made this little town sound so enticing, I'd love to visit it one day. I really liked the interpreter's character, Riccardo, as well as the Italian investigators. I pictured all of them dressed to the nines at all times. They were all so gentlemanly. I did have a bit of trouble keeping up with the remainder of the characters because there were quite a few. I like trying to figure out the who-dun-it myself when I'm reading a mystery, but it was a little difficult with this book. This is why I gave it 4 stars. Overall, it was a pleasant reading experience.

I received an e-copy of this book from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.

Victor Gentile says

David P. Wagner in his new book, "Death in the Dolomites" Book Two in the A Rick Montoya Italian Mystery series published by Poisoned Pen Press gives us another adventure with Rick Montoya.

From the back cover: Rick Montoya is looking forward to a break from his translation business in Rome—a week of skiing in the Italian Alps with old college buddy Flavio. But Rick's success helping the Italian police with a murder in Tuscany sends the Campiglio cops his way. An American banker working in Milano is missing. The man's sister, an attractive and spoiled divorcée, has no idea where he could be, nor do the

locals who saw him on his way to the slopes. With the discovery of a body, Rick and Inspector Albani widen their list of suspects. Picturesque resort Campiglio harbors old rivalries, citizens on the make, and a cut-throat political campaign. Why would these local issues, any of them, connect to the missing banker?

The investigation doesn't keep Rick and Flavio from enjoying perfect ski conditions in the Dolomites and glorious after-ski wines and bowls of fresh pasta. As for women—Rick has to wonder if the banker's sister is just hitting him up for information. The action heats up, testing laid-back Rick whose uncle, a Roman cop, keeps urging him to make the police his career.

As in *Cold Tuscan Stone*, *Death in the Dolomites* immerses us in the sights, smells and tastes of Italy, this time in a picture-perfect Alpine town with a surprising negative side.

The cover is the first thing that draws you in to this story. I don't usually mention covers but this one is just too spectacular for words. It is a picture of Campiglio where the story takes place. I haven't even opened the book yet and I am already there. That is the beauty of this book not only are we out to solve a murder, which I am pretty sure you won't be able to do, but we are on a tourist holiday in this stunningly beautiful town. Murders happen everywhere and there are investigators in Greece, France and England however I have never found an investigator in Italy. Rick Montoya is the first one and he is very good at it. Danger, mayhem, thrills and murder all figure into this highly complicated plot. There are fascinating characters that seem very real and a killer that seems impossible to discover. "Death in the Dolomites" is loaded with twists and turns and red herrings that will leave you guessing all the while you are flipping pages to find out what happens next. Mr. Wagner has provided us with a fairly exciting book.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Partners In Crime. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Eugene says

Another entertaining read. The mystery is fine, and kept me wondering "whodunnit" til the end. Personally, it grabbed me because of its setting so near my US Army experience in Vicenza Italy, even mentioning Carlo Ederle, the base at which I was stationed, as well as Bolzano nearby in the foothills of the Italian Alps. Great memories of a great place, made the whole read fun for me! Read the 1st in the series just recently and liked it, this is just as good.

Lynn says

Not as strong as 1 or 3 but still very enjoyable. I really like this series and appreciate the settings which have all been slightly off the main tourist path.

Anne Slater says

Loved this book. Wagner is a worthy companion to Donna Leon in presenting north-eastern Italy to

Americans in the form of mystery stories.

This one, a solid successor to his previous book (title eluding me-- Cold Stone in Tuscany?), tells us about the Dolomite Alps in NE Italy: the skiing, the food (I am inspired to make "involtini"-- veal cutlets stuffed w/ mushrooms, parmesan, bread crumbs then rolled up [involtate] and browned...), the tourists vs the homies, the economy, the wood carving, the politics of small town tourist business tussles. OH, and the wine.

No suspension of disbelief necessary, and a charmingly discrete indication of the main character's relationship with a lovely secondary character-- as well as her reaction after the mystery is solved.

Seriously, this is FUN and made me desperate to go back to Italy.

Sharon Mensing says

The characters in DEATH IN THE DOLOMITES are not particularly well developed, but I didn't even miss that aspect of the book because the food and location take center stage. Wagner does an outstanding job of transporting the reader to the Italian Alps. Rick Montoya is on vacation at the ski resort town of Campiglio, when a body is found buried in the snow by some snowboarders. Rick, a translator whose uncle has been pushing him to enter the police force, is pressed into service to help the local detective because he speaks English, the language of the murdered man's sister.

The investigation moves around town and the slopes as Montoya and Inspector Albani uncover the small town politics and sample the wonderful food. The dishes that Rick and his old college friend, Flavio, eat are described in great detail -- so much so that I often found myself wanting to get busy in the kitchen. Reading about the pastries at the bakery almost inspired me to take up baking since there's nothing so delicious available in our own small town. Flavio is a wine merchant, and the wine pairings were also lovingly described. I will definitely be picking up some prosecco on my next trip to the wine store!

While none of the characters is fully fleshed out, the social connections between them are brought to life in a way that provides an understanding of the workings of the town that is more than the sum of the individuals. The plot is complex and based on the various individuals in town. Throughout the investigation, different characters' possible motivations emerge, and it the reader is kept guessing. The location and the slopes provide more than a very attractive backdrop, serving as a part of the plot themselves.

This was a very enjoyable book. It will appeal most to readers who like a foreign setting.

Christine Zibas says

Back with the second installment of the Rick Montoya series, Author David Wagner again takes his readers deep into the heart of Italy, this time to the Dolomites, or Italian Alps. Skiing in the tiny town of Campiglio is well under way, when an American banker based in Milan goes missing. His American sister has come for a visit, and she is the one who alerts police to his absence.

However, the American sister is acting very strangely and is soon ladling out all her feminine charms in heavy doses on Rick Montoya. An American translator based in Rome, Montoya is there on holiday with an

old college friend from the town of Campiglio, who seems to know everyone in town. Montoya is soon called upon by the police to help bridge the language barrier with the sister and assist in the investigation (of course, the fact that Montoya's uncle is a high ranking police official who thinks Montoya has a gift for police work doesn't hurt).

Soon it becomes clear that this small vacation hamlet is awash in intrigue, both political and financial, and this American's disappearance brings all that to the fore. As Rick becomes more and more involved in the investigation, it turns riskier and riskier for his own safety and for those around him.

While this mystery follows a tried and true formula, there's plenty to enjoy along the way (in addition to figuring out whodunit). The author is very adept at painting a charming portrait of this area of Italy, as well as giving readers wonderful insight into the food and wine of the region. Solving a murder requires adequate fuel, and lavish dinners and breaks for espresso and pastries are all part of the fun. Anyone who enjoys Italian life will love this series, and Wagner does not disappoint with this second book.

Review first appeared on ReviewingtheEvidence.com.

Doseofbella says

Death in the Dolomites (A Rick Montoya Mystery)

By: David P. Wagner Pages 230

Poisoned Pen Press 2014

Copy Courtesy of Goodreads First Read

Reviewed by: tk

The cover gives only a hint at the beauty described; of this Italian village Campiglio. The scene is set in breathless mountains. The town has quaint specialty shopping described to be somewhere you would like to be. The food, wine, pastries, and conversations are just part of the daily rituals.

In the mist of this beauty is Rick Montoya here on vacation, and asked to help out in the investigation of a murdered man.

A captivating who-do-it. A body found at a beautiful Italian village. The identity is an easy solve, whoever the killer is...not so easy. The village has a grand cast of characters. Their individual stories are riveting, yet who killed this man will have you guessing to the very end.

Looking for a scenic mystery...this is for you. A great afternoon read. 4/5

William Knight says

I felt as if I was in the Italian alps along with the characters. The word pictures drawn by Mr. Wagner drew

me into the story completely.

The plot had enough twists to keep me guessing clear to the end of the book. Now I want to go skiing in Italy.

Cissa says

I really wanted to like this mystery -- it has elements I enjoy a lot, such as a solid sense of a place I've never been, attention paid to the food as part of the atmosphere, and lots of characters, each with their own agendas.

However, it very reliably put me to sleep within a few pages.

I spent the last half of the novel speculating about this, between naps. Why? It's not badly written, and I've read far worse novels that yet kept me reading.

I think the flaw for me was that it was so dispassionate. No one seemed to care one way or another about the victim, or finding his killer, and in many ways the crime was resolved only by accident, while everyone was pretty much on vacation. Even the professional cop seemed to have rather less interest in finding the killer than in his new hat, and what pastry he would eat next with his espresso. Calling the approach "lackadaisical" gives it rather more credit than it deserves.

And I am not at all sure that the solution, once discovered, makes any amount of sense ... but I was far too bored by it at that point to want to go back and check.

It is competently written, and has an interesting sense of place. The characters are ciphers, though, and there is no tension, even when persons unknown are attempting to murder Our Hero before all is revealed. In fact, I think more energy was spent on lunch choices than that! It's too bad that the food writing, like the rest, was descriptive but not evocative.

I'd recommend this only to people who want a soothing read with utterly no challenges whatsoever.

I got this book from Rambles.com in exchange for writing an objective review.
