



The Dante Conspiracy: An explosive novella you won't be able to put down

James Becker

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An ancient secret means the difference between life or death in this chilling thriller, perfect for readers of Dan Brown

When the body of a poetry professor is found tortured in a deserted barn outside Florence, **Inspector Perini** is assigned to the case.

No murder of passion, it is clearly a professional job. When, hours later, thieves break into Dante's cenotaph, it seems the two crimes may be connected by some missing verses from the 'Divine Comedy'.

They could contain a code so valuable someone is willing to murder for it. But who? And why? As the bodies pile up, Inspector Perini is in a deadly race to find the secret before the killers.

The truth will prove more shocking and dangerous than he could have imagined...

***The Dante Conspiracy* is a chilling thriller perfect for fans of Dan Brown, Steve Berry and Alex Connor.**

'An edge-of-the-seat thriller, with fantastic historical detail' Robert Foster, bestselling author of *The Lunar Code*

The Dante Conspiracy: An explosive novella you won't be able to put down Details

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From Reader Review The Dante Conspiracy: An explosive novella you won't be able to put down for online ebook

Matt says

A great fan of James Becker's work, I was pleased to come across this novella that mixes a police procedural with some Italian literary history. Professor Antonio Bertorelli is found tortured and murdered after an apparent struggle, though it is not entirely clear who might want to harm him. When Sergeant Cesare Lombardi and Inspector Silvio Perini arrive at the scene, they are equally confused, but soon learn that Bertorelli was quite knowledgeable when it came to Dante's *Divine Comedy*, having penned an interesting academic article on the topic only weeks before. In the article, Bertorelli posits that Dante may have written an alternate part to his famous work, or at least amended it with some clues to another important document that he wished could come to light. As Lombardi and Perini seek to find the killer and get to the root of this homicide, there are a few hooded men who have been trying to crack Dante's code themselves, ready to stop at nothing to hoard the results for themselves. Lombardi and Perini find themselves surrounded by Italian history as they sift through much of the time in which Dante lived, hoping to better understand what the killers sought. What they find may shock not only historians keen on the period, but the larger academic community. Becker does a wonderful job keeping the reader hooked with this novella, mixing history and mystery into a brief piece of writing. Recommended for those who enjoy Becker's past work as well as the curious reader who likes historical mysteries.

I tend to find that James Becker not only packs a punch with his writing abilities, but fills each story with so much history that the reader cannot help but go away knowing so much more. This piece is no exception, as Becker pushes a thirteenth/fourteenth century historical mystery into the early narrative and does not let it go until the final chapter. With so little time to explore character development, Lombardi and Perini receive much of their connection to the reader through the sleuthing that they do. They ask the poignant questions and posit interesting solutions to issues throughout, keeping the reader feeling as though they are part of the investigation. The story moves forward at a clipped pace, mixing investigation of the murder with a great deal of history related to Dante. The story offers up both the man's place in the larger Italian community as well as information about the *Divine Comedy* in general. Becker does not pull any punches, flooding the piece with a great deal of fact in order to push the narrative in a certain direction. I was happy to go along for the ride, admittedly hoping that much of what I was being told could be grounded in fact and not fallacy in order to spice up the story. Becker always seeks to reveal new aspects of history to keep his reader wondering and searching for more information. This novella was surely no exception.

Kudos, Mr. Becker, for another wonderful historical mystery. I am eager to get my hands on more of your work, as you seem to be churning out some interesting standalone pieces at the moment.

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<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

A Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

Rosalyn says

Fast paced well written and very enjoyable. Love the historical references and the twist at the end is very believable.

Carl says

Becker's "The Dante Conspiracy" was advertised as "an explosive novella you won't be able to put down." Well, I am not sure I would go that far, but it was a good book – but certainly not explosive. It did start off with a "bang," and the action did keep moving most of the time. The book is touted like a short Dan Brown novel, but really the only comparison was the use of Dante and Dante's mask. The plot did reveal a series of Dante related clues that are systematically unraveled to get at the truth – to solve the mystery.

The story opens with the torture of Professor Bertorelli, whose tortured body is later found. When Inspector Silvio Perini and Sergeant Cesare Lombardi arrive at the scene, they are equally confused; who would want to harm a harmless and elderly professor? In time, the only small clue they discover was the Professor's discovery of a possible ancient text - possible missing verses from the 'Divine Comedy' - by Dante. And the mystery commences with break-ins, murder, and several groups trying to solve the meaning of the discovered words. Becker well-crafted plot keeps the reader hooked, mixing action, suspense, history and mystery into this novella.
