

Jesus Cloned? Lupieri and Foster Discuss Their Theological “Gialli”

While Dan Brown and “The Da Vinci Code” continued to make headlines, a few days ago the husband and wife team of Edmondo Lupieri and Linda Foster scared up some interest in their new book, “Il Patto: Un thriller teologico,” (Edizioni Diabasis, 2005), a mystery novel with a religious twist at a presentation at N.Y.U.’s Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò on February 28. The book, whose title translates as “The Pact: A Theological Thriller,” spins a tale of fire breaking out in the Guarini Cappella in Turin, where the Holy Shroud is enshrined and venerated. The Shroud is rescued and removed, but a mysterious association has its eyes on a blood-soaked thread that contains the genetic blueprint for cloning the Man behind the Shroud. The couple’s previous novel, “Nel Segno del Sangue,” (Edizioni della Laguna, 2003), fascinated readers with its 70-year-old Italian-American protagonist who returns to Italy to create a “Center of Religious Studies,” only to find blood and murder. Mr. Lupieri is a History of Christianity professor at the University of Udine and a contributor to *US Italia Weekly*; Los Angeles-born Ms. Foster is a teacher. The couple will participate in a colloquium on the state of the Italian mystery novel at Rutgers University on Monday, April 3 at 4:30 p.m. For more on their work: www.giallitudine.it