

Blood in the Snow by Franco Marks

2 stars

Is it suicide or murder in this Alpine village?

The setting of this book looked promising - a beautiful Italian Alpine village, popular with tourists for skiing - so what followed was very disappointing.

The story centres around Marzio Santini, who after a stint as a 'top cop' in the city has returned to police the village where he was brought up. His first major case is a challenge. A group of four young women tourists are found dead in their hotel room, with gas poisoning. The door was found locked, and to most outsiders, this looks like a case of suicide, but Marzio Santini – or White Wolf as he is known - is confident that this was murder and he sets out to prove it. The case is further complicated as Marzio was having an affair with one of the girls.

The problem is that the writing is over-blown with long, clumsy descriptions, made worse by a terrible translation. The pace for a thriller is, and the tension is further lost by the likely murderer being revealed quite early on. Santini's methods of detection are bizarre and involve using his developed sense of smell, which fails to convince. The writing of the sex scenes is not handled well and actually seemed unnecessary. Added to this, the murderer's perversions are downright unpleasant.

I'm afraid I didn't find much to enjoy in this detective thriller.

Jane

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of this book to review.