



The Medusa Amulet: A Novel of Suspense and Adventure

By Robert Masello

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Benvenuto Cellini, master artisan of Renaissance Italy, once crafted a beautiful amulet prized for its unimaginable power—and untold menace. Now the quest to recover this legendary artifact depends upon one man: David Franco, a brilliant but skeptical young scholar at Chicago's world-renowned Newberry Library. What begins as a simple investigation spirals into a tale of dangerous intrigue, as Franco races from the châteaux of France to the palazzos of Rome in a desperate search for the ultimate treasure—and an answer to a riddle that has puzzled mankind since the beginning of time. Aided by a beautiful young Florentine harboring dark secrets, pursued by deadly assassins, and battling demons of his own, Franco must ultimately confront an evil greater than anything conjured in his worst nightmares.

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Editorial Review

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Some mysterious people want to get their hands on an ancient mirror, La Medusa, that is rumored to have mystical powers. Some other people (equally mysterious but apparently quite evil, too) will do anything, up to and including murder, to keep the mirror's whereabouts a secret. In the middle stands David Franco, a young art historian, who is going to risk his own life?although he doesn't know that right away?to find the mirror. *Blood and Ice* (2009), the author's previous novel, was a rousing action-horror adventure. This book is rather less rousing, due to its slower pace and more familiar ancient-conspiracy theme (and the frequent exposition-clogged narrative passages). It's a good book, though, with a solid story and a likable protagonist, but it feels overlong. A little judicious pruning might have turned it from a good book to a great one, but devout fans of conspiracy-themed thrillers should find it to their liking. --David Pitt

Review

"A wonderful treat . . . Masello [is] a master entertainer unafraid to pull out all the stops."—*Chicago Tribune*

"Fascinating . . . an unpredictable and exhilarating journey . . . [Robert] Masello expertly blends contemporary thrills with a historical spin."—Associated Press

"In addition to its taut story, there is an impressive amount of scholarship, and enough detail to please art lovers or history buffs. Great writing and rich detail combine for a gripping read."—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

"Engrossing and fun."—*Library Journal*

About the Author

Robert Masello is an award-winning journalist, a television writer, and the author of many books, including the supernatural thrillers *Blood and Ice*, *Vigil* (a *USA Today* bestseller), and *Bestiary*. His articles and essays have appeared in such publications as the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York* magazine, *People*, and *Parade*, and his nonfiction book *Robert's Rules of Writing* has become a staple in many college classrooms. His television credits include such popular shows as *Charmed*, *Sliders*, and *Early Edition*. A long-standing member of the Writers Guild of America, Masello lives in Santa Monica, California.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lydia Sanders:

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