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***Murder in Byzantium.* By Julia Kristeva. Translated by C. Jon Delogu.**

Murder in Byzantium. By Julia Kristeva. Translated by C. Jon Delogu. New York: Columbia University Press, 2006, 249 pp.

[Alison Jasper](#)

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JULIA KRISTEVA has already published three fictional works—*The Samurai* (1992), *The Old Man and the Wolves* (1994) and *Possessions* (1996). This is her fourth novel, published in French in 2004 and by Columbia University Press in

English in 2006. The crime novel format is one she has chosen before in *Possessions*, where the character, Stephanie Delacour, special foreign correspondent for *Événement de Paris*, makes an earlier appearance in the same role of investigator/some-time detective, assisting in tracking down the perpetrator of a gruesome murder.

The story Kristeva constructs is a rich one: Stephanie Delacour is sent from Paris to the mythic country of Santa Varvara to report on a serial murderer who is targeting members of a mafia-like organisation: the New Pantheon. This powerful, secretive and sinister sect...

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