

**Summary of events and review of critical evidence
in the Amanda Knox case**

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I. Who is Amanda Knox and why is she charged with murder in Italy?

Amanda Knox is a 21-year old exchange student from the University of Washington, arrested in Perugia, Italy, on November 6, 2007 and charged with the murder of Meredith Kercher, her British housemate.

Raffaele Sollecito, Knox's former boyfriend, is also charged with the murder.

Rudy Guede, a resident of Perugia, has already been tried, convicted, and sentenced for Meredith Kercher's murder.

Prosecutors allege that Knox, Sollecito, and Guede killed Kercher when she refused to participate in a drug-induced group sex game. They have also suggested that robbery may have been a motive, even though Knox had several thousand dollars in her checking account, and that the murder may have been an occult ritual.¹

Knox maintains that she and Sollecito spent the night of the murder at Sollecito's apartment.

The case has attracted media attention across Europe and North America. Tabloid journalists have depicted Knox as a sex-crazed party girl whose quest for thrills drove her to commit murder. Knox's friends and family, however, describe her as gentle and affable, a good student with no tendency toward any kind of excessive behavior. They also point out that she has no criminal record or history of violence.

II. Summary of events

Knox arrived in Perugia, Italy, in mid-September 2007 to attend the University for Foreigners. She found a living situation in a cottage that she shared with two young Italian women and Kercher, a British student also attending the University. In late October, Knox met Sollecito at a classical music concert. They commenced a relationship. Knox began spending the night at Sollecito's apartment.

Thursday, November 1, 2007, was the start of a long weekend in Italy, as Italians celebrate All Saints Day as a family holiday. The two Italian housemates were absent from the cottage and Knox was staying at Sollecito's apartment. On that evening, Kercher watched a movie at the home of a friend before returning to the cottage at 9:10 pm. At 9:30, she phoned her mother in England.² The authorities believe she was murdered sometime in the next few hours.³

On November 2, 2007, Knox returned home at 10:30 am and found the front door to the cottage ajar, which she attributed to the unreliable latch on the door. The door to Kercher's room was closed, and Knox assumed she was still sleeping. Knox took a shower in the small bathroom she shared with Kercher and noticed a few droplets of blood. After showering, she dried her hair in the second, larger bathroom, where she noticed someone had used the toilet without flushing.⁴

It seemed an ordinary, quiet morning, so at first Knox was not alarmed by what she encountered at the cottage. But the more she thought about it, the more concerned she became. She returned to Sollecito's apartment and told him about her concern. Then she called one of her Italian roommates, and she tried to call Kercher. Cellular records show that Knox made these calls a few minutes after noon on November 2.

After having breakfast, she returned to the cottage with Sollecito, where they made a closer inspection. They found a broken window and evidence that someone might have broken into the cottage. They also discovered that Kercher's door was locked. Sollecito called his sister, a police officer, and she told him to call the police. As he was doing so, the police arrived on their own, because Kercher's cell phones had been found in the garden of a nearby residence and had been traced to the cottage. A few minutes later, Kercher's locked door was forced open in the presence of the police and her body was discovered. She was on the floor, under a duvet, partially disrobed, with her throat cut.

The police questioned Knox and Sollecito repeatedly as witnesses over the next few days, and they both gave the same account of their activities and whereabouts. But on the night of November 5-6, the two were pulled into separate rooms and subjected to more aggressive interrogations. Under intense pressure, they changed their accounts. Sollecito said that Knox was gone from his apartment for a few hours, and Knox described a dream or a vision of herself covering her ears to block out screams while the man she worked for, a bar owner named Patrick Lumumba, was in Kercher's room.⁵

Knox signed two statements on the morning of November 6, one at 1:45 am and a second at 5:45 am. The Italian Supreme Court has ruled the second statement cannot be used as evidence because at the time she signed it, Knox was a suspect rather than a witness.⁶

Knox's supporters contend that her statements were made under duress and she ended up telling the police what they wanted to hear even though it was not true.⁷ She was kept up all night, claims to have been hit, and was denied a lawyer and professional translator.

Knox, Sollecito, and Lumumba were arrested and jailed on the morning of November 6. Lumumba was released after about two weeks because he had an unshakable alibi.

Around the time Lumumba was released, the authorities used forensic analysis to identify a fourth suspect, an immigrant from Ivory Coast named Rudy Guede. Guede had left a hand print, in the victim's blood, on a pillow found underneath her corpse. In addition, his DNA was found inside her vagina, on her clothing, and on her handbag. DNA evidence also linked him to the unflushed toilet.⁸

Guede fled to Germany after the murder, but police tracked him down. He was arrested and extradited back to Italy.

Following his arrest, Guede told police that he and Kercher had arranged to meet at the cottage that evening, and they had consensual contact that stopped short of intercourse. Guede claimed he suddenly needed to use the bathroom, and while he was sitting on the toilet listening to his iPod, a stranger entered the cottage and attacked Kercher. Guede said he emerged from the bathroom and grappled with the stranger, who ran off into the night after shouting "a black man found is a black man condemned." He said he then tried to comfort Kercher, but at some point he panicked and fled the scene. Witnesses saw him dancing at a local nightclub at about 2:00 am on the morning of November 2, just a few hours after the murder.⁹

While Guede was in Germany, police monitored a phone call during which he explicitly stated that Knox was not present when the murder took place.¹⁰ A few months after his arrest, however, Guede changed his story. In his revised account, the stranger with whom he grappled became Sollecito. His initial story did not implicate Knox, but in the revised version, he claimed she was present as well, albeit outside the room.¹¹

III. Evidence

Under most circumstances, the arrest of Guede might have put an end to the investigation, because the evidence against him was so conclusive. In this case, however, authorities announced they had solved the crime before they even knew about Guede. On November 6, 2007, they held a news conference at which they asserted that the murder had been committed by Knox, Sollecito, and Lumumba because Kercher refused to participate in a group sex game.¹²

Later, when a corroborated alibi forced the authorities to release Lumumba, they substituted Guede as the third participant in the alleged sex game, even though he had no known connection to either Knox or Sollecito. It seemed the authorities had committed themselves to a specific theory, and they went to work developing evidence that would fit that theory. Following is a summary of that evidence.

1. Statements made by the suspects

As noted above, the suspects changed their stories when interrogated from the evening of November 5 into the morning of November 6. Sollecito claimed that Knox was out alone for some time. After an arduous interrogation, Knox made two statements, the second of which described a dream or vision of herself covering her ears to block out screams while Lumumba was in Kercher's room.

Both Lumumba and Guede are black men. The defense believes the police who interrogated Knox were aware, on the basis of hair they had recovered from the victim's hand, that a black person was involved in the crime,¹³ and so they steered her toward Lumumba for that reason. Knox had exchanged text messages with Lumumba on the evening of November 1. At 8:18 pm, Lumumba sent a message telling Knox that there wasn't much business and she didn't need to come in to work. At 8:35 pm, she confirmed receiving the message and said "See you later. Good night." Knox claims the police insisted that her text message meant that she intended to meet Lumumba later, and they continued to press her on this point, so she finally described this dream or vision under great duress.¹⁴ Judge Claudia Matteini's court order of November 9, 2007, confirms that the authorities did in fact interpret the message exchange to mean that Knox and Lumumba intended to meet later that evening.¹⁵

Both Knox and Sollecito now claim their initial statements to police were truthful and accurate.

2. The alleged murder weapon

Police seized a large kitchen knife from Sollecito's apartment, which they claim has Knox's DNA on the handle and Kercher's DNA on the blade.

There are three critical problems with the knife as evidence:¹⁶

- The alleged match to Kercher's DNA -- or indeed to anyone's DNA -- is highly dubious because the sample quality was so poor.
- The knife does not match a knife-shaped blood stain left on the victim's bed.
- Experts have already testified that the knife could not have made at least two of the three wounds found on Kercher's throat.

3. Sollecito's DNA on the victim's bra fastener

Six weeks after the murder, police collected a bra fastener from the floor of Kercher's room. Tests revealed a microscopic trace of Sollecito's DNA on this item. But, as with the knife, there are substantial problems:¹⁷

- Tests also revealed the DNA of at least three other unidentified people on the bra fastener.
- Investigators made a mess of Kercher's room when they went through her belongings. Police video shows that the fastener was kicked or swept to one side and eventually became mixed with a pile of clutter, which exposed it to numerous potential sources of contamination.
- The police video shows that the item was handled extensively by two investigators before it was bagged as evidence, further increasing the risk of contamination.

Forensic experts acknowledge that contamination has become a significant problem with DNA testing, because the technology is highly sensitive.¹⁸ Sollecito had been in the cottage on multiple occasions, and he attempted to break down the door to the room on the day after the murder, before the police arrived. His DNA would have been present on door handles and other surfaces, available to be transferred to any other object.¹⁹

4. Other physical evidence

Authorities say tests on blood stains in the bathroom show Kercher's DNA was mixed with that of Knox. They also say a drop of blood found on a faucet is that of Knox.²⁰ Carlo Torre, one of Italy's leading forensic scientists, is advising Knox's defense team and has examined the lab reports. His conclusion is that the samples are Kercher's blood contaminated with Knox's non-blood DNA, which would have been spread all over the bathroom, so these stains prove nothing in relation to the murder.²¹

Authorities used Luminol, a chemical that reacts with even tiny amounts of blood, to reveal latent footprints in the hallway outside the victim's room, which is also the route between the bathroom and Knox's room. They say these prints show that Knox stepped in Kercher's blood and tracked it around. But everyone agrees that small amounts of blood were present on the floor of the bathroom following the murder, and Knox claims to have taken a shower on the morning of November 2. Moreover, Torre has pointed out that Luminol reacts with other substances besides blood. And, like the "mixed DNA" in the bathroom, the footprints are found only in the hallway, not in the room where the murder took place.

5. Witnesses

A man claimed to have seen the three suspects together on the night of the murder, but he was utterly discredited in the pre-trial hearings.²² A woman who lives in a nearby apartment claims to have heard a scream followed by the footsteps of more than one person outside in the street.²³ A homeless man claims to have seen Knox and Sollecito lurking in a public area near the cottage on the night of the murder.²⁴ New witnesses have come forward recently, more than a year after the crime. The defense believes all are either unreliable or have no testimony incriminating to Knox or Sollecito.

6 Demeanor evidence

Authorities have described behavior on the part of Knox and Sollecito that they deem suspicious. They observed Knox and Sollecito kissing outside the cottage when they were brought back to the crime scene on the day after the murder. A man who runs a clothing store told a British tabloid that Knox and Sollecito traded sexually explicit remarks when she

purchased some underwear, and the security camera at the store shows them embracing and kissing.²⁵ Other people who interacted with Knox after the murder have supposedly described behavior they thought was unusual or inappropriate under the circumstances.

The defense contends the authorities and the media have distorted accounts of Knox's behavior after the murder to make her seem insensitive when in fact she was in a state of shock. In the case of the underwear purchase, Amanda made this purchase because she had no access to her clothing and other belongings, and the defense maintains that the shopkeeper was paid by the tabloid to tell a good story.

7. Evidence that the crime scene was staged

Police have asserted that the shattered window is evidence that a break-in was staged, and that only an insider -- someone known to have keys to the cottage -- would perform such staging, in an effort to make it look like the murder was committed by a stranger. This alleged staging is one of the crimes with which Knox and Sollecito have been formally charged.

There is no evidence to support this charge. Investigators have merely assumed that the window is too high off the ground to actually have been used as a point of access. The defense believes, however, that an intruder might easily have gotten in through this window. The house is perched on a steep hillside, so the window is adjacent to and within reach of a walkway. The intruder could have entered through the window by using a planter box at the edge of the walkway as a starting point. Alternatively, bars on a lower-story window could have been used like a ladder to gain access.

8. Other circumstantial evidence

The authorities have mentioned other alleged evidence. The defense believes most is either nonexistent or will be easy to demolish in court, but it has been useful in convincing the public that Knox and Sollecito are guilty. At various times, officials have made the following claims, among others:

- *The cottage was cleaned with a bleach solution following the murder.*²⁶ In fact, police video shows that traces of blood were found in many places in the cottage, and there is no evidence that cleaning took place in the hours between the murder and the discovery of the body.
- *Receipts show that Knox or Sollecito purchased bleach on the morning after the murder.*²⁷ These receipts simply do not exist.
- *Sollecito summoned the police after the police had already arrived.* In fact, no one has clearly established the exact timing of events on November 2, including the arrival of the police.
- *Knox had an insider's knowledge of the crime because she knew the victim's throat had been cut.* In fact, Knox says she saw one of the police officers make a gesture indicating that Kercher's throat had been cut. Another officer verbally communicated this information to Sollecito.²⁸

IV. The current situation

In October 2008, Guede was convicted of Kercher's murder and sentenced to 30 years in prison. He had opted for a fast-track trial, which often results in a lighter sentence.

Knox's trial is expected to last through most of 2009.

Amanda Knox has now been in a prison for over a year, confined to her cell for 22 hours per day. She is allowed two one-hour visits per week and her parents rotate trips to Italy to be with her at each of these opportunities. All meetings with her attorneys and parents, as well as phone calls and emails among her attorneys and supporters in Italy, are monitored by the prosecution.

Knox continues to be maligned by certain elements in the international media, as well as anonymously on Internet blogs and websites.

Her family is suffering great financial hardship, but they are willing to make the sacrifice because they love her and are convinced of her innocence.

Knox also has a growing network of supporters around the world who see what is happening in Perugia as an obvious case of wrongful prosecution, led by people who refuse to admit they made a mistake.

Notes

1. On November 9, 2007, Judge Claudia Matteini issued a court order authorizing the detention of Knox, Sollecito, and Lumumba. Parts of this document were translated into English and published in the UK *Telegraph* (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1568861/How-the-sex-game-went-wrong-Judge's-report.html>). Matteini presented a theory of the crime, which included "an initial wish of the three youths to try a new sensation, above all for the boyfriend and girlfriend, while for Diya [Lumumba] the desire to have carnal relations with a girl he liked and who was refusing him." Writing for the US *Newsweek* magazine on November 15 (<http://www.newsweek.com/id/70610>), Barbie Nadeau typified the media's take on Matteini's order by describing it as a "a squalid tale of dangerous sex games." The robbery motive surfaced when Rudy Guede's DNA was found on the victim's handbag, as reported by CNN (Alessio Vinci) on January 11, 2008 (<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/europe/01/11/italy.kercher/index.html>) and Sky News (Nick Pisa) on February 1, 2008 (<http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/Sky-News-Archive/Article/20080641303615>). In the latter story, Pisa wrote, "Inside, there were also traces of blood, and police sources said this added further weight to their theory that theft was a motive." Prosecutor Giuliano Mignini issued a report on June 19, 2008, in which he alleged that Knox, Sollecito, and Guede stole approximately 300 Euros from Kercher along with her credit cards and cell phones. With regard to a possible occult motive, on October 19, 2008, during the pre-trial hearings, Mignini laid out his reconstruction of the crime for *Messaggero Umbria*, which quoted him as follows: "...what's more, the three, and especially Sollecito, were very susceptible to 'cultural' influences ... That night was the feast day of the Saints, the Catholic 'heir' to the Celtic new-year Samhain, with all the implications which are focused on the eve of the feast day, that is the night between Oct 31 and Nov 1." On October 20, *La Nazione* wrote that, according to police theory, "Meredith could have died on the evening of Oct 31st because that night was favourable for a 'sexual rite' in accordance with the traditions of Halloween." The English translations of these articles are found in the October 2008 archives of a blog devoted to the Meredith Kercher case (<http://damiano33.wordpress.com/>).
2. The 9:30 phone call was reported in *La Repubblica* on November 7, 2007. (<http://www.repubblica.it/2007/11/sezioni/cronaca/perugia-uccisa/ricordo-amanda/ricordo-amanda.html>). No English translation is available.
3. The time of Kercher's death has been a matter of controversy. Initial reports indicated that she died between 12:00 am and 2:00 am, as reported in the UK *Times* (Richard Owen, Patrick Foster and Rajeev Sya) on November 7, 2007 (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article2821154.ece>). On November 9, however, the *Times* (Richard Owen) quoted Judge Claudia Matteini's contradictory assertion that death took place "at 11pm at the earliest and at the latest one hour after, with a time frame between 10pm and midnight." (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article2841412.ece>). On November 27, the UK *Telegraph* (Malcolm Moore) noted that investigators had not been able to conclusively establish the time of death (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1570573/Meredith-Kerchers-family-plead-for-funeral.html>). On January 31, 2008, the *Times* (Richard Owen) reported that forensic scientists had revised their estimates and concluded that Kercher could have died any time between 9:00 pm and 4:00 am (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article3282588.ece>).
4. This account of Knox's activities is based on an email she sent to friends and family on November 4, 2007.
5. Later on the day of November 6, 2007, Knox wrote a note to police, which was published in the UK *Telegraph* on November 11 (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1570225/Transcript-of-Amanda-Knox-s-note.html>). In this note, Knox attempted to reconcile her statements with what she believed the truth to be, as follows:
"In regards to this "confession" that I made last night, I want to make clear that I'm very doubtful of the verity of my statements because they were made under the pressures of stress, shock and extreme exhaustion. Not only was I told I would be arrested and put in jail for 30 years, but I was also hit in the head when I didn't remember a fact correctly. I understand that the police are under a lot of stress, so I understand the treatment I received.
"However, it was under this pressure and after many hours of confusion that my mind came up with these answers. In my mind I saw Patrik in flashes of blurred images. I saw him near the basketball court. I saw him at my front door. I saw myself cowering in the kitchen with my hands over my ears because in my head I could hear Meredith screaming. But I've said this many times so as to make myself clear: these things seem unreal to me, like a dream, and I am unsure if they are real things that happened or are just dreams my head has made to try to answer the questions in my head and the questions I am being asked."
6. On April 24, *Perugia Shock*, the most comprehensive English-language blog on the Meredith Kercher case, summarized the Italian Supreme Court's position on Knox's statements as follows: "the statements you made at 1.45 can only be used contra alios (against another person). As a result of those statements, the interrogation was suspended and you became 'indagata' (a suspect). The 'spontaneous statements' made at 5.45 am are not admissible against you or against other suspects because you had already become 'indagata' and you did not have legal protection." (<http://perugia-shock.blogspot.com/2008/04/amanda-q-and-with-supreme-court.html>)
7. Police interrogation techniques have come under scrutiny in recent years, as DNA exonerations have revealed many cases of wrongful prosecution. The Innocence Project, which works to free prisoners who have been wrongfully convicted, has reached the following conclusion: "In about 25% of DNA exoneration cases, innocent defendants made incriminating statements, delivered outright confessions or pled guilty" (<http://www.innocenceproject.org/understand/False-Confessions.php>). Because of concern about how police interrogate suspects, many jurisdictions have passed laws requiring that these sessions be recorded electronically. According to the European Criminal Bar Association's summary of Italian criminal procedure law, electronic recording of interrogations is required in Italy, but only after a suspect has been detained (http://www.ecba-eaw.org/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=982&Itemid=31#recording). No electronic recording of Knox's interrogation has been produced or shown to exist.

8. On November 19, 2007, the UK's *Guardian* (Tom Kington) reported that, according to *Corriere della Sera*, Guede had become a suspect because "[a] fingerprint left in Kercher's blood matched a print in Guede's file at the register of foreign residents at Perugia town hall" (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2007/nov/19/italy.internationalcrime>). On December 21, NBC's *Dateline* provided more detail, reporting that Guede had left "a bloody left hand print on a pillowcase found behind the victim's head." (<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/22332240/>) The *Dateline* report also mentioned that Guede's DNA was found in an unflushed toilet. On November 26, the UK *Times* (Richard Owen) reported that Guede's DNA was found inside the victim (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article2946813.ece>). But in April 2008, according to an Associated Press story carried in *USA Today* (Frances D'Emilio), a forensic expert told an Italian court that it was not clear whether Kercher had been sexually assaulted, and no traces of sperm were found (http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-04-19-3562090720_x.htm). The presence of Guede's DNA on Kercher's handbag was reported by CNN (Alessio Vinci) on January 11, 2008 (<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/europe/01/11/italy.kercher/index.html>) and by Sky News (Nick Pisa) on February 1 (<http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/Sky-News-Archive/Article/20080641303615>).
9. On November 26, 2007, the UK *Times* (Richard Owen) reported that witnesses had seen Guede dancing until 4:30 in the morning on November 2 (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article2946813.ece>). This article also reported the details of Guede's statement, including the words "a black man seen is a black man condemned." Guede's initial story described what police and crime writers refer to as a "bushy haired stranger," a term that originated with the Marilyn Sheppard murder case in 1954. Many defendants who could not plausibly deny a presence at the murder scene, including Diane Downs and Jeffrey MacDonald as well as Sam Sheppard, have described strangers who suddenly appeared on the scene, committed the crime, and then fled.
10. This was reported in *Fondazione Italiani* on November 22, 2007, but does not seem to have been picked up in any English-language publications. No English translation is available. (<http://www.fondazioneitaliani.it/index.php/en/Omicidio-Perugia.-Rudy-Amanda-non-c-era.-L-assassino-e-un-italiano.html>)
11. On March 27, ABC News (Ann Wise and Phoebe Natanson) reported that Italy's national news service, ANSA, described an interrogation in which Guede claimed that he was now able to identify the person with whom he grappled as Sollecito, and that he heard Knox's voice in the doorway (<http://abcnews.go.com/International/story?id=4536344&page=1>). On the same day, the UK *Telegraph* (Malcolm Moore) reported that Guede told investigators that Knox let him in through the front door, which would seem to contradict Guede's basic premise that the assailants entered the residence while he was in the bathroom (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1582903/Meredith-Kercher-police-claim-breakthrough.html>). The UK *Times* (Richard Owen) reported on that day that Guede said he saw Knox at the door of the house and saw Sollecito inside (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article3629353.ece>).
12. On December 21, 2007, NBC's *Dateline* program described the mood at this event: "There were plenty of forensic details still to process and sort through, but the authorities were confident the three had been in on it together. Lumumba, Amanda and the boyfriend in a haze of drugs and sexual thrill-seeking had ended up murdering Meredith Kercher. Case closed." (<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/22332240/>)
13. On November 13, 2007, the UK *Times* (Richard Owen) reported that several hairs had been found in the victim's left hand (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article2862541.ece>).
14. On June 15, 2008, the UK *Times* (John Follain) ran a story based on an interview with Knox's parents as well as her sister, Deanna, who recalled that when Amanda described her interrogation on the morning of November 6, 2008, she said, "I've never been so scared in my life." (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article4113087.ece>)
15. Judge Matteini's report included the following statement: "On the evening around 8.30pm, while Knox found herself at the house of Sollecito, she received the message from Diya Lumumba who, rather than simply warning her to not come to work, instead confirmed the appointment that evening." (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1568861/How-the-sex-game-went-wrong-Judge's-report.html>)
16. On November 17, 2007, the UK *Telegraph* (Malcolm Moore) reported the alleged findings with regard to the knife, attributing the information to Giacinto Profazio, the head of the Flying Squad in Perugia, who noted that the DNA on the blade was not from blood (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1569485/Meredith-suspect's-DNA-found-on-knife.html>). (This report also states that "[p]olice confiscated several blood-soaked rags, sheets and towels, as well as a bloody blue sweatshirt, from Sollecito's house," but nothing further was ever reported about these alleged discoveries.) On March 4, 2008, the US magazine *Newsweek* (Barbie Nadeau) interviewed Joseph Tacopina, a criminal defense lawyer who claimed he had been to Perugia, where he investigated the DNA tests on the knife and discovered that "there is only a 20 percent chance that it's Meredith's DNA." (<http://www.newsweek.com/id/118834>) On May 8, *Perugia Shock* summarized a petition by Knox's defense as follows: "The most important [arguments] obviously concern the data that has emerged after Court of Freedom's ruling, which fell outside the scope of the Supreme Court review. They include... the knife that doesn't match all the wounds, the DNA on the blade that has not been proven to be Meredith's, etc." (<http://perugia-shock.blogspot.com/2008/05/free-amanda-within-week.html>) On November 24, 2008, *Perugia Shock* reported that "[t]he Knife doesn't match the print on the bed. The Knife is compatible with only the fatal wound but incompatible with the minor ones. The print on the bed looks like left by a knife compatible with all wounds." (<http://perugia-shock.blogspot.com/2008/11/testimony-fever.html>)
17. News of the unidentified DNA traces surfaced in a number of UK publications on January 31, 2008. The *Independent* on that date wrote: "The three traces - believed to be from two males and a female - do not match up with any of the three suspects currently being held over [Kercher's] death." (<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/mystery-dna-found-on-murdered-students-bra-776367.html>) On October 1, *La Nazione* quoted one of Sollecito's lawyers as saying,

"We want to show the unreliability of the collection of the dna at the scene of the crime and the contamination of the evidence. We'll do this with the documentation that we have ." The English translation of this article is found in the October 2008 archives of a blog devoted to the Meredith Kercher case (<http://damiano33.wordpress.com/>).

18. When dealing with microscopic DNA samples, a tiny particle of biological material can contaminate the evidence. One set of guidelines for handling DNA evidence to avoid contamination is put out by the US Department of Justice, as follows:
 - * Wear gloves. Change them often.
 - * Use disposable instruments or clean them thoroughly before and after handling each sample.
 - * Avoid touching the area where you believe DNA may exist.
 - * Avoid talking, sneezing, and coughing over evidence.
 - * Avoid touching your face, nose, and mouth when collecting and packaging evidence.
 - * Air-dry evidence thoroughly before packaging.
 - * Put evidence into new paper bags or envelopes, not into plastic bags. Do not use staples.

(<http://www.ncjrs.gov/txfiles1/nij/bc000614.txt>)

Police video shows that investigators did not change their gloves or use instruments when handling the bra fastener. Two of them in succession fingered the item extensively, turning it over in their hands and examining it for a total of about two and a half minutes before dropping it into a plastic bag..
19. A memo summarizing research on DNA transfers is available online (<http://www.bioforensics.com/articles/DNA%20Transfer%20Studies%20memo.pdf>). One study determined that tests can detect DNA in quantities as small as 100 picograms (a picogram being one-trillionth of a gram). In a second study, a researcher obtained testable quantities of DNA from leather briefcase handles, pens, car keys, personal locker handles, and telephone headsets. Perhaps the most significant finding in terms of the bra fastener is the following: "swabs of the outside of gloves worn while folding [should be "fondling"] an object that had been frequently touched (such as door handles and used gloves that had been turned inside out) revealed a genetic profile that matched that obtained from the swabs of the fondled objects." As stated in Note 18, investigators who handled the bra fastener did not put on fresh gloves before picking it up and examining it.
20. On November 28, 2007, an Associated Press story carried in USA today stated that a drop of Knox's blood was found on a faucet (http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2007-11-28-italy-slaying_N.htm). On December 22 the UK *Times* (Richard Owen) reported that two blood stains were found containing the mixed DNA of Kercher and Knox, "one near the plughole of a basin in a bathroom at the house, and the other on a box off cotton wool balls on the side of the basin." (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article3084751.ece>)
21. On September 26, 2008, the Italian magazine *Panorama* published an interview with Torre. An English translation is found in the September archives of a blog devoted to the Meredith Kercher murder case (<http://damiano33.wordpress.com/>). Torre said the following with respect to the blood stains: "That the murderer washed in the bathroom seems quite probable. The fact that Meredith's blood was there is clear; the murderer would have had a quick wash before going out onto the street...and it doesn't surprise me that, in the same place there's Amanda's dna, since she lived there. I use a bidet, then somebody else bleeds; there'll be two different genetic profiles, but noone can say whose the blood is and whose are the organic residues. These mixed traces don't mean anything." Torre was similarly dismissive of the footprints, pointing out that Luminol reacts with household cleaners as well as blood, and it would be normal for Knox's footprints to be found in the hallway outside the bathroom.
22. The first English-language report about this witness, an Albanian immigrant, appeared in the UK *Sun* (Nick Pisa) on January 24, 2008 (<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/article721784.ece>). At that time, the Albanian claimed he had encountered Knox, Sollecito, and Guede together on the night before the murder, October 31, and that Knox had threatened him with a knife. On June 23, the UK *Daily Mail* reported that the Albanian, Hekuran Kokomani, now claimed that the encounter took place on the night of the murder rather than the night before (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1028371/8216-Knox-threatened-knife-night-Meredith-killed-8217--says-new-witness.html>). This is a significant detail because both Knox and Sollecito could prove they were elsewhere on the night before the murder. On September 27, *Il Messaggero Umbria* printed a summary of the Albanian's testimony in the pre-trial, and an English translation appeared on a blog devoted to translating Italian coverage of the Meredith Kercher case (<http://damiano33.wordpress.com/>). The witness claimed to have met Knox and Sollecito before Knox arrived in Perugia and before they met each other, he said Knox had a gap in her front teeth, which is not the case, and he said he wasn't sure whether the encounter took place on October 31 or November 1. When asked if it was true that he was hospitalized because of excessive alcohol consumption two days after he claimed to have encountered the suspects, he replied that a doctor had advised him to treat an ulcer by drinking and taking aspirin.
23. The CBS program *48 Hours* spoke to this woman, Nara Capezalli, for an episode about the case against Knox that aired on April 12, 2008. Capezalli is not sure what time it was when she heard the scream.
24. *Perugia Shock* reported on this witness, Antonio Curatolo, on April 4, 2008, noting that he talked to a regional newspaper before he talked to the police (<http://perugia-shock.blogspot.com/2008/04/you-too-superwitness.html>). On September 20, the UK *Guardian* (Tom Kington) reported that Curatolo had also been interviewed for British television and, in 2001, was a key witness in another Perugian murder case (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/sep/20/meredithkercher.italy>).
25. This report appeared in the UK *Sun* on November 24 (<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/article503095.ece>). The story incorrectly identified the store as a lingerie shop when in fact it is a general clothing store. The purchase was described as a G-string, when in fact Knox bought conventional undergarments because she had no access to her clothing, which was at the crime scene.
26. On November 17, 2007, the UK *Telegraph* (Malcolm Moore) reported that authorities had found two bottles of bleach at Sollecito's apartment (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1569579/Vital-clues-in-Meredith-Kercher-murder-case.html>). (This report also mentioned the knife that was tested for DNA [see Note 16] as well as a "bloody sponge and

dishcloth." Nothing further was ever reported about the sponge and dishcloth.) On November 28, 2007, an Associated Press story that ran in *USA Today* reported that the prosecutor, Mignini, had submitted a document to the court in which he claimed "the apartment was cleaned after the killing in an attempt to erase traces of Knox's presence. The only fingerprint belonging to Knox was found on glass, while many more traces were left by two other Italian roommates and visitors." (http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2007-11-28-italy-slaying_N.htm) Mignini's report also mentioned that bleach was found at Sollecito's apartment and that Sollecito's maid said it had not been there before. Police video shows investigators examining the two one-liter bottles of bleach found beneath Sollecito's kitchen sink along with a collection of other household cleaners. The editor of *Perugia Shock* has stated that one of these bottles had never been opened, and the other had been opened and about one-fourth of its contents had been used.

27. On November 19, 2007, The UK *Times* (Richard Owen) reported that two receipts found at Sollecito's apartment showed that someone had purchased bleach twice on the morning after the murder, with the first purchase having been made at 8:30 and the second 45 minutes later (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article2894139.ece>). As with the bloody rags and sponge allegedly found at Sollecito's apartment (see Notes 16 and 26), this report has never been substantiated.
28. In her November 4, 2007, email to friends and family, Knox did not display an insider's knowledge of the crime. She wrote: "i sat around in this waiting room... until 5:30 in the morning. during this time i received calls... and i also talked with the rest. especially to find out what exactly was in merediths room when they opened it. apparently her body was laying under a sheet, and with her foot sticking out and there was a lot of blood. whoever had did this had slit her throat."