

Douglas Preston



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Words, Ideas, and Thinkers

Douglas Preston began his career at the American Museum of Natural History in New York as an editor and writer, and he taught nonfiction writing at Princeton University. His eight-year stint at the Museum resulted in the nonfiction book, *Dinosaurs in the Attic*, a history of the museum, edited by a young editor at St. Martin's Press named Lincoln Child. They later collaborated on a novel set in the Museum, called *RELIC*, involving a monster that devoured the brains of museum bureaucrats and curators—later made into a film by Paramount Pictures.

Since that time, Preston has published thirty-six books, both nonfiction and fiction, of which thirty have been New York Times bestsellers. Two of his books, co-authored with Lincoln Child, were named in an NPR poll of readers as among the 100 greatest thrillers ever written. His nonfiction book, *The Monster of Florence*, co-written with Italian journalist Mario Spezi, about an Italian serial killer, is currently in production as a television series. Preston's most recent nonfiction book, *The Lost City of the Monkey God*, chronicled the discovery, using lidar, of a pre-Columbian city in the Mosquitia region of Honduras. It was named by the New York Times, the Boston Globe, and National Geographic as a best book of the year. Preston writes about anthropology and paleontology for the *New Yorker*, *Smithsonian*, and other magazines. He has received many profoundly important and unbearably distinguished honors, including a Doctor of Letters degree from Pomona College, although his efforts to be addressed as “doctor” have been met with derision, particularly in his own family. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe and serves as President of the Authors Guild, the nation's oldest and largest association of authors and journalists.



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