



The Murder Room (Adam Dalgliesh Mystery Series #12)

By P. D. James



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National Bestseller



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Murders present meet murders past in P.D. James's latest harrowing, thought-provoking thriller.

Commander Adam Dalgliesh is already acquainted with the Dupayne--a museum dedicated to the interwar years, with a room celebrating the most notorious murders of that time--when he is called to investigate the killing of one of the family trustees. He soon discovers that the victim was seeking to close the museum against the wishes of the fellow trustees and the Dupayne's devoted staff. Everyone, it seems, has something to gain from the crime. When it becomes clear that the murderer has been inspired by the real-life crimes from the murder room--and is preparing to kill again--Dalgliesh knows that to solve this case he has to get into the mind of a ruthless killer.



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The Murder Room (Adam Dalgliesh Mystery Series #12) By P. D. James Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Neither the mystery nor the detective present James's followers with anything truly new in her latest Adam Dalgleish novel (after 2001's *Death in Holy Orders*), which opens, like other recent books in the series, with an extended portrayal of an aging institution whose survival is threatened by one person, who rapidly becomes the focus of resentment and hostility. Neville Dupayne, a trustee of the Dupayne Museum, a small, private institution devoted to England between the world wars, plans to veto its continuing operation. After many pages of background on the museum's employees, volunteers and others who would be affected by the trustee's unpopular decision, Neville meets his end in a manner paralleling a notorious historical murder exhibited in the museum's "Murder Room." MI5's interest in one of the people connected with the crime leads to Commander Dalgleish and his team taking on the case. While a romance develops between the commander, who's even more understated than usual, and Emma Lavenham, introduced in *Death in Holy Orders*, this subplot has minimal impact. A second murder raises the ante, but the whodunit aspect falls short of James's best work. Hopefully, this is an isolated lapse for an author who excels at characterization and basic human psychology.

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From [Booklist](#)

After 16 novels, James is still able to find insular communities of professionals in which to set her crimes. This time it's the staff of a quirky museum devoted to England between the wars. The piece de resistance of the museum's collection is the Murder Room, in which are gathered artifacts from famous homicides that took place during the interwar years. Naturally, the room plays a crucial role, both as setting and as backstory, when real-life murder comes to the museum. It starts not in the Murder Room but in a garage, where one member of the family-owned museum is incinerated after being doused with petrol. That the victim was lobbying to sell the museum, over the objections of his sister and brother, only adds fuel to a fire that Scotland Yard Commander Adam Dalgleish is asked to extinguish. As always, James delves deeply into the psyches of her characters--in this case, the museum's staff--uncovering not just motives and secrets, the stuff of any crime plot, but also the flesh and bone of personality. Her novels follow a formula in terms of the action and the setting, but her people rise above that pattern, their complexity giving muscle and sinew to the bare skeleton of the classical detective story. And none so much as Dalgleish himself, who now must contend with tremors of "precarious joy" as his feelings for Emma, a Cambridge professor he met in *Holy Orders* (2001), force a life-changing decision. James, at 83, has mastered the trick of repeating herself in ever-fascinating new ways. *Bill Ott*

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Review

"**The Murder Room** is James's most suspenseful, atmospheric novel in years and has no shortage of surprise twists." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"Another elegant tale of murder, mystery, human misery and the wonder of loveÉ. James explores the lowest of depravity . . . with the most elegant prose." —*USA Today*

"Riveting . . . exquisite, absorbing. . . . **The Murder Room** possesses everything we desire, no, long for, from James." —*The Miami Herald*

"Elegantly constructed, beautifully written . . . [**The Murder Room**] is cause for rejoicing. . . . [It] is that much-sought-after but rare combination of reading that both transports the reader to another world and engages the imagination." —*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

"Difficult--and delightful--as it is to believe, P. D. James keeps getting better. . . . **The Murder Room** might be the best mystery novel of 2003. . . . This is a book to savor . . . with writing so felicitous the reader doesn't want it to end." —*Indianapolis Star*

"Riveting. . . . **The Murder Room** possesses everything we desire from James. . . . [Her] lovely, clear prose travels at a stately pace, never cluttered by random violence or unnecessary characters, taking us where we need to be with assurance, intelligence and grace. No word or action is wasted; everyone and everything matters." —*The Chicago Tribune*

"Ms. James skill is impressively displayed." —*The New York Times*

"P.D. James is surely one of the best living writers of English. [**The Murder Room**]'s typical James--wonderful English settings, fine writing, psychological depth." —*Rocky Mountain News*

"Any ranking of today's best crime writers would surely put Britain's P.D. James at or near the top. This subtly told, character-driven novel, which emphasizes people over plot, provides, as usual, a richly-rewarding reading experience." —*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

"Immensely satisfying, with James introducing her large cast and its secrets with consummate skill." —*The Washington Post*

"Carefully crafted . . . [with] richly portrayed characters. . . . P. D. James can still spin an intricate web of psychological suspense that demands the reader's attention and involvement. . . . James tells this tale in lucid language, with a wry eye on people and their faults." —*San Antonio Express-News*

"Elegant . . . smooth storytelling. . . . The culprit remains convincingly elusive until the end." —*Houston Chronicle*

"A perfectly cozy read for a cold, foggy night when you feel like curling up with a cup of tea."
—*Entertainment Weekly*

"Sophisticated literary entertainment. . . . Masterful detailing of people and place. . . . Acute psychological portraits. . . . [A] carefully crafted tale." —*The Orlando Sentinel*

"Literate prose, sprinkled with enough deliciously British details to satisfy even the most diehard Anglophile. . . . [James is] an enormously appealing novelist." —*The Boston Globe*

"Expertly plotted and elegantly written, the novel will stand with the best of her always-fine work. And as usual with a James novel, the characters are drawn with care and sympathy." —*The Richmond Times-Dispatch*

"James whips up a thought-provoking, finely crafted literary murder mystery. . . . **The Murder Room** is a riveting and well-constructed read." —*San Jose Mercury News*

"Elegant language and deft, intricate characterizations." —*Pittsburg Tribune-Review*

“James writes of the whydunit rather than the whodunit and her grasp and appreciation for the boundless perplexities of human behavior deeply enriches her books.” —*Philadelphia Inquirer*

“The eminence grise of British detective fiction, James delivers another ruminative puzzler, generous in character, graceful in prose.” —*The Village Voice*

“James' strength as a writer lies in her ability to craft characters with depth. She doesn't just supply names and ages but gives readers a sense of her characters' desires and motives (and not just murderous ones).”
—*Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Laura Enriquez:

Book is definitely written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can realize everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A guide The Murder Room (Adam Dalgliesh Mystery Series #12) will make you to become smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think that open or reading a book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or appropriate book with you?

Sheila Kilburn:

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Alberto Turcotte:

This book untitled The Murder Room (Adam Dalgliesh Mystery Series #12) to be one of several books that best seller in this year, that is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book shop or you can order it via online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, as you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this book from your list.

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