



Mente assassina

P.D. James , Carlos Eduardo Esteves (Tradutor)

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On the surface, the Steen Psychiatric Clinic is one of the most reputable institutions in Lindon. but when the administrative head is found dead with a chisel in her heart, that distinguished facade begins to crumble as the truth emerges. Superintendent Adam Dalgliesh of Scotland Yard is called in to investigate and quickly find himself caught in a whirlwind of psychiatry, sex, drug and deceit. Now he must analyse the deep-seated anxieties and thwarted desires of patients and staff alike to determine which of their unresolved conflicts has resulted in murder and stop a cunning killer before the next blow.

Mente assassina Details

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Author : P.D. James , Carlos Eduardo Esteves (Tradutor)

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From Reader Review Mente assassina for online ebook

Julie says

The 2nd Adam Dalgliesh of the series and we got a bit further into his character in this outing. This was more towards the end of the book though and whilst the book was well executed, I got a bit muddled with the introduction of all the medical staff early in the novel.

This definitely affected my enjoyment verbal, but the last third of the book was up to the writer's high standards.

We have a closed group of suspects all working for the Steen Clinic, a psychiatric specialist clinic where the Administrative Officer is brutally murdered one Friday afternoon.

Our victim is not the most likeable of characters, but has her heart in the right place, which can't be said for many of the other employees. There were plenty of red herrings and I certainly fell for one of them.

We have a group of highly intelligent suspects in the main, but will they be clever enough to confuse Dalgliesh?

Susan says

This is the second Adam Dalgleish mystery and was originally published in 1963. Most of the novel takes place in the Steen Psychiatric Clinic, which deals mainly with affluent and often artistic patients. These problems are dealt with in ways which, in 1963, seem to herald the beginning of the Swinging Sixties – with one patient undergoing treatment using LSD. This was a time, of course, when such legal drugs were still seem as harmless and experimental.

Miss Enid Bolam was the senior administrator of the clinic and is found murdered, leading to Dalgleish being called in to the investigate. Rather like the first book in the series, "Cover Her Face," the victim is not greatly liked. Indeed, Miss Bolam's colleagues all seem to agree that she lacked humour and tact – and, although unlikeable, these are not character traits which really suggest the character should be killed. However, there are other possible motives, including revenge, fear and money...

I am really enjoying re-reading the work of P.D. James. I suspect that reading the first two books in the series so closely together did emphasise similarities, but I am looking forward to reading the next in this classic series.

Tory Wagner says

A Mind to Murder by P.D. James is the second in the series featuring policeman Adam Dalgliesh. It takes place at a London Clinic where the office manager is murdered. Dalgliesh and his sidekick Martin investigate and find that more than murder is occurring at the clinic. Another engaging British mystery that is less blood and gore and more thoughtful investigation.

Jane says

Where I got the book: audiobook on Audible. Read by Penelope Dellaporta in a terribly refined voice with a few character accents

I noted with great delight that the action of this book takes place mostly in the Steen clinic, which caters to rich, upper-class patients with socially unacceptable problems such as failing marriages and Undiscussable Things (I suspect one of the Things is homosexuality, which was still a criminal offense in England back in 1963). Cures are effected by such means as electroshock therapy and doses of LSD, causing the patients such distress that they scream, and everyone seems to think that's quite OK and normal. How antiquated it all sounds, and how happy I am that those days are gone.

The clinic is kept running smoothly by Miss Bolam, whom nobody particularly likes. In the last book, *Cover Her Face*, James also had a murder victim whom nobody particularly liked, and I do hope she doesn't overuse this method of ensuring lots of potential suspects. Adam Dalgliesh is the man to work his way through the list of possible murderers, and we learn a little more about him—that's he's a moderately successful poet on the side, that he still has a thing for Deborah Risko, a suspect from the first book, and that his wife died. All in the cause of making him a little more three-dimensional, but only, really, a little bit more. As a man he just doesn't float my boat, which is a shame because it helps to fall for the detective as you read through the series.

The suspects are a bit more convincingly sketched in this time, and the slow unfolding of motives and backstory is reasonably entertaining, but it's not yet P.D. James at her best. There's a twist, but I ended up being a bit meh about the whole business of who actually killed Miss Bolam. I found myself psychoanalyzing James instead—hmm, another plot line involving a lower-class girl who's no better than she should be. Hmmm, more snobbery. Hmmmmmmmmmm, a suggestion that the single life can, despite all appearances (and contrary to what women were told in James's day) be more fulfilling than marriage and motherhood. I'm starting to picture James as having clawed her way upward despite all odds, because there's nothing more snobbish than the ambitious lower orders.

Is there a biographer in the house? I see that James has written an autobiography, but that no biography has as yet been written. I begin to suspect that it might be worth the telling, and have put the autobiography on my TBR.

Judy says

P D James's second Adam Dalgliesh mystery was published in 1963 and so is on the 1963 list for My Big Fat Reading Project. Only three weeks earlier I had read Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar*, making it a bit of a shock (pun intended) to open *A Mind to Murder* and find it set in a London psychiatric clinic. In between the electric shock and LSD treatments as well as psychiatric "talk therapy" sessions, the administrator of the clinic is murdered in the basement amid a confusion of scattered patient files.

This reader's personal tastes were confirmed: P D James is hands down a superior mystery writer to Agatha Christie. (I know there are many readers who would not agree with me, but it is what it is.) Right out of the gate she sets up the rivalries and tension between the various therapists, the nurses and secretaries, and the victim. Miss Bolam had been nearly universally disliked by all the staff, giving Inspector Dalgliesh a knotty problem as he tried to single out the suspects. Every doctor had an alibi while the rest had some issue with their boss.

As the investigation proceeds, Ms James also writes scenes with the various characters interacting while not

in the Inspector's presence. Quite soon the reader comes to know all these people and what is going on in their personal lives. I felt like I was doing my own work to figure out who done it and that made the reading even more enjoyable.

In the end however, it was Inspector Dalgliesh who found the correct line of criminal activity to follow and solved the crime in an intense series of time sensitive incidents. My only complaint was that I could not figure out what led him to follow up that particular line of inquiry and suddenly felt left out of the story where previously I had thought I was part of it.

A breach of patient confidentiality was the initial cause of events leading to the murder. That issue as well as the conflicts of opinion among the doctors about various approaches to treating mental illness, made the story resonate with current times even though it was written over 60 years ago.

The first P D James novel I read was *Children of Men* and I was struck by her intelligence, her insight into her characters, and her sense of social consciousness. Now that I have gone back to read her earlier books I am hooked and look forward to more of them.

Leslie says

Although P.D. James has for years been a favorite writer of mine, I have to admit that this book was not one of her best. It may have been me, as I was a bit distracted while reading it, but the pages that describe Adam Dalgleish's questioning the various suspects seemed interminably long and the basic solution seemed obvious.

The administrator of a posh psychiatric clinic in London has been murdered; the setting is the early 1960s, so electro-convulsive and LSD treatments are a couple of the clinic's offerings, in addition to other therapies. (Not that these had anything to do with the plot; I just had to keep reminding myself that the book is more than 50 years old.)

No one liked Enid Bolam much, with the possible exception of a woman whom she had helped to get a job at the clinic; of course, I suspected this woman right away. Silly. Even though Miss Bolam had few admirers, few of the staff or doctors had a real motive...with the exception of one person. Unfortunately, "whodunnit" didn't seem like much of a surprise to me, but in true James fashion, there are twists and turns throughout the book to keep things reasonably interesting.

And, of course, Adam Dalgliesh is one of my favorite detectives in fiction. A widower and poet in addition to being a thoughtful and sensitive policeman, he is an admirable figure...and one of the disappointments of this book is that we don't really get much of a sense of who he is.

Nevertheless, you could do worse than to spend hours in his and James's company; in a world of so many good detective fiction writers, she was one of the best and Dalgliesh is her finest creation.

Judith says

La historia nos sumerge en el crimen de la jefa de administración de la clínica psiquiátrica Steen, la señora Bolam, una mujer muy estricta y sumamente profesional en su trabajo pero que al ser tan severa en marcar las obligaciones y la rectitud de la clínica se ganó varios enemigos.

Comenzamos con el descubrimiento de su cuerpo asesinado por un cincel en su corazón más un fetiche en su regazo lo que da para sospechar de ciertas personas que trabajan en la clínica y que son pacientes. Mientras, entra en escena el superintendente Dalgliesh de la Scotland Yard quien toma las riendas de la investigación junto a su compañero el sargento Martín.

A partir de ahí se irán interrogando a todas las personas que estaban en la clínica en el momento de descubrir el cuerpo, las puertas se cerrarán y uno por uno serán entrevistados. Una vez terminado todo el interrogatorio el detective irá buscando más pistas en los posibles sospechosos ya que hay varios que pudieron haber cometido el crimen.

En definitiva la historia tiene lo suyo, mucho misterio, muchas vueltas y personajes muy interesantes, a los amantes de este genero les va a gustar por más que tenga algunos peros. Se deja leer sin problemas, entretiene y atrapa.

Un crimen, una clínica psiquiátrica y varios sospechosos, misterio asegurado que te hace ir paso a paso descubriendo el mundo interno de un particular lugar y de quienes están en él. Cualquiera podría ser el asesino, solo hay que investigar y seguir las pistas. La recomiendo.

Mi reseña original en el blog: <https://zonaexentrica.blogspot.com.uy...>

Mary Gilligan-Nolan says

I read this book many, many years ago and was looking for a quick read recently when it fell out of my wardrobe and landed at my feet. Decision made. This was first published in 1963 and it still holds up really well as a great murder mystery. It gives me a new found admiration for P.D. James, that she can still hold her own in this genre, after so many decades of writing and against so many new authors. She is still one of the best - no contest. This is an Adam Dalgleish police procedural mystery,(Hope I spelled that right), and I love the fact that it's all based on one murder and the investigation surrounding it, as against the new crime thrillers there are so many of these days, where it is necessary to have bodies piled up to the roof (literally in some books). Miss Bolam is found murdered at the Steen Psychiatric clinic and everyone inside the clinic is interviewed as suspects, as it looks like the murder was committed by someone working there. So, you get a list of suspects, possible motives and a good old fashioned who-dunnit. I really enjoyed it. It took me back to my Agatha Christie reading days and a desire to re-read all of P.D. James books and then, maybe I will revisit Ms. Christie. Enjoyed it, a must for all crime/mystery lovers. Get back to basics and the really good authors of this genre.

booklady says

I don't know *for sure* if the info I give here will spoil the mystery for anyone, but just in case, I clicked the box; I'd hate to ruin this great story for anyone.

Liked this *much* better than the first one! James's skill as a mystery novelist is certainly growing! She had me thinking she'd given the murderer away almost at the beginning! Okay, okay, I'm really gullible! But she's also really good! I thought she was writing the novel in such a way that we (the readers) had the inside scoop, but the detective still had to figure things out. Boy I couldn't have been more wrong! Ha! I love it

when an author fools me so completely! And best of all, our Inspector was fooled too!!! I really like that James has written Inspector Dalgliesh to be such a real person, i.e., fallible and yet humble enough to be chagrined (or slightly irritated with himself) that he'd so completely overlooked something so obvious.

Ana Goulart says

3.5 É um policial que se inscreve na categoria "whodunnit ?", muito ao estilo inglês e na linha de Agatha Christie - todos têm algo a esconder, todos são suspeitos. É um desafio à capacidade de análise e dedutível do leitor. Também gosto do inspetor, da forma como a personagem está construída. Neste 2º volume da série avança-se um pouco mais na sua história. Em comparação com os policiais modernos, sentimos falta de ação...

mark monday says

here's a little story for you...

so a famous San Francisco lobbyist - a lively raconteur, a darling of the media, and an infamously debauched homosexual - had a birthday celebration. because this was a man who helped build the careers of many politicians, his birthday party was a rather public affair and was heavily attended by the local glitterati, including our illustrious mayor. this turned out to be an exceedingly unconventional event: activities included the carving of satanic symbols on various 'models' and the insertion of a Jack Daniels bottle up the host's anus. naturally, the media became quite absorbed by the spectacle and - in particular - the guest list. reporters began interviewing local politicians and power-brokers, and most of the interviewed denied being in attendance. happily, Mayor Willie Brown had a rare flash of honesty, and in his interview, responded along the lines of:

"Well of course I was there. Everyone was there. But by this time tomorrow...no one will have been there at all."

the true story above is also a completely spoiler-free clue to solving the mystery of A Mind to Murder - delivered to you free of charge!

PD James' early novels featuring detective and poet Adam Dalgliesh are straightforward, old-fashioned murder mysteries. although i missed the complexity and richness of her later narratives, her steady hand at plotting, psychological & emotional acuity, and ability to evoke a very specific atmosphere and setting were apparently intact at the start of her career.

Bill says

A Mind To Murder by P.D. James is the second book in the Inspector Dalgleish mystery series. In this mystery, Dalgleish and his assistant, Sgt Martin, investigate the murder of the Administrative Officer at a London psychiatrist facility. To all intents it appears that the murder is an inside job. As with the other PD James books I've read, I'm impressed with how intelligently James writes. The story is a methodical police investigation, but I enjoy how she lays out a story, the methodical investigation, the development of all of the main characters; Dalgleish and suspects alike. Dalgleish is a thoughtful investigator, Martin, with is more

down-to-earth way of looking at things, a perfect assistant. It's a pleasure to read such a well-crafted story and satisfying to discover the conclusion. I look forward to reading the next book in this series. (4 stars)

Book Concierge says

From the Book Jacket - When the administrative head of the Steen Psychiatric Clinic is found dead with a chisel in her heart, Superintendent Adam Dalgliesh of Scotland Yard is called in to investigate. Dalgliesh must analyze the deep-seated anxieties and thwarted desires of patients and staff alike to determine which of their unresolved conflicts resulted in murder.

My Reactions

This is an engaging, interesting and complex murder mystery. I love Dalgliesh and his quiet, deliberate manner. I also really appreciate how James gives us background detail on the characters, revealing a little at a time, much as we'd learn about someone in real life.

James crafts a plot that seems straightforward, but which includes numerous red herrings to keep the reader off balance. She certainly had me guessing, and even when Dalgliesh was closing in on the suspect, the author had another surprise in store. Well done!

Nancy Oakes says

not nearly as enjoyable (imho) as "Cover Her Face," but still an okay read. I've noticed in these two that while Dalgliesh gets onto a certain clue that sends him right to the murderer, there really isn't much here about investigative technique or something that he does especially to solve the crime. Oh well.

brief summary, no spoilers

The scene of the crime is the Steen psychiatric clinic, and the victim is the administrative head of the place, a miss Bolam. She is killed in the records room with a chisel through her heart. Dalgliesh draws this case and he sets out to investigate. As usual, a fairly decent amount of red herrings and suspects with motives keeps the story interesting.

This book is a bit dated, obviously. Consider that electro-shock therapy was used here as well as the administration of lysergic acid (yup, good old LSD) to get people to "loosen up" and shed their inhibitions so that the doctors could get to the roots of their problems. Hmmm.

Not a bad read, and I would recommend it to people who read British mysteries or who have decided they want to read this series.

#2 Adam Dalgliesh series

Cindy Rollins says

I am a huge PD James fan and enjoyed revisiting this book. It must have been 15 years since I originally read it. I had suggested her books to my husband when he was looking for an audiobook and so I can now reread

PD James in audio form. While in some ways this book could be said to be dated, in other ways it is strangely up-to-date. James always comes across as the most level-headed person. She brings this sense of strength to her mysteries. There is nothing cozy here.
