



The Private Patient (Adam Dalgliesh Mysteries Book 14)

By P. D. James

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National Bestseller.

Cheverell Manor is a beautiful old house in Dorset, which its owner, the famous plastic surgeon George Chandler-Powell, uses as a private clinic. When the investigative journalist, Rhoda Gradwyn, arrives to have a disfiguring facial scar removed, she has every expectation of a successful operation and a peaceful week recuperating. But the clinic houses an implacable enemy and within hours of the operation Rhoda is murdered. Commander Dalgliesh and his team are called in to investigate a case complicated by old crimes and the dark secrets of the past. But Before Rhoda's murder is solved, a second horrific death adds to the complexities of one of Dalgliesh's most perplexing and fascinating cases.

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The Private Patient (Adam Dalgliesh Mysteries Book 14) By P. D. James Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. In James's stellar 14th Adam Dalgliesh mystery (after 2006's *The Lighthouse*), the charismatic police commander knows the case of Rhoda Gradwyn, a 47-year-old journalist murdered soon after undergoing the removal of an old disfiguring scar at a private plastic surgery clinic in Dorset, may be his last; James's readers will fervently hope it isn't. Dalgliesh probes the convoluted tangle of motives and hidden desires that swirl around the clinic, Cheverell Manor, and its grimly fascinating suspects in the death of Gradwyn, herself a stalker of minds driven by her lifelong passion for rooting out the truth people would prefer left unknown and then selling it for money. Beyond the book's central moral concern, James meditates on universal problems like aging (the amorphous flattening of self) and the government's education policy, which targets 50% of the young as university-bound while ensuring that another 40% are uneducated on leaving secondary school. Against her relentless intellectual view of our dying earth, James pits the love she finally grants Dalgleish—sufficient to reinvigorate hope and faith so rare in both fiction and reality today. (Nov.)

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Both P. D. James and Adam Dalgliesh, both in their 80s, have aged like fine wine. Critics agreed that if *The Private Patient*, a closed-room mystery, is not among the best in the series, it nonetheless outranks most crime fiction. James brings her usual intellect to bear on this novel: literary references and philosophical discussions; an elegant, leisurely style; a highly atmospheric setting; suspicious distant relatives; and meaningful coincidences. Reviewers diverged, however, on the characterization and plotting. Some thought the characters were psychologically complex, while others thought they—along with the plot—were "reduced to a kind of box-ticking" (*Guardian*). Finally, Dalgliesh didn't seem completely present—perhaps in anticipation of his imminent retirement and marriage.

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From [Booklist](#)

At 88, P. D. James has written her eighteenth novel, a feat in itself. Inevitably, there is plenty of summing up going on here, as Commander Adam Dalgleish approaches marriage and contemplates retirement from Scotland Yard. But before either of those life-changing events can take place, there is another case to solve, and Dalgleish's special investigating team, their murder bags packed, are on the road to a remote corner of Dorset, where a well-known investigative journalist has been killed following surgery at a private clinic. As usual, James places Dalgleish, Inspector Kate Miskin, and Sergeant Francis Benton-Smith within an insular community and asks them to restore order to a tightly circumscribed world jarred by unnatural death. We follow the process of interviews with the staff at Cheverell Manor, a grand Tudor home converted to a clinic by a famous plastic surgeon, and we once again begin to formulate our list of suspects along with Dalgleish and the team. This time, though, James pays a bit less attention to the lives of the suspects and more to Dalgleish's inner turmoil (and, to some extent, that of Miskin and Benton-Smith). Longtime readers will be fine with this subtle switch in emphasis, as we sense the winding down of the landmark series and crave every possible insight into a character who has meant so much not only to his fans but also to the mystery genre itself. If this is the last Dalgleish novel, James has struck a fine valedictory note for her hero. --Bill Ott

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Corene Albert:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or even read a book eligible The Private Patient (Adam Dalgliesh Mysteries Book 14)? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have additional opinion?

Barbara Duty:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book might be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the guide untitled The Private Patient (Adam Dalgliesh Mysteries Book 14) can be good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Gregory McKinney:

The Private Patient (Adam Dalgliesh Mysteries Book 14) can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to place every word into pleasure arrangement in writing The Private Patient (Adam Dalgliesh Mysteries Book 14) nevertheless doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one of it. This great information may drawn you into brand new stage of crucial thinking.

David Swanson:

Some people said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt that when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose the particular book The Private Patient (Adam Dalgliesh Mysteries Book 14) to make your own personal reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading expertise is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose basic book to make you enjoy to study it and mingle the idea about book and examining especially. It is to be initial opinion for you to like to open up a book and study it. Beside that the reserve The Private Patient (Adam Dalgliesh Mysteries Book 14) can to be your brand new friend when you're truly feel alone and confuse with what must you're doing of these time.

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