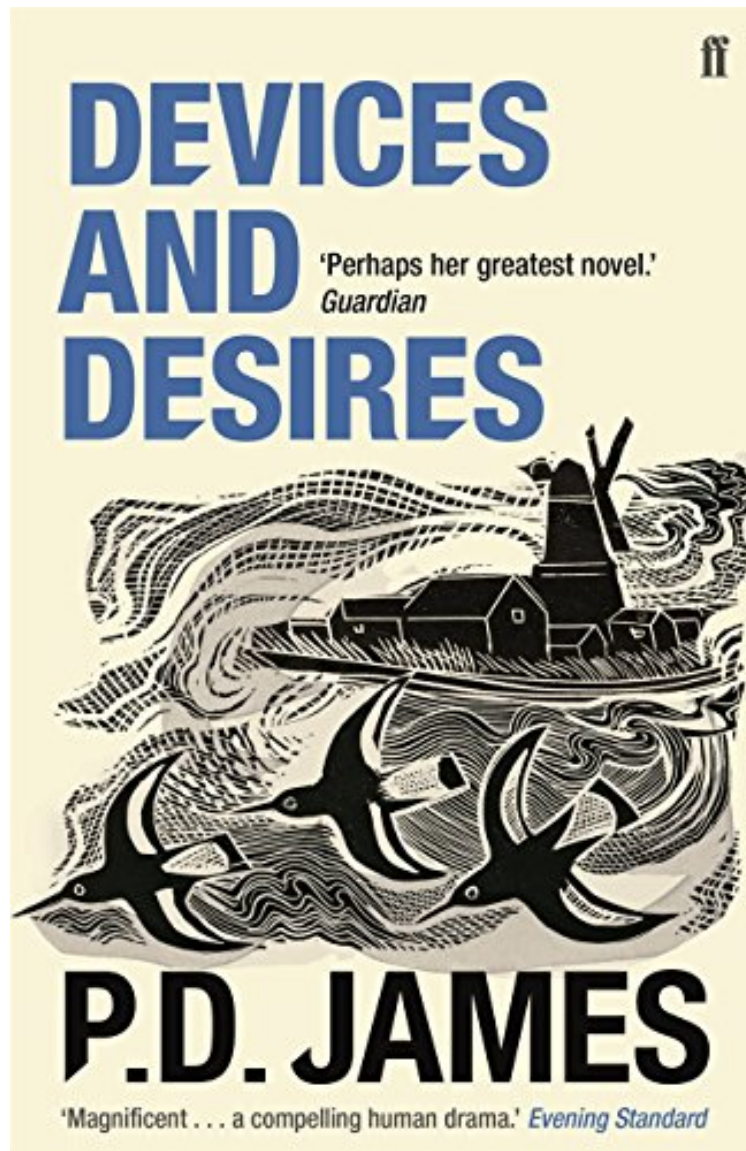


(Download free pdf) Devices and Desires (Inspector Adam Dalgliesh)

## Devices and Desires (Inspector Adam Dalgliesh)

Von P. D. James

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**Von P. D. James : Devices and Desires (Inspector Adam Dalgliesh)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Devices and Desires (Inspector Adam Dalgliesh):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Bloated, over-ambitious, but still compelling novelVon RolloTomasideVICES AND DESIRES is one of P.D. James' longer novels, and probably the most shameless example of the fine author's tendency to ramble unnecessarily. Though one wishes that James had exercised a bit more restraint, the fact that this is still head-and-shoulders above most detective

fiction, and still an incredibly absorbing story, is a testament to her undeniable skill. Scotland Yard Commander Adam Dalgliesh takes some time off and moves into the windmill cottage of his deceased aunt. And of course, there's something rotten in Norfolk; in addition to the usual Jamesian network of convoluted relationships, tense rivalries, and dangerous liaisons (this book isn't titled *DEVICES AND DESIRES* for nothing), there's a mysterious strangler known as the Whistler murdering young women in the area. A serial killer may seem more appropriate for a thriller than a formal detective story, but the ingenious way in which the author uses the Whistler as a mere catalyst for a very English murder is possibly one of the most original and clever twists ever conceived in the genre. James may waste words, but she still knows how to plot a good mystery. Unfortunately, the execution (so to speak) doesn't work nearly as well; the main plot gets buried in a multitude of meandering subplots. James throws in an overcomplicated story thread dealing with espionage and political intrigue that might make a fine novel on its own, but feels out of place in this one. James has always made her setting as important to her novels as the characters, but the nuclear power station isn't one of her best (certainly not as effective as the publishing firm in *ORIGINAL SIN*, or the legal chambers in *A CERTAIN JUSTICE*). Rather than adding a subtle layer of meaning or metaphor to the narrative, the setting basically allows the characters to deliver heavy, ham-handed commentary on the virtues or evils of nuclear power that have almost no relevance to the story at hand. Ultimately, too much of *DEVICES AND DESIRES* is extraneous and contrived; too much of it is stagey and hokey to be convincing. Three-quarters of the way through, you may feel like taking a pair of scissors and cutting out all the unnecessary parts (it'd probably end up half as long and a much improved effort). What saves *DEVICES AND DESIRES*, ultimately, are the gifts that the author has always brought to her work--a brilliantly realized sense of time and place, wonderfully vivid characters, and prose so well-written it comes close to poetry. P.D. James is one of those authors with such a natural flair for the English language, her writing is always a pleasure to read. Even when she rambles.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I loved it. The several plot lines were very well written  
Von Ein Kunde I loved this book. I was in the middle of the story and lost it in my travels. It was such a gripping tale that I backtracked and found it so I could finish it. The several plot lines were very well written and intertwined. The story raced toward the finish and I could not figure out who done it until the police did. The book also presented an interesting contrast between English countryside and the presence of nuclear power. A terrific book and one that readers can discuss forever.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Absorbing  
Von Ein Kunde One of P.D. James' best mysteries, *DEVICES AND DESIRES* features Commander Adam Dalgliesh in an unofficial role, although his character still plays a significant role in the story. The novel has a chilling beginning involving the Whistler, a notorious strangler who has been ravaging the Norfolk countryside; however, since James writes classical English mysteries, the identity of the serial killer is the least interesting question. When the Whistler's latest victim surfaces, evidence shows that Hilary Robarts, who had plenty of enemies, was killed by not by the serial killer but by a person who tried to make circumstances appear that way. This is a clever twist that automatically places suspicion on a closed circle of suspects, whom James probes with her remarkable gift for character development. As the novel progresses, the plot twists are even more ingenious.

*DEVICES AND DESIRES* is not totally faultless. James' characters can at times be extremely wordy, using vocabulary so advanced that it seems improbable to realistic conversation. There is one scene with a beggar who practically utilizes every word in the dictionary in one sentence. Also, the complex solution, which is a great throwback to the days of such Golden Age writers as Agatha Christie, is slightly contrived. The novel's final climax, which I will scrupulously refrain from disclosing, seems at times melodramatic and stogy. But the novel's flaws do not detract from its overall enjoyability. As usual, James' characterizations are first-rate. Her literary style of writing is a bonus in itself. Her plotting is skillful, and her setting, the lonely coast of England, provides a moody atmosphere that is the perfect backdrop for her story. The social and humane issues she presents, including the morality of using nuclear power, are thought-provoking. *DEVICES AND DESIRES* is a beautifully tailored novel and an enjoyable read, proving once more P.D. James' skill at crafting both an intriguing mystery and a fine novel.

**Kurzbeschreibung** When Commander Adam Dalgliesh visits Larksoken, a remote headland community on the Norfolk coast in the shadow of a nuclear power station, he expects to be engaged only in the sad business of tying up his aunt's estate. But the peace of Larksoken is illusory. A serial killer known as the Whistler is terrorising the neighbourhood and Dalgliesh is drawn into the lives of the headlanders when it quickly becomes apparent that the Whistler isn't the only murderer at work under the sinister shadow of the power station. In *Devices and Desires*, award-winning P.D. James (author of *Death Comes to Pemberley*, *The Murder Room* and *Children of Men*) plots a chilling investigation into the motives of a cold-hearted serial killer. This novel was adapted for BBC television in 1984 and starred Robert Marsden as the inspector protagonist Adam Dalgliesh.

From Publishers Weekly James ( *A Taste for Death* ) sets her 11th novel on Larksoken, a remote windswept headland in Norfolk, where the presence of a huge nuclear energy plant serves as a metaphor for the power of the past to rule over her characters. Commander Adam Dalgliesh of New Scotland Yard, in Larksoken to settle an estate left him at the death of a relative, is drawn into the investigation of a

serial killer, the Whistler. Dalgliesh's neighbors include the power station's director, Alex Mair; his elegant sister Alice, a cookbook author; acting administrator--and Alex's former lover--Hilary Robarts; and anti-nuclear activist Neil Pascoe. The next signature killing , of the widely disliked Robarts, turns out to have occurred hours after a young man who firmly establishes his identity as the Whistler commits suicide. The question of who murdered Robarts, then, centers around motive. This intricate, layered mystery may be read as parable: we can escape the consequences of our choices, political and personal, no more than we can shed our private histories. This is dark James, plotted with a slight unevenness but utterly faithful to her deeply and sympathetically plumbed characters. 175,000 first printing; BOMC and QPB main selections. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal While the serial killer known as the Whistler goes about his grisly business in the area around the Larksoken Nuclear Power Station, Commander Adam Dalgliesh comes to Norfolk to settle his aunt's estate. Slowly, through masses of dialog and ruminations by most of the characters, the complex plot unfolds into the usual Jamesian tangle of human relationships and subplots. The story takes shape as James unwraps each nuance of personality, each intricate piece of the puzzle. Though not as fast paced as *Shroud for a Nightingale* (LJ 1/1/72) nor as finely plotted as *A Taste for Death* ( LJ 10/1/86), this latest novel demonstrates just how well James commands the English language and illustrates her considerable ability to craft and write a novel. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 10/1/89; BOMC and Quality Paperback Book Club main selections.- Jo Ann Vicarel, Cleveland Heights-University Heights P.L., Ohio Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.