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REPORT OF COUNSEL

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THE ESTATE OF PHYLLIS DOROTHY JAMES (P.D. JAMES)

Last November, one of my favorite authors, P.D. James, died at the age of 94. She was a prolific writer of 22 books over a 50-year career. She is best known for writing detective fiction featuring DCI Adam Dalgliesh. If you haven't read any of her detective novels, you may have watched the TV adaptations of her works for PBS Mystery.

Born in Oxford in 1920, James did not begin writing until she was 40. She chose the detective genre as practice for a serious novel. James stuck with the genre because she could write everything she wanted in it.

“A detective story can give a much truer picture of the society in which it's written than a more prestigious literature,” said James. “If we want to know what it was like - actually like - to work in an office between the wars, we should go to *Murder Must Advertise*. It's all there: the people and personalities; the inter-departmental rivalry; the great excitement of having a flutter on the Grand National; right down

to how much things cost and attitudes to sex and class. I wanted my books to do the same; to be unambiguously set in the present day, so that they give a picture of the life we're living. And if I'm lucky enough to be read in 50 years' time, I hope people will be able to point to them and say: that's what it was like.”

Five Novels you should read:

Cover Her Face (1962)
An Unsuitable Job for a Woman (1972)
The Children of Men (1992)
The Private Patient (2008)
Death Comes to Pemberley (2011)

In 1991, James was created a life peer as Baroness James of Holland Park and sat in the House of Lords as a Conservative. She was an Officer of the Order of the British Empire [OBE], a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and the recipient of seven honorary doctorates.

Her Estate

After a long and productive life, P.D. James' sizable estate will be distributed without drama. Her estate will not be featured in People magazine or make anyone's list of Celebrity estates in litigation.

James revised her Will in 2014. She left an estate worth about \$33,605,000 in U.S. Dollars or £22 million in British pounds.

About \$12,000,000 of the estate will be paid in UK death taxes.

She left the bulk of her estate to her two daughters, Clare Flook and Jane McLeod. Her main home on Holland Park Avenue, West London, and a second flat in Oxford were left to her daughter, Clare. Her daughter Jane received her flat next to Tower Bridge beside the River Thames in Central London and her cottage in Southwold, Suffolk, as well as her beach hut in the sea side town.

Her daughters also inherited her personal property and her valuable worldwide literary estate.

The sum of \$135,000 was left to each of her five grandchildren and her secretary, Joyce McLennan. The sum of \$30,000 was left to her sister, Monica. A further \$124,500 was left to a group of seven others.

Her manuscripts were bequeathed to Cambridge University's Girton College. Legacies totalling \$127,500 were left to five Oxford and Cambridge University

Colleges. The Royal Society of Literature received a gift of \$15,000.

A life-long Anglican, she made charitable bequests to church groups. One of her flats in Oxford was left to the restoration fund of St. Mary Magdalen Church in the city. She left \$15,000 to the Prayer Book Society.

Because P.D. James did not leave a fight or a mess at the end of her life, she will be fondly remembered by her family, friends, charities and many devoted readers.