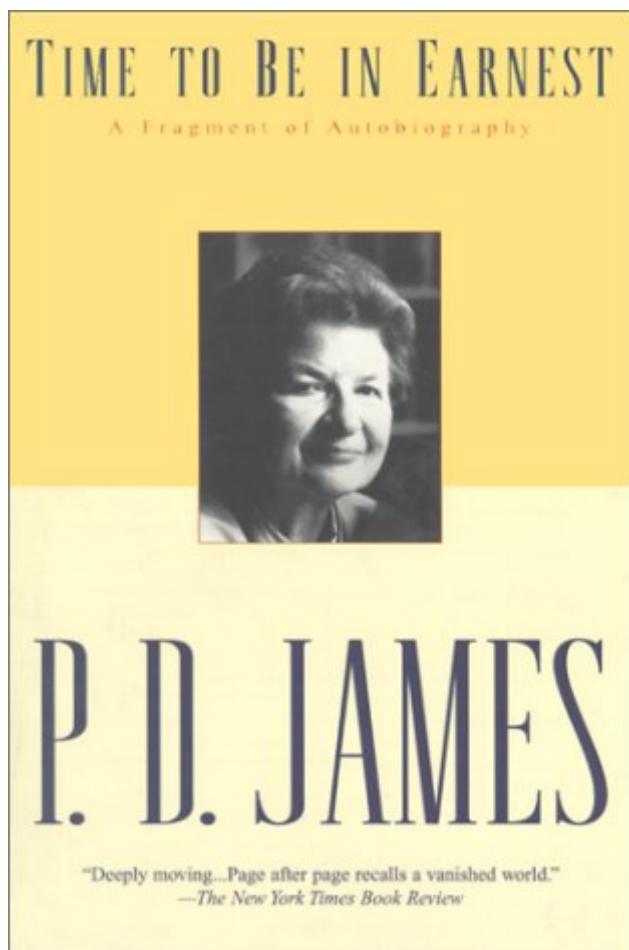


The book was found

Time To Be In Earnest



Synopsis

In 1997, P. D. James, the much loved and internationally acclaimed author of mysteries, turned seventy-seven. Taking to heart Dr. Johnson's advice that at seventy-seven it is "time to be in earnest," she decided to undertake a book unlike any she had written before: a personal memoir in the form of a diary. This enchanting and highly original volume is the result. Structured as the diary of a single year, it roams back and forth through time, illuminating James's extraordinary, sometimes painful and sometimes joyful life. Here, interwoven with reflections on her writing career and the craft of crime novels, are vivid accounts of episodes in her own past — of school days in 1920s and 1930s Cambridge . . . of the war and the tragedy of her husband's madness . . . of her determined struggle to support a family alone. She tells about the birth of her second daughter in the midst of a German buzz-bomb attack; about becoming a civil servant (and laying the groundwork for her writing career by working in the criminal justice system); about her years of public service on such bodies as the Arts Council and the BBC's Board of Governors, culminating in entry to the House of Lords. Along the way, with warmth and authority, she offers views on everything from author tours to the problems of television adaptations, from book reviewing to her obsession with Jane Austen. Written with exceptional grace, this "fragment of autobiography" has already been received with enthusiasm by British reviewers and readers. The thousands of Americans who have enjoyed P. D. James's novels will be equally charmed. Diary or memoir or both, *Time to Be in Earnest* is a delight. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

File Size: 2527 KB

Print Length: 306 pages

Publisher: Vintage (December 18, 2007)

Publication Date: December 18, 2007

Language: English

ASIN: B000XU8E28

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #457,412 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #62

Customer Reviews

After an uneven beginning, *Time to Be In Earnest*, settles down to an earnest and enjoyable memoir (it is in diary form, covering a year: 1997-1998). P.D. James has a distinct voice, comprised of dignity, reserve, confidence, practicality and intelligence. This voice or persona flows throughout the book. Not a reader of P.D. James' mystery novels, I have no way of knowing if this voice appears in her fiction. It is not a quiescent voice and therefore, not lightly ignored. It does give the reader an image of the author's personality, an image that may or may not be accurate. P.D. James has an eye for detail, a quality that can bog down many a memoir and almost does in this case. However, there is something leisurely, even unaggressive, about the wealth of detail, and it is intermingled with reflections on religion, nature, life, entertainment, writing and much more. And if you enjoy well-written pictures of nature, the prose of P.D. James will certainly delight and satisfy. In fact, there's a bit of everything in this autobiography for everyone. I found the comments about writing and true life detective cases most interesting as well as P.D. James' experiences in WWII. There are references to Chatsworth, the House of Lords, the BBC and more prosaically, P.D. James' cat, the Civil Service and the work on her house. There is always the suspicion in reading autobiography that it will be like watching other people's home movies: just a tad deary and confusing. This is not the case of *Time to Be In Earnest*. The smoothness of the writing carries the reader past all unknown faces (and it's fun to "meet" the few known ones). One gets the experience of the author's life as it happens. Many--if not most--memoirs/autobiographies are the analysis of events after they have been lived.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Time to Be in Earnest The Importance of Being Earnest (Norton Critical Editions) All of Grace: An earnest word with those seeking salvation (Christian Heritage) Real Time Systems and Programming Languages: Ada 95, Real-Time Java and Real-Time C/POSIX (3rd Edition) Everything In Its Time (Time After Time Series Book 1) Time Song 1 (Time Walkers: Time Song Smart Ways To Spend Your Time: The Constructive Use of Time Assets (The Adding Assets Series for Kids) Teacher Created Materials - TIME For Kids Informational Text: Straight Talk: Drugs and Alcohol - Grade 4 - Guided Reading Level R (Time for Kids Nonfiction Readers: Level 4.5) Teacher Created Materials - TIME For Kids Informational Text: Straight Talk: Drugs and Alcohol - Hardcover

- Grade 4 - Guided Reading Level R (Time for Kids Nonfiction Readers) Time to See the Doctor (First-Time Stories) Ricky The Raccoon Jungle Bed Time: Children's Animal Bed Time Story (Beginner Early Readers (Preschool picture book) Good Night Story Book 3) Real-time Operating Systems (The engineering of real-time embedded systems Book 1) The Essential Ketogenic Meal Prep Guide: Spend Less Time in the Kitchen and More Time Living Life (Ketogenic Diet Meal Plan, Meal Prep, Ketosis, Meal Preparation, Batch Cooking, Budget Cooking) Make Ahead Meals: Stock Up On These 44 Fridge And Freezer Friendly Meals Ahead Of Time, And You'll Never Go Hungry Again-Save Time And Reduce The Stress ... Slow Cooker Recipes, Make Ahead Paleo) Memory Controllers for Real-Time Embedded Systems: Predictable and Composable Real-Time Systems: 2 Kief Preston's Time-Tested FASTEST Edibles Cookbook: Quick Medical Marijuana Recipes - 30 Minutes or Less (The Kief Preston's Time-Tested Edibles Cookbook Series) (Volume 2) Php: Learn PHP In A DAY! - The Ultimate Crash Course to Learning the Basics of PHP In No Time (Learn PHP FAST - The Ultimate Crash Course to Learning ... of the PHP Programming Language In No Time) Cook without a Book: Meatless Meals: Recipes and Techniques for Part-Time and Full-Time Vegetarians The Time-Crunched Triathlete: Race-Winning Fitness in 8 Hours a Week (The Time-Crunched Athlete) The Time-Crunched Cyclist, 2nd Ed.: Fit, Fast, Powerful in 6 Hours a Week (The Time-Crunched Athlete)

[Dmca](#)