



## The Assize of the Dying

*Ellis Peters*

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# The Assize of the Dying

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**The Assize of the Dying** Ellis Peters

**From master of suspense Ellis Peters come two chilling tales of justice, deception, and revenge**

The jury foreman trembles as he delivers the verdict. After a grueling trial, the erudite and elegant Louis Stevenson has been found guilty of murder—and sentenced to death. A ripple of excitement goes through the courtroom, and Stevenson rises to make a final statement. He's innocent, he insists, and for condemning him, he swears cosmic vengeance on four men: the prosecutor, the foreman, the judge, and the true killer of Zoë Trevor. On their heads, he places the Assize of the Dying, a medieval curse that ensures they'll be dead within a month.

In “The Assize of the Dying” and “Aunt Helen,” Ellis Peters is at her best—and murder and elegance go hand in hand.

## The Assize of the Dying Details

Date : Published March 1st 2016 by MysteriousPress.com/Open Road (first published 1958)

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Author : Ellis Peters

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# From Reader Review The Assize of the Dying for online ebook

## Julie says

Not a Brother Cadfael or Felse family novel, but two short standalone novellas from Edith Pargeter, aka Ellis Peters. The first, The Assize of the Dying, was a little more gripping: an innocent man condemned to death condemns with a curse, in turn, the judge, prosecutor, jury foreman, and true killer. A newspaper reporter and some young, intrepid members of the judge's family are left to investigate. The story is an interesting blend of mystery and gothic novel with a hint of romance, and reminded me a bit of Georgette Heyer's mystery fiction, or Agatha Christie's Tommy and Tuppence series. The second story, Aunt Helen, fell a little flat for me because I guessed the murderer's identity fairly early in the book. I liked the character of Bill, the protagonist's nephew, who showed a lot of growth, and I liked the way Peters wrapped it up, with justice appropriately served.

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## John Mccullough says

A classic period piece by a master writer. Pargeter, better known for her Brother Cadfael series under the nom de plume of Ellis Peters, writes a short but pointed novel of injustice and its repercussions to those responsible. The Assize of the Dying is a Medieval (surprise) idea, noting that those responsible for killing an innocent person should shortly suffer the same fate. Would it work here, in these days? Saying much more would be a spoiler. A good, fast read and recommended for the holiday season when ghost stories are in vogue.

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## Mary says

This is more of a supernatural thriller than a mystery. I prefer the Brother Cadfael books.

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## Stef Rozitis says

This was an OK read apart from a few flaws. I enjoyed the second story much, much more than the first. I guessed the "solution" both times but both had enough twists to be entertaining nevertheless. In the first story I hated that the "intrepid heroine" becomes a dumb and useless mess the minute she hooks up with a man. She does all this important work setting up a trap for the murderer or whatever and then literally loses interest the moment her love interest appears in her sights. Really?

Both stories had too few women and would not pass the "Bechdel test". Both had the inevitable romance that Ellis Peters favours and the over-the-top emotional content (at least mercifully brief). The second story is relatively predictable in terms of the solution but as I said there are some twists (more of a "how-dunnit" than a "whodunnit") and it's more of a psychological study. It falls short of being anything complex and critical enough to satisfy me but it makes some interesting points.

There's a passively misogynist tone to both stories that seems surprising in a woman author of the 90s. At

least the writing itself was good.

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### **Jaret says**

WARNING: Possible spoilers included in this review! I checked this audiobook out thinking I was getting a Brother Cadfael book. I should have paid closer attention. Instead of getting a true historical mystery, I got a mystery that was current when it was written. The audio contained two mysteries. They were okay mysteries, but nothing super spectacular. In the first mystery, the heroine got so distracted by love that she didn't even bother to finish solving the mystery, the solution was revealed in a letter. Very disappointing. The second mystery on the audio wasn't that much better. Add that to the disappointment from expecting something else and you get a two star rating from me.

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### **Pete Bartel says**

Also includes Aunt Helen

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### **Polly says**

Two novellas, The Assize of the Dying and Aunt Helen. Well worth reading if you like Ellis Peters or good, classic English mysteries!

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