



Parting Breath

Catherine Aird

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Murder in the Quadrangle

The college dons at the University of Calleshire fully expected trouble when the students planned to shake their ivory tower with a sit-in at Almstone Hall. But no one expected the very peculiar theft from a dormitory room...or the very dead body in the college quadrangle. For Detective Inspector C.D. Sloan, the ivied halls hid a host of clues - from the words whispered with the dying man's parting breath to what a madrigal singer saw. So it was only a matter of time until he uncovered the murderer hidden in the groves o academe...but could he do it before death became another victim's alma mater?

Parting Breath Details

Date : Published April 1st 1984 by Bantam (first published June 1978)

ISBN : 9780553246018

Author : Catherine Aird

Format : Mass Market Paperback 164 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, European Literature, British Literature

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From Reader Review Parting Breath for online ebook

Melissa says

Needed a break, and read this quickly - good mystery, with some heavy undertones. Didn't guess who dun it.

It starts with a planned "sit-in" at the University of Calleshire. Then a student's notes are stolen. And next - a student is murdered. But why? He's not taking part in the sit-in, and has just come back from a mysterious vacation biking around Europe ... who would want to murder him? The professional twist to the murder makes Sloan uneasy ... and does a missing letter have anything to do with the murder?

Damaskcat says

A sit-in is planned at the University of Calleshire but some of the students have no wish to take part and boycott it. The police are aware of the situation but only become involved when one of the students is found murdered, though he is not involved in the sit-in. Sloan and Crosby are sent to investigate and find that there is no apparent motive and plenty of suspects but at least all the rebellious students had been locked in one building and are therefore not involved.

As ever with this entertaining series the book is well plotted and there are plenty of touches of humour as well as some marvellous characters; the irascible Superintendent Leeyes who always wants progress to have been made yesterday and who is full of half digested bits of knowledge from the various evening classes he has attended; DC Crosby who is the despair of the whole station but who actually does come up with some good ideas from time to time and Sloan who does his best not to let Crosby upset too many people and to keep Superintendent Leeyes happy.

This series does not need to be read in order and each book can be read as a standalone novel. I have read all the series more than once and they do bear re-reading. Some readers may find them too light and lacking in violence and gritty reality but you still find human nature in all its aspects - good as well as bad.

Susan says

When an undergraduate is found dead at the local university, the police find themselves in an unusual milieu, with various, possibly esoteric motives.

Pat Beard says

Nicely convoluted motives highlight an excellent addition to the series.

Rhonda says

I'm new to the Inspector Sloan series and my previous reviews have mentioned that I thought they were well written, but lacked enough character development to become a favorite. This edition, too, is primarily plot-driven and the plot is intricate and interesting. Slowly but surely, Inspector Sloan and Constable Crosby are becoming more developed characters, so I'd say this was the best of the series so far.

Bettie? says

Description: *Murder in the Quadrangle: The college dons at the University of Calleshire fully expected trouble when the students planned to shake their ivory tower with a sit-in at Almstone Hall. But no one expected the very peculiar theft from a dormitory room...or the very dead body in the college quadrangle. For Detective Inspector C.D. Sloan, the ivied halls hid a host of clues - from the words whispered with the dying man's parting breath to what a madrigal singer saw. So it was only a matter of time until he uncovered the murderer hidden in the groves o academe...but could he do it before death became another victim's alma mater?*

Nancy Oakes says

really, 3.5 stars

During a student-run sit in at a local university, a young student is found dying in the quad. His final words were heard by another student, but no one could figure out what he meant. Sloan is on hand to investigate, but it's an uphill battle with too many suspects and no apparent motive. Plus he's got his mind on the new baby expected at his home.

This one didn't end as abruptly as the others, which was good. Recommended for those who like police procedurals & British series mysteries.

Esther Marlowe says

Ending seemed contrived. This author has far too much coughing and throat clearing by characters to suit my taste. This story added sneezing to the mix. Calling all ENTs.

Priya says

meh

uninteresting backdrop

Karen says

Academic mystery with hints of WW II and Cold War spying.

Pat says**Huh?**

Sometimes this author is so clever the reader has no idea what's going on. Six more words required. Now two.

George says

#7 in the Detective Inspector Sloan of the Berebury (somewhere in England)Police Department mystery series. A student at the local University of Calleshire is found murdered while a student sit in protest is going on. Sloan has to work his way through a number of possibilities and overlapping possibilities to find his murderer.

Interesting cast of university characters both in the faculty and students as well as Sloan's boss.

Melinda says

A few humorous moments and I quite like Inspector Sloan and Crosby but for the most part I found this book slow and tedious to plow through.

Cindy says

I really enjoyed this one. A truly ingenious plot twist had me guessing right up to the very end. A student is murdered and his last words provide a mystifying clue that the police must solve to catch a truly evil criminal.

CMB

Edith says

3 and 1/2 stars. Lightweight 1960s British police procedural, with Inspector C.D. Sloan, this one with international overtones. There is a death and a sit-in at the University of Calleshire. It takes a chapter or two

to get the university and its students sorted out, and it helps to have some knowledge of the events of WWII in central Europe. Drily humorous, but with more than a little poignancy and darkness. Evocative of its day. For fans of Miss Aird: Crosby is noticeably less blockheaded than usual, although not enough to be out of character, and Inspector Sloan's wife is expecting their first child. Not the author's finest work, but very enjoyable.
