



The Dead Hour

Denise Mina

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Dead Hour

Denise Mina

The Dead Hour Denise Mina

Paddy Meehan thought she'd be farther along in her career as an investigative journalist by now. But three years after breaking a big story, she's still on perpetual night shift, chasing police calls for a story that will promote her out of a twilight existence that makes candy bars and coffee a medical necessity. With her father and brothers unemployed and her family perilously short of money, she needs the work. The domestic dispute at a house in a wealthy suburb seems like nothing unusual - at first. The elegant blonde in the shadows bleeding from a head injury doesn't want any help; and the well-dressed, ingratiating man at the front door tells Paddy everything's fine and that she should leave. And then he asks her to make sure nothing appears in the paper, slipping cash into her hand before he closes the door. The next morning, Paddy sees the lead TV news story: the blonde woman had been tortured, beaten, and left to die. The untraceable man was neither her boyfriend nor her husband, and Paddy can't understand why the victim passed up the chance to walk through the door and live. Far from the spoiled trophy wife Paddy assumed her to be, the victim was a prosecution lawyer with a social conscience that clashed with her privileged background. Soon Paddy begins to make connections no one else has seen, and after she witnesses the body of a suicide being pulled from the river, she finds surprising links between the two deaths. It's the story Paddy's dreamed of, but she'll lose all credibility if word gets out about the bribe. The police who attended the call are twisting the evidence for reasons of their own, and her boss at the newspaper is impatient with Paddy's unproven hunches. Only Paddy cares enough to pursue a dark and brutal truth that could make her career - or kill her.

The Dead Hour Details

Date : Published July 1st 2006 by Little Brown and Company (first published 2006)

ISBN : 9780316735940

Author : Denise Mina

Format : Hardcover 341 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Cultural, Scotland, Thriller, Mystery Thriller

 [Download The Dead Hour ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Dead Hour ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Dead Hour Denise Mina

From Reader Review The Dead Hour for online ebook

Daniel Sevitt says

Terrific Tartan noir with young Paddy Meehan getting in over her head again. Great on the sexual politics of a provincial newsroom in the 1980s with a few too many scenes following the physical breakdown of a coke-head on the run. Satisfying enough to hunt down the third in the series.

Kathleen Hagen says

The Dead Hour, by Denise Mina. B-plus

Downloaded from audible.com

This is the second book in the new series, involving Paddy Meehan, who started out as a copy boy (girl) and then, based on the good work done in the first book, *Field of Blood*, she is promoted to reporter. In this book she is now on the crime beat and rides around following the police to calls at night writing up summaries of what happened for the next morning's paper. So, she was with the police the night they were called for a domestic incident at a villa in the wealthy part of town. The neighbors had complained of noise. The police went to the door. A handsome well-spoken young man came out and spoke with them telling them things would be fine. Paddy glimpsed a blond woman behind him in the house who looked very bloody and scared. Paddy raised her eyebrows at the woman to see if she wanted help, but the woman shook her head and stepped back. The man handed Paddy some money with the idea that she would "forget this", and she surmised he paid off the police as well. Paddy kept the money at first but felt badly about it later when the woman turned up dead. She wrote the story anyway and ultimately turned the money over to the police to see if there were prints. This put her in the cross-hairs of the two policemen who took the call that night and who were in the habit of taking bribes. Paddy must use her wits to keep her job, not get killed. Paddy also finds herself involved with a married man-something her very Catholic family would not be able to countenance. I actually read the abridged version. I had trouble getting the unabridged version, which does actually exist. Also, the unabridged versions of these books are read by a narrator whose accent is so thick that it's hard to understand her. The abridged version was read by Heather O'Neal. These books are aggressive and come up with solutions which may be against the law but which feel right. A wonderful book.

John says

Aged 21 and suffering under the gloom of the Thatcher years, Patricia "Paddy" Meehan is the only wage-earner in her Glasgow family. Her job is as a very junior reporter on a fictional Glasgow newspaper, the *Daily News*; her main task is to cruise the city at night with a driver, listening to the police radio and checking the hospitals and cop shops in search of an interesting story. One night she witnesses a pair of cops being bribed not to investigate what looks like an extremely nasty "domestic incident"; the following morning she discovers that the woman in question, a prominent lawyer and Amnesty activist, was tortured to death. The next day the dead woman's ex-fiance commits suicide, and the cops choose to assume this is an admission of guilt for the murder, even though Paddy knows they must know this cannot be true . . .

This is the second of Mina's books that I've read, the other being *Deception*, which I enjoyed while I was reading it only to feel let down by the ending, which seemed to me an artifice rather than a resolution. I felt

let down by the ending of *The Dead Hour*, too, which leaves several plot strands unresolved and seems to be setting things up for a sequel. I've since learned that my suspicion was probably correct -- there's another Paddy Meehan book after this -- but also that it had a Paddy Meehan predecessor. In other words, in terms of what's gone before, the novel works just fine as a standalone; in terms of its ending, not so well.

I was less captivated by Mina's writing this time round. I kept noticing odd little bits of description that didn't seem to make sense. Someone made a little figure-of-eight gesture with their head, which sounded reasonable until I tried it. Someone else walked along flapping their hands behind them, which is far easier to do but would be completely abnormal. And so on. (There was also a sex scene that must surely have been at least nominated for the Bad Sex Award.) This isn't to say that the novel doesn't function as a pageturner -- it does -- just that I felt it lacked the narrative drive of *Deception*, as evidenced by the very fact that I was noticing these things.

All in all, then, an interesting book but one that failed to kindle my passions.

Anna Björklund says

#2 Paddy Meehan

Fortsatte på del två bara för att jag hade idétorka på vad jag skulle välja närmast. Tycker att relationen med Paddys familj blommar ut mer här och den tycker jag är intressant samt hennes relation till katolicismen som hon försöker förhålla sig till för mammans skull.

Vanessa says

This is the second book in Denise Mina's Paddy Meehan trilogy. The first one is *Field of Blood*. It's not essential that the books be read in order but they ideally should be, if for no other reason than to appreciate the maturation of wee Paddy who is only 23 years old in this book.

Like all of Mina's books, the story is set in Glasgow, Scotland. This series is set in the 1980's--specifically 1984 here--and in the heart of Thatcher-era economic malaise and resentment. Paddy is a crime reporter for a local newspaper working the night shift, driving around the city following the summons of the police radio. The story opens with Paddy at the scene of a domestic violence call in a well-to-do neighborhood that ends the next day with the victim found tortured and dead, and Paddy feeling horribly guilty about leaving the scene with a would-be bribe in her pocket from the apparent killer. The following day, the victim's co-worker and ex-boyfriend commit suicide. The police seem largely uninterested in Paddy's take on what happened, and from there grows a tale of gangsters, police corruption and a giant bag full of cocaine that one character hilariously refers to as their "comfort pillow." Meanwhile, things don't look good at Paddy's economically challenged newspaper, which is under new management in a laying off mood. Losing her job would be especially bad news for young Paddy, who is the only member of her large Catholic family with a job at the moment.

I like Mina's Garnethill series the best but this one has really grown on me. There's lots of detail about 1980's Scotland (which sounds like a rollicking, unsafe place) and Paddy is as charming, resourceful, and fully formed as Garnethill's Maureen O'Donnell, yet totally distinct from her. I'm a big Denise Mina fan girl and can easily put her in the company of the likes of Dennis Lehane and Jo Nesbo. She's so smart about human nature and such a compelling story spinner, she's a pleasure to read.

Thomas Strömquist says

Paddy Meehan #2 and by the time of this it was joyfully obvious that no-one had to long for/moan about/miss Garnethill. Denise does not know how it feels to write a less than great book. Paddy has made reporter, but are doing her dog introduction time during the Dead Hour of night.

Isidora says

Ännu bättre än första boken i serien, Blodsarv. Det är huvudpersonen Paddy som gör att jag tycker så mycket om de här böckerna. En passionerad och lite annorlunda karaktär! Intressant att läsa om liv i Glasgow var det också.

Sandra says

Denise Mina is the sort of writer who puts lesser writers off from writing, since they know they can never compete with the casual brilliance of what she does. At least, that is the case with *this* writer, i.e. me.

I wasn't especially drawn to Paddy Meehan in the first book, in comparison with Maureen O'Donnell but this is the second and she has grown a lot more interesting in the meantime. The plot is well-worked and lucid, characters superb and Paddy herself combines an innate knowledge of how people behave with her own ignorance about how some things are. Fabulously wonderful read and I'm only irritated - and finished the book exclaiming 'oh bugger' because the next two are on my Amazon list as potential christmas presents, and I'll have to wait until then to find out what happens next.

And re-read, with, as usual, greater appreciation.

Tim The Enchanter says

Paddy Keeps Rolling! - 4 Stars

Paddy Meehan is one of the most entertaining characters I have encountered in a long time. On one hand, she is a little overweight and is self conscious while on the other she is spunky, quick witted and quick tempered. She is the only unbeliever in a staunchly catholic home and she is convinced her unbelief will drag her whole family to hell with her. The entertainment provided by Paddy is worth the read.

Plot summary

Paddy is faced with a moral dilemma. She attends at a police call in progress where there is an apparent domestic situation occurring. After the police have spoken with the parties and have failed to make any arrests, she seeks a comment from the parties. Inside, she sees a young woman who is clearly hurt and with blood running down her face. The man at the door gives her fifty pounds and asks her to keep it out of the papers. The next day, Paddy learns that the woman in the house was found dead. Should she turn in the 50

pound note and risk losing her job or should she keep it to help her down on the luck family. It is after another body is pulled out of the river that Paddy believes there is a bigger story going on and the police seem to be obscuring the facts. Will she get the story of her career or will the bribe come to obscure her credibility.

The Good

Improvements!

The story formatting was my biggest complaint with the first book. While the various "chapters" and "parts" remain, it is much easier to follow in this installment. As in the first, there is a parallel storyline, but it is in the present and is coherent. Instead of detracting from the book, the parallel storyline adds to overall feel.

Setting, Characters and more Setting

As in the first installment, Denise Mina expertly develops characters and places them in a believable near historical setting. I did not visit Scotland in the mid 80's but I feel as if I was there. The depressed economy and the rise of an urban drug culture play prominently in the story and well developed.

The Bad

A Few Stumbles

While the formatting is much improved, it suffers with some pacing issues. I enjoyed the writing and the character of Paddy Meehan so much, that I felt as if it could have been a favorite book but jarring pacing ultimately (although mildly) reduce my opinion.

Can this Book Stand Alone

If you really want it to. While this story is self contained, it is part of a trilogy. This second book does not borrow heavily from the first and you would not be lost if you picked up this one first.

Final Thoughts

This and first in the trilogy has left me wanting to read more by Denise Mina. She has a sharp eye for setting and character and I look forward to finish the trilogy. That said, I am quite disappointed there are only three book as Paddy is such a great and relatable character.

Audiobook Notes

Content Advisories

It is difficult to find commentary on the sex/violence/language content of book if you are interested. I make an effort to give you the information so you can make an informed decision before reading. *Disclaimer* I do not take note or count the occurrences of adult language as I read. I am simply giving approximations. When reviewing language, mild obscenities are words like, shit, hell or damn. Religious exclamations are words such as Christ or Jesus when used as profanity.

Scale 1 - Lowest 5 - Highest

Sex - 3

There is a bit more sex in this installment than the last. There is a moderately graphic sex scene in the book and several less graphic ones. As Paddy is aging, the content is become a bit more "adult".

Language - 1

There are about 45 mild obscenities, 70 uses of the f-word and 3 religious exclamations.

Violence - 3

There is also more violence in the background of this novel. There are several mildly graphic descriptions of death and several scenes where characters are beaten. The author tends to avoid the gory description.

Camilla Andersson says

<http://frokenchristina.blogspot.se/20...>

Jim says

I first heard about Denise Mina from a National Public Radio review while I was driving to work. Scotland has always been one of my favorite places -- even Mina's Glasgow, a gritty city that is the exact opposite of stately Edinburgh. Growing like a toadstool in the 19th century prosperity of its shipyards, it has become Britain's equivalent of Detroit once those shipyards shuttered their doors. Some years ago, I stayed at a pub called the Babbity Bowster within a few blocks of George's Square and vividly remember the drunks passing by under the windows all night.

Denise Mina -- she pronounces her last name Mynah, like the bird -- sees the crime scene of Glasgow through the eyes of a chubby young journalist named Paddy (for Patricia) Meehan. She works the night shift, writing short pieces for a daily newspaper about the murders and gruesome accidents that punctuate the icy nights. It is the Thatcher era, an era of reduced expectations in a city sinking ever deeper into poverty.

The Dead Hour begins with a young woman attorney being tortured to death. The police, followed by Paddy, show up at the door in response to a call; but it appears that the police are more intent on covering up the crime than investigating it.

Spikey-haired Paddy endangers her own life by trying to break through the conspiracy of silence surrounding the case. In between times, she looks for love in all the wrong places, but she finally succeeds ... oh, but then, were you really expecting me to spill *all* the beans?

This is a very good mystery, and I will definitely read more of Mina's work. By the way, according to some people I know who have met her, she pronounces her last name Mynah because, as a former law professor, she did not want to be known as Miss D. Mina (misdemeanor).

L says

What a fabulous story! Journalist Paddy Meehan is the only employed member of her large family. And her job is no great shakes--she and her driver work the night shift, following whatever comes over the scanner. It doesn't pay well and she waits to be terminated; she hasn't had a good story in a long time. One night they turn out for a domestic, but in a swanky neighborhood. The man holds the door shut. She sees the woman in a mirror, bloody. The cops are getting ready to leave, not interested. The woman indicates that she doesn't want help; she'll stay. The man hands Paddy a bribe to stop her writing it up. After this, everything goes sideways. And you have to read it to find out how that happens, what Paddy does, and the danger she puts herself into.

Characters are great--real people, many of whom you actually find yourself caring about. Mina provides a real sense of place and time. The sense of menace emerges early on and does not let up. The ending? Well, once again, you have to read it.

Oh, no! I just went to Amazon to get the first book in the Paddy Meehan series! Though strictly speaking this could be categorized as a "cozy," since Paddy Meehan is not a police woman of any sort or a PI, trust me. This is not cozy.

Jennifer says

I love Mina's character, Paddy Meehan – thumb ring, green leather coat, food addictions and all. She's a Glasgow crime reporter who shows up at a domestic disturbance call. The door is answered by a handsome man, behind him, a woman with a bloodied face. The couple sends the police away, bribing Paddy to keep the story out of the paper. The next morning, the woman is dead. Paddy learns the cops who answered the call aren't being honest about what happened, and realizes she's stumbled onto a story that could just save her career -- if she isn't killed first.

A very compelling read.

Gloria Feit says

Paddy Meehan, 21 years old and on night shift [called the "calls car" shift, and encompassing the Dead Hour, 3 AM], at the Scottish Daily News in Glasgow, makes one of her usual nightly calls, following the police radio in the car and going to the address to which the police have been summoned. This time it appears to be a domestic disturbance, the victim a young, elegant-looking blond woman who, though obviously bloodied, refuses any assistance and, when Paddy catches her eye, seems to slightly shake her head. The police leave, aided by the passing of money into their hands from the man who had answered the door, a scenario replayed moments later when Paddy, herself now the recipient of a 50 pound note, tries to question him. The following morning Paddy learns that the body of the blond woman, a prosecution attorney from a wealthy family, has been found, having been tortured, beaten and left to die, and she is tormented by the possible role she may have played by her quiescence.

To salve her conscience and, not incidentally, hoping to make her mark as an investigative journalist at the same time, Paddy follows up on the story, which expands when another death follows, whether suicide or murder an uncertain matter.

Glasgow, its rougher as well as finer areas, the helplessness of those affected by 1980's unemployment, and the protagonist's Irish Catholic background, are well drawn, as is Paddy, young, rebellious, hardworking

[sole support of her parents and several siblings] and ambitious. The author having interspersed a second pov, contained within but separate from its surrounding chapters, was a bit confusing at first to this reader, as the identity of the second voice is unclear [although the reader knows her name] – it is really her relation to the rest of the story thus far that is not clear. It is not until over 50 pages into the book that her identity becomes evident. The effect of this device is to steadily build the suspense which, despite the book having begun at a moderate pace, grows till the hold-your-breath conclusion and a shocking twist before a very satisfying conclusion. As for that cliffhanger in the last line, the resolution of that will have to await the next book in the series, which I will eagerly await.

The Dead Hour is the second in the Paddy Meehan series, following Field of Blood, and Ms. Mina's earlier books, including Deception and the Garnethill Trilogy.

Liz says

Damn I love these books. I adore Paddy Meehan! She is one of the best series protagonists I've come across in years. In her era (late 80s) and her particularly conservative religious community, women don't work – they marry. So here's Paddy, charging full speed ahead into the "unnatural" life of a professional, unmarried woman. She's tough but insecure. Hot-headed, yet kind. And she's totally badass.

No plot summary for this book but suffice it to say that she gives as good as she gets. She screws up and falls down and she gets right back up again.

"The smiled at each other, these two working women, both keeping jobs from needy men, betraying nature by escaping the kitchen sink, these two women who were out in the world, active not passive, subjects not objects."

Boom.
