



Dark Justice

Jack Higgins

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A fabulous contemporary thriller from the master of the genre – the author of the international bestsellers *Midnight Runner*, *A Fine Night for Dying* and *Bad Company*.

Sean Dillon is back in another heart-stopping, adrenalin-laced adventure

When the president's right hand men foil a plan to assassinate him. Sean Dillon is called upon to trace the would-be killer's history

It appears the assassin is British with Muslim connections, and suddenly Dillon is on a trail that leads him to England, Russia and Iraq, where he prepares for the deadliest challenge of his life.

Dark Justice Details

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Author : Jack Higgins

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Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Mystery, Action

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From Reader Review Dark Justice for online ebook

Ninamarie says

Liked this story...would be interested in reading others.

Best part was the audiobook had a reader who used a variety of accents, making it very enjoyable to listen to!

Lois says

A good first scene involves the thwarting of an assassination of a U.S. president. Then, sadly, the book lacks tension, engaging characters, much of a plot. Perhaps it's fine for people who have been with the series since the start. Seriously deficit for the rest of us.

Massanutten Regional Library says

Alan, North River patron, June 2016, 3 stars:

This is the 12th Higgins book in the Sean Dillon series that I have read. I enjoyed the early reads, but the last 4 or 5 have been very similar and predictable. It is as if he took the same template and superimposed it on these books. Themes and events in this book nearly identical to the previous 4 or 5 books in the series are:

- *an assassination attempt on the U.S. President and/or the British Prime Minister
- *a very wealthy individual or family that controls oil production and often has a past Nazi connection
- *parachuting to rescue a captive and/or to terminate evildoers
- *a vicious femme fatale
- *an older woman pushed into the water and drowning
- *considerable eating and drinking in various pubs (OK with me, but it gets boring after a while)

I'll try a few more of his Dillon series novels, but if they are as predictable as they have been, I'll switch to other writers.

Henri Moreaux says

Stories of intrigue are usually intriguing, not so with Dark Justice!

Commencing with a plot to assassinate the US President one has an immediate flashback to a previous novel with a remarkably similar plot development, only this time rather than the perpetrator being an IRA soldier hired by rich industrialist with Islamic fundamentalist views it is a Islamic fundamentalist backed by a rich industrialist.

Naturally the attempt is thwarted by Ferguson/Dillon/Blake&Co at which point they commence hunting down the backer. Once again Dillon visits an old lady, kisses her on the forehead and the next day she's dead

of an "accident", quite amazing that the old ladies he kisses on the forehead keep drowning accidentally in the Thames.

Enter the IRA a bit of run around and then Dillon gets his man and the story ends. At which point we're apparently meant to have forgotten about the Islamic fundamentalist training camps which trained the aforementioned assassin which are never actually dealt with in any manner.

Overall, it fills in time but really is a rather unimpressive work filled with Déjà vu plot developments.

Michael Twyman says

Love this series of book with its different characters. Especially like Dillon for his dark side

Alex Gherzo says

Dark Justice, while not one of the best Sean Dillon adventures, is a worthy entry in the series. This time a British-born Muslim assassin tries to kill the American President and the aftermath sweeps Dillon and his allies into a battle with a Russian oil billionaire, a growing Muslim terrorist umbrella and some hired IRA gunmen.

Spoilers...

The weakest point of the novel are the villains. For the most part they just aren't that interesting. Josef Belov is given an entire chapter dedicated to his backstory and still seems underdeveloped. There was no real insight into his psyche, just a list of things that happened to him. Throughout the book we get no sense of why he's doing any of the evil things he does, other than just to do it (Hanna Bernstein's attempts at psychological evaluation are absurd, as are everyone's awe at her observations). He's a billionaire oil magnate with no apparent political or religious motivations and yet he's funding Muslim terrorists and attacking the US President? There's not even any mention made of him profiting from the terror via his oil company (his oil reserves are in Russia anyway). The only thing it might be is that Saddam Hussein -- who gave him his fortune -- asked him to do it, but this is very lightly implied. His main henchman, Yuri Ashimov, is a little better (at least he gets out on the front lines a little), but not much. He's fiercely loyal to Belov, but I see no reason why. Just because he served with him? Dermot Kelly and Tod Murphy, Belov's IRA hirelings, are nobody's that never seem like a substantial threat to Dillon. The reader is left waiting to see how long Dillon will take to scrape them off his shoe.

The exception, though, is Greta Novikova, Ashimov's girlfriend and partner in crime. She's much more interesting than the rest. She's evil and cold-blooded, but she also seems to have a sense of honor. She despises the two thugs assigned to her in Iraq and even kills one to protect Dillon because our hero had saved her life. Then she allows Dillon and his compatriots to get away. Moreover, I like the effect she has on Dillon: he likes her. There's something about her that really appeals to him. She's got a bit of a wicked streak to her, just like he does. That, ultimately, is why he chooses to save her life. You get the sense that Dillon

regrets they have to be enemies. But in the end, Dillon kills her, saying simply "She shouldn't have joined." Later he expresses bit of regret, chalking it up to her saving his life, but I don't think that's all of it. Being ruthless takes a toll on Dillon and Greta helped explore that. She was easily the best new character in the book, and it's a shame she won't be coming back.

Other than that, everything is as usual in a Higgins book. The pacing is very fast, the action is hard, and Dillon is funny and charming as ever. You want to have a drink with him, being ever mindful that he could kill you as easily as toast you. There were lots of ruminations on the changing rules of war in modern times, specifically with the War on Terror pitting civilization against a new kind of enemy and forcing us to adapt to survive. Hanna Bernstein is the lone holdout for maintaining the rule of law, while the rest -- though some are very uneasy -- see the necessity of fighting fire with fire. I think it's clear where Higgins hangs his hat, but he acknowledges there isn't an easy answer.

Overall, a good but not quite great Dillon novel. But even when Higgins isn't at his best, there are much worse ways to spend your time than with Sean Dillon.

Jackie says

Not my style of books. Wasn't interesting enough for me.

Rebecca says

Brilliant! I love this series - they just get better and better! The characters are so well done and I love the way they manage to tie in to each other with little references to things that happened in the previous books in the series. I can always rely on Higgins for a good bit of fun easy reading - the perfect pick me up after a bad book! 5 stars.

Ginny says

Just barely 3 star. The characters are pretty one dimensional and the plot so-so.

Wes Baker says

Higgins is always good for an escapist read--or in this case, listen. This was another episode in the saga of Sean Dillon, the ex-IRA terrorist turned British intelligence officer. The premise, dealing with a Russian connection to Islamic terrorism in the UK, is timely and Higgins always provides a sense of drawing from some inside information from years of contacts with his sources. Nonetheless, I was put off by Dillon's willingness to, unnecessarily, take justice into his own hands. What I enjoyed the most was narrator Michael Page's reading. His facility in voicing a wide range of characters--in terms of ethnicity (accents/dialects), age and sex--is amazing, so that listening to the book is like listening to the cast of a theatrical production instead of a single narrator.

Billie says

The battle against international terrorism continues with renegade Russian agents teaming up IRA members both longing for the good old days of their respective wars. They take on The Prime Ministers Private army led Charles Ferguson with him the most feared enforcer Sean Dillon. The battles range from Iraq to England to Ireland. Dillon and his fellow black ops expects battle to the death with those who seek to destroy them. Good exchanges between the characters and enough twists in the story to keep one interested and some pathos also. Nice read during the early days of Summer.

Apolla says

Another 'stuck in a remote Irish cottage with no television and dodgy internet' read which followed PD James and that Dawn of Empires thing... it was this or something in German, some kind of trashy 'middle-aged woman misery chicklit' thing and Jeffrey Archer.

OK, so I've never read a Sean Dillon book before but my instinct was one of 'Calling Gary-Stu!' If the editor had removed every reference to Sean Dillon being 'the best' at whatever, it would've been a third shorter.

On the other hand, it was kind of gripping in that 'well, I haven't got anything better to do' sort of way, and it's head and shoulders above the Archer choice - I never did get that bored.

Maybe if I'd read a Sean Dillon before I might've enjoyed it better. As it is, I remember few details and cared about even fewer...

Sara says

Disappointing and not a very believable plot.

Lisa James says

First read by this specific author. Darkly funny, fast paced, engaging storyline, great action-adventure/thriller/crime genre book. Kind of reminded me of Tom Clancy or Clive Cussler in style. Not my favorite genre as a rule, but I really got a kick out of this one.

Steve says

July 2018 Another favorite Higgins! I've decided to rate the ones I like **** not ***** unless they are superlative, in my opinion. Because Higgins employs some of the same old same old tactics, this is a 3-4 star, not a 4-5 star. That doesn't stop me from reading the series.

