

## DSM-5: a fatal diagnosis?

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*Committee walk-outs and unprecedented levels of scrutiny and criticism have marked the run-up to this week's launch of DSM-5. Jonathan Gornall interviews key players on both sides of the debate and asks whether this mighty US psychiatric handbook has finally over-reached itself.*

It isn't every day that a new medical handbook attracts as much media attention as the latest blockbuster novel by a world famous author. But the controversy surrounding the publication on 22 May of the long awaited fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders has generated international coverage on a scale to rival that afforded last week's release of the latest sin and symbols thriller from the bestselling author Dan Brown.

And, though unlikely literary bedfellows, DSM-5 and *Inferno*—a romp through clues plucked from Dante Alighieri's 14th century poem *Divine Comedy*—have something else in common: the authors of both have been going through hell at the hands of their critics.