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Posted on 26 July 2018 By Ngaio Marsh

# {Free Book} ÷ Vintage Murder ? eBook or E-pub free

Review to follow, but suffice to say it only just scraped 4 stars And here is the review that followed As numerous people have said before me, and I m sure will continue to do so, if only we had halves This would then be a solid 3.5 stars As it is, it isn t 3, so it has to be 4 As a complete aside before I continue, why is GR so awful on kindles when they are both Ok, back to the book, there was nothing intrinsically wrong with it, it just never seemed to get going, and if I m honest I struggled with some of the characters under suspicion so had to keep referring back to remind myself who they were I missed Fox and the London link, and just never really connected with the case Well I am, for a few days, only one book behind now, and I m looking forward to the introduction of Troy. The two things Ngaio Marsh loved were the theatre and New Zealand Both feature in this book, and the love shines through Marsh started after Christie and it is obvious that Marsh learnt the craft from those writers of the time that were pushing the boundaries of crime fiction Thus, even from the start, her novels are strong in their construction and red herrings This one is no exception. In this mystery, Marsh is the great manipulator, as she slowly removes the potential suspects with strong and plausible alibis Unlike in many books, the least mentioned character is the murderer, here, all get equal play one is left with determining access and opportunity Once you realise Marsh has been manipulating you, that wry smile comes, for you are in the hands of a master writer, and you then enjoy the pleasure of the denouement Once, I realised I was being manipulated, I did determine the killer, but it was quite a way through the book, and I didn t have to wait long for the revelation. If the flow of the novel is anything to go by, Marsh enjoyed writing this story, for the reader gets much enjoyment from the style and narrative and character development of the book. Maybe I m going soft, but I m getting fonder of Ngaio Marsh and her upper class sleuth, Roderick Alleyn This book makes it clear I ve been pronouncing his name wrong all these years It s Allen not Al laine he is enjoying a holiday in Marsh s native New Zealand. Members of the Incorporated Playhouses acting troupe offer Alleyn a seat in their train carriage They are all on their way to the fictitious town of Middleton, near Ohakune in the centre of the North Island The Daylight Limited train crossing the Hapuawhenua Viaduct north of Ohakune, ca 1930s National Library Collection Alleyn is invited to their latest production of course there is a murder Typically for Marsh the murder is staged Ha Staged I kill me in a highly unlikely way and also to me highly unlikely Alleyn ends up assisting the local police. What I liked was revisiting old fashioned kiwi slang I m old enough to remember some of these now dated expressions We do still say we are feeling crook if we are unwell, less likely to go crook if we are angry I promise we aren t so sensitive to criticism of God s Own Country as we used to be. There are also signs of how real Alleyn is becoming to Marsh His character changes

often in the previous books in the case of *A Man Lay Dead* often in the same chapter This book he is consistent with less of the upper class angst that is a tiresome feature in some of her later books Marsh even has Alleyn as an author This reminded me so much of my made up world as a young teen that I gave an affectionate giggle I also liked the cast of characters and the inventively named chapters The latter is just fun, but the former helps this reader keep a large cast straight I wish modern mystery writers would do this Lastly, I can't resist this quote from this 1937 novel What do you think, Mr Alleyn If there's another war will the young chaps come at it, same as we did, thinking it's great And get the same jolt What do you reckon I'm afraid to speculate, said Alleyn. Prescient. This year I have embarked on a Ngaio Marsh challenge and, so far, am finding her books a little mixed So far I have really enjoyed some and others, like this one, have left me a little underwhelmed Roderick Alleyn is on holiday, with the suggestion that he is recovering, from an illness, or injury However, he is not destined to get much relaxation after falling in with the Carolyn Dacres English Comedy Company, who are on tour in New Zealand One of the players is Susan Max, a character actress who appeared in an earlier novel, which gives some suggestion as to why he is travelling with them After arriving by ship, the company are travelling by train to their first stop, when Alfred Meyer, Proprietor and Managing Director of the company, says that someone tried to push him off the train His wife, and leading lady, Carolyn Dacres, is upset, but as she is having a long time flirtation with leading man, Hailey Hambleton, perhaps she is not as upset as she says Then, a silly young girl, Valerie Gaynes, who has been taken on by the company as a favour to her rich father, has a lot of money stolen It is not the best start and then, when the company arrive, their initial on stage success is dampened by murder. All throughout her life, author Ngaio Marsh was heavily involved in the theatre and so this is obviously a world she knows well as well as being set in her native New Zealand so possibly I anticipated from this There are a number of suspects and motives from love, jealousy, greed and secrets Alleyn is present at the murder and, when the local detectives discover who he is, he is immediately involved in the investigation Personally, though, the mystery seemed a fairly unsatisfactory cataloguing of endless motives Which got somewhat bogged down in loose ends, alibi's and timings and did not have a particularly satisfying ending Still, I have really enjoyed some of the series, so look forward to reading on and exploring of her work. *Vintage Murder 1937* by Ngaio Marsh finds Inspector Roderick Alleyn on a rest cure holiday in the large island country of New Zealand He's recovering from some unnamed injury acquired in the line of duty and he's hoping for a trip full of nothing but peace and quiet However, while traveling cross country by train he encounters a touring acting company which includes one familiar face found in the earlier story *Enter a Murderer* and he makes friends with others This results in an invitation to a performance and the company's after party which will also honor the leading lady's birthday. He should have known that he was in for a very different sort of drama when said leading lady Carolyn Dacres's husband is nearly shoved off the train and a large sum

of money is stolen from another cast member It definitely doesn't surprise the reader that murder strikes during the birthday party and Alfred Meyer, the husband, is the victim One might be surprised that the murder weapon is huge jeroboam of champagne that drops unceremoniously upon his head during what is supposed to be a pleasant surprise for the birthday girl. The local police assume it is an accident a slight miscalculation of the angle of descent But Alleyn is forced to gently lead them to the clues he's already spotted which point to a sinister explanation He then treads a narrow path trying not to step on official toes on a busman's holiday to help discover who had the opportunity to tamper with the champagne surprise package as well as a motive to kill the inoffensive company producer They wind their way through suspect interviews looking for anyone who lacks an alibi for the critical time period and find themselves with several motives, but apparently no one with opportunity It will take a careful review of the time table and looking at the scene of action from another point of view before Alleyn finally spots the culprit. I really enjoy the Marsh books set in the theater world As I mentioned in my review of *Enter a Murderer*, her interest in and love of the acting world really shows in the detail she provides and the treatment of the characters Favorite bits are the journey on the train and Alleyn's interactions with Dr Rangi Te Pokiha, a Maori doctor The plot style is a bit repetitive from the earlier theater book relying again on who was where during the critical period and who had access to the equipment but still interesting and well done The critical drawback for me was the lack of Inspector Fox though Alleyn does consult him by telegram and address him in letters The Alleyn Fox duo is a partnership I enjoy seeing in action and a half stars rounded to four here

First posted on my blog My Reader's Block Please request permission before reposting Thanks. This is the second book I have read by Ngaio Marsh I loved the first one so much *False Scent* that I went on a Ngaio Marsh binge Someone was selling all of her books dirt cheap on eBay, at least for auction My husband, who loves a good hunt and competition, outbid everyone and got them for me still dirt cheap. Of course I could have come to regret my decision Maybe Marsh wrote one good book and the rest are lame Well, I am happy to say that this one was even better than the first, in my opinion At least I enjoyed it even and I enjoyed *False Scent* a lot. In this mystery, Inspector Alleyn, is on a train in New Zealand for a vacation Ha, ha We know how that's going to end up, don't we He finds himself in a compartment with a traveling troupe of actors from the U.K that are taking their show to New Zealand Alleyn and the other actors in his car fall asleep but are wakened by a Mr Meyer, the producer of the show running in He claims that while he was looking outside the train on a kind of balcony I don't visualize very well someone tried to kick him over He doesn't know who it is. Of course the question is, was someone trying to murder Mr Meyer Did he imagine it Did the train jolt and give him the impression that he was being kicked from behind Did he touch an electric fence Ha, ha I made that last one up, because I know from experience being from Texas with lots of electric fences to keep the cattle in if one thoughtlessly grabs a wire on a fence, and if it turns out to be an electric fence, one will

indeed think someone has given them a sharp kick in the pants. No one knows yet who Inspector Alleyn is and he wants to keep it that way. He's on vacation. Then one of the actors runs in and hysterically claims that all her money has been stolen. Are these two things connected? As you may have guessed, a murder does occur, but not on the train. It happens during a birthday celebration for the star of the show, Carolyn Dacres, who also happens to be married to Mr Meyer, the producer. The murder is accomplished in an original and highly complicated way, making it all the more challenging for Alleyn and the other police to figure out who could have done it, much less had the motive to do it. I don't want to ruin it for anyone, so I will not give any details. But I must say that the cast of characters and story development are highly entertaining and, even though the book is only a couple hundred pages long, a really fun mystery. I don't mean to imply two hundred pages make a poor story, it's just so short I wanted it to go on. But it was a fun, cozy weekend read with a cup of hot tea. One other thing: This mystery resolves in one of the most satisfying ways I've ever read. If nothing else recommends this book, that one thing does. Rarely do stories keep me guessing to the very end. Marsh really strings you along, first suspecting this person, then that. It's really a great ending. Another fun detail: I'm not from New Zealand, but knowing Ngaio Marsh is, allowed me to wink and nod with a knowing chuckle at her internal jokes. She enjoyed describing New Zealand as I'm sure she's heard it described by outsiders before. Needless to say, all you detective fans out there would not find this a disappointing read.

*Ngaiio*  
**MARSH**

*Vintage  
Murder*



"It's time to start comparing Christie to Marsh instead of the other way around." —*New York* magazine

Enjoyable outing with Alleyn in this fifth entry in the series Alleyn is in New Zealand, where he is on holiday recuperating from surgery injured on the job I'll have to go back and look at 4 On the boat from England, and then on the train in N.Z., he travelled along side a group of actors, including Miss Susan Max The manager of the group is murdered after a performance one evening while Alleyn is there amongst others to celebrate the birthday of the leading lady who is also the manager's wife Vintage Murder takes us readers on our first trip with Ngaio Marsh to her home of New Zealand Ordered abroad for his health, Detective Chief Inspector Roderick Alleyn joins up with the Carolyn Dacres English Comedy Company, managed by Dacres's husband, Alfred Mayor Arriving in Middleton, the troupe performs to sold out audiences, and on day three of the visit, Mayor throws a large birthday party for his wife He has rigged up a fancy apparatus that, using stage techniques, will cause a lot of champagne bottles to descend when Carolyn cuts a cord But something goes wrong, and a bottle lands hard on top of Mayor's head, killing him Thus Alleyn gets forced into yet another case, this time from a new culture. Read the rest of this review and other fun, geeky articles at Fangirl Nation {Free Book} ? Vintage Murder - Death Served Well Chilled The Leading Lady Of A Theater Company Touring New Zealand Was Stunningly Beautiful No One Including Her Lover Understood Why She Married The Company's Pudgy Producer But Did She Rig A Huge Jeroboam Of Champagne To Kill Her Husband During A Cast Party Did Her Sweetheart Or Was Another Villain Waiting In The Wings On A Holiday Down Under, Inspector Roderick Alleyn Must Uncork This Mystery And Uncover A Devious Killer A nicely plotted murder, with a satisfying number of red herrings and some fun theatrical characters The thing about Marsh is, she really could write And she knew her theater inside out, and liked the right stuff For instance, this quote when he spoke, one forgot his age, for his voice was quite beautiful deep, and exquisitely modulated He was one of that company of old actors that are only found in the West End of London They still believe in using their voices as instruments, they speak without affectation, and they are indeed actors The scene is New Zealand, Alleyn is on holiday and at first he's incognito But he teams up collegially with the local detectives, and here they are at two in the morning they stayed on talking A kind of perverseness kept them wedded to their discomfort They grew and wakeful and their ideas seemed to grow sharper Their thoughts cleared Alleyn spoke for a long time and the other two listened to him eagerly Quite suddenly he stopped and shivered The virtue went out of them They felt dirty, and dog tired Wade began to gather up his papers Spare, precise, vivid and even poetic, in an entirely non precious way Here is Alleyn watching the line of a mountain at dawn the peak of the mountain was flooded with thin rose colour, too austere to be theatrical, but so vivid that its beauty was painful He felt that kind of impatience and disquietude that sudden beauty brings He could not stand and watch the flood of warmth flow down the flanks of the mountain nor the intolerable transfiguration of the sky He rang the night bell and was admitted by the porter The writer who can make me read and enjoy descriptions of landscape is rare Marsh is one

And when Alleyn interrogates suspects, the intricacies of their reactions are purest pleasure.

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