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Posted on 13 April 2018 By Ngaio Marsh

EPUB ? A Man Lay Dead ? Weplayit.co

It is New Zealand November and I am trying to read books from and about New Zealand as part of my year long Oceania reading spree in 2015. Ngaio Marsh is a well loved crime writer from New Zealand, but most of her books are set in and around London Her Inspector Roderick Alleyn series seem from this first one to be the light whodunits along the lines of Agatha Christie Over the top characters, some big words I had to look up some just being regional words we don't use in the USA, silly tied up ending A fun read but nothing to do with New Zealand 2.5 that high only because this was Marsh's first book Makes you realise what a remarkable achievement Christie's first, was. Other reviewers have criticised Marsh for inconsistencies in Alleyn's characterisation I actually don't mind this I prefer it to having Alleyn various aristocrats angsty over being involved in something as low bred as a murder This is very tedious in Marsh's other novels And I did enjoy the start although for some strange reason, the frenetic pace had me imagining everyone saying their lines while dancing 30s style Marsh's theatrical background always makes me see her characters as actors playing a part, rather than as three dimensional humans. Like many of Mary Stewart's books, there was another character in this one Alleyn even smokes while searching a suspect's dressing room But I was enjoying this until around the 80% mark when I became impatient with a silly sub plot then a very long explanation. It was my idea to read this in the Reading the Detectives group I hope, in time, they will forgive me EPUB ? A Man Lay Dead ? At Sir Hubert Handesley's Country House Party, Five Guests Have Gathered For The Uproarious Parlor Game Of Murder Yet No One Is Laughing When The Lights Come Up On An Actual Corpse, The Good Looking And Mysterious Charles Rankin Scotland Yard's Inspector Roderick Alleyn Arrives To Find A Complete Collection Of Alibis, A Missing Butler, And An Intricate Puzzle Of Betrayal And Seditious In The Search For The Key Player In This Deadly Game Interessante lectura para qui n quiera conocer una alternativa diferente a Agatha Christie No desvelar nada acerca de la trama Ameno y ligero Sin m's complicaciones. Now I am way behind with my Ngaio Marsh challenge, not because I was delaying reading these books, but for other book reasons So when I started reading this book I was hoping I would enjoy it, and I did I have seen a few TV episodes with Patrick Malahide, but had no pre conceived ideas of Chief Inspector Alleyn, that said, I must admit he did come across very Patrick Malahide ish. My previous book was another detective story Pietr the Latvian and it was to me a fantastic, albeit short detective story If that is the epitome of a detective story and I did give it 5 stars, as I have some Holmes stories then this is a definite 4 stars Given that I have signed up to read 12 Ngaio Marsh novels this year so yes I am way behind a 4 star enjoyable read is a good start and I look forward to the next 11 books in the series, bring it on. This is the first of Ngaio Marsh's Roderick Alleyn mysteries and it contains everything that a great Golden Age mystery should First, the

house party, complete with varying guests an adulterous wife, jealous girlfriend, mysterious Russian, etc In this case, the country house in question is Frantock and Nigel Bathgate a journalist is accompanying his cousin Charles on one of the much coveted entertaining weekends, for which invitations are hard to obtain The host, avid collector, Sir Hubert Handesley intends to hold a murder game, which naturally goes completely wrong, when there is a real victim Alleyn is a great character, who involves Nigel Bathgate and Sir Hubert's niece, Angela North, in his investigation What follows is lots of implausible plot twists via the Russians and an even implausible conclusion, but the whole thing is great fun Ngaio Marsh does not cheat and you could, if you are extremely clever and keep notes, work it out Personally, I was happy to relax in her highly competent hands and enjoy. Delicioso En serio, que delicia leer esta historia, que conserva el toque inocente de la Era Dorada 1920 1930 Esta es la primera novela que leo de Ngaio Marsh, y con seguridad, seguir los pasos del inspector Roderick Alleyn. Lo sab a Bueno, vale, no sab a c mo, pero sab a que ten a que ser esa persona Por pura intuici n O porque ya me he le do muchas novelas de misterio qui n lo hizo y me huelo el percal. Porque esta novela es exactamente eso una muestra del whodunit brit nico m s cl sico Todo mec nica y juegos de espejos Tiene todo lo esperable en el g nero pistas falsas del tama o de China, personajes funcionales que como m ximo te van a caer simp ticos, un detective que se guarda informaci n clave porque s y adem s te lo dice a la cara, que todo est enfocado al puzle Y sin embargo, a m no me ha importado, porque este tipo de novelas me encantan Todo lo que podr a ser un problema para otros, a m me da igual Incluso me alegran esos t picos, pues son t picos de los t tulos cl sicos del g nero y para m son como volver a casa Es alta Literatura Por supuesto que no, los misterios cl sicos de encontrar al asesino no suelen serlo Es un divertimento, un rompecabezas ingenioso para pasar el rato Y como tal, a m me ha resultado delicioso y me lo he le do en un santiam n. Marsh introduced her famous detective in this mystery, and you can tell that she wasn't entirely sure what personality to go with At times he reads like Wimsey playing a silly ass, at other times he is crude or clever in the manner of a Bright Young Thing he takes the official police hard line one moment only to suddenly behave in unprofessional and even inappropriate ways I suspect she was trying to write realistically complex character, but the overall effect is one of schizophrenia and implausibility Luckily, we spend most of the story from the point of view of Nigel Bathgate, a somewhat two dimensional Nice Young Man of the sort that one would let date one's sister but probably find too boring to have a relationship with There's no pomo unreliability here it is clear that he is innocent, and his requisite wholesome love interest is dismissed from suspicion, apparently out of convenience to the romance subplot Otherwise, the victim and suspects are sufficiently unpleasant that there is no sense of urgency about the solution. Most interesting to me, partly because it is so dated, is the side mystery with the Bolshevik conspirators Did you know that in addition to being dirty communists they practiced weird, vaguely Satanic rituals that sometimes culminate in self immolation No Neither did Marsh

The only thing the police really seem to be after them for is publishing seditious literature, which I guess every contemporary reader was assumed to consider a serious and despicable crime. Don't let anyone give you one of their sacred ritual daggers or they will track you down and murder you. It won't be difficult; you'll happen to be at the weekend house party of a mutual friend. I don't know why anyone still goes to house parties in England, it is just asking for trouble.

Reason for reading 1 I needed a book by a New Zealand author for a challenge 2 A feeling of nostalgia when I saw the name Ngaio Marsh. My mother read her books when I was a child. I may have tried one or two myself but they would have not been very interesting to me then. Times change and I found *A Man Lay Dead* very interesting indeed. It is a typical mystery of the time, country house party, upper class guests, unexpected murder and the arrival of a very clever policeman to discover the evil perpetrator. In this case the policeman is Inspector Roderick Alleyn from Scotland Yard. *A Man Lay Dead* is the first of 32 books in the Inspector Alleyn series and according to many of the reviews I have read it was a rather tentative beginning and the rest are much better. Great! I now have 31 books to look forward to.

NGAIO MARSH



A MAN LAY DEAD

'Faultless story-telling.'

NEW YORK TIMES

New Post

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