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Posted on 06 October 2017 By Ngaio Marsh

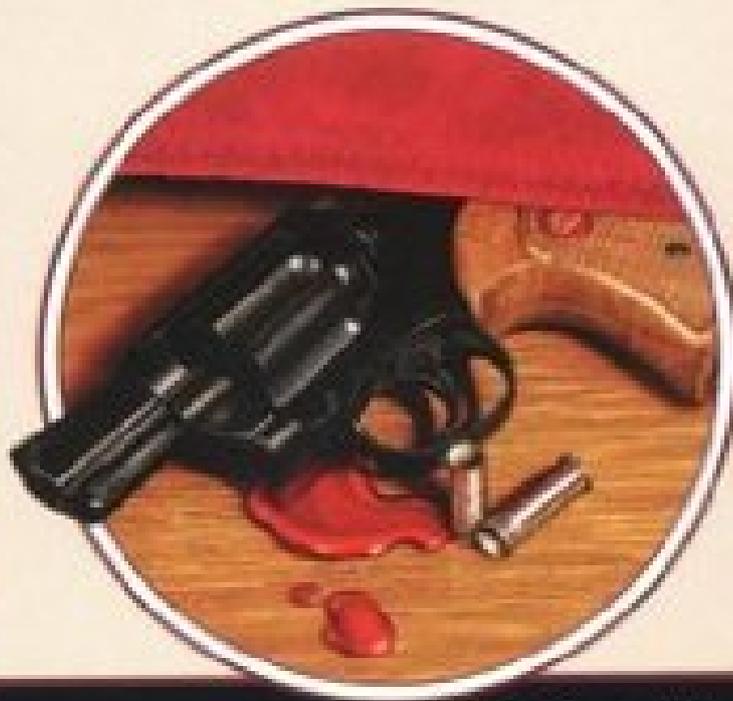
(((READ E-PUB))) ? Enter a Murderer ? PDF eBook or Kindle ePUB free

Ngaio Marsh is a mystery writer with style, and in this early book she and Inspector Alleyn are in their element the theatre Her character sketches of the members of the theatre troupe are particularly fine. (((READ E-PUB))) ? Enter a Murderer ? A Classic Ngaio Marsh Novel Reissued The Second Roderick Alleyn Mystery The Crime Scene Was The Stage Of The Unicorn Theatre, When Prop Gun Fired A Very Real Bullet The Victim Was An Actor Clawing His Way To Stardom Using Bribery Instead Of Talent And The Suspects Included Two Unwilling Girlfriends And Several Relieved Blackmail Victims The Stage Is Set For One Of Roderick Alleyn S Most Baffling Cases This is the second book featuring Chief Detective Inspector Roderick Alleyn In this mystery, Alleyn is invited to the theatre by journalist friend, Nigel Bathgate, who he met in the first adventure, A Man Lay Dead Again, Bathgate knows one of the principal characters, in this case the leading man, Felix Gardener During the play, Gardener is supposed to pretend to shoot Arthur Surbonadier, fellow actor, nephew of the theatre owner, disgruntled loser of the leading part and rival for the hand of leading lady, Stephanie Vaughan However, the gun goes off for real and both Alleyn and Bathgate watch fiction become reality as the body slumps to the stage. Author Ngaio Marsh was, herself, very involved in the theatre and was an acclaimed Shakespearian producer and this novel is full of her knowledge of the world of actors and backstage rivalries It is humorous when Alleyn is annoyed by the actors hamming it up and you do wonder if she is having a sly dig for her own amusement Overall, though, the theatre setting gives the book an interesting background There are lots of interesting suspects and motives, before the final reconstruction when the murderer is revealed in their true colours This is a delightful Golden Age mystery, with a fun plot and cast of characters and Alleyn is a wonderful detective The next book in the series is The Nursing Home Murder.

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Ngaiio
MARSH

*Enter a
Murderer*



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

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here s a surprise I ve never been a whole hearted, absolute Marsh fan although I did like Death At The Dolphin read pre joining GR Tied Up In Tinsel very much I find Marsh annoyingly arch twee if she wasn t a snob herself, she seemed to delight in creating snobbish characters But I enjoyed this book very much. The books main strengths come from Marsh s own theatrical background her sly depictions of the actors all seeing themselves in turns of a performance I used to love the old black white movies I could hear the old music in the background How authentic this book is in showing 1930s police procedures I wouldn t know I know I swallowed it all in my younger years I think pre telephones computers things were done differently. And it was so nice reading London addresses from a time when people lived in houses I did guess the murderer quite easily, but I won t write this entertaining mystery down because of that What I found a little clumsy was view spoiler Marsh s stiff awkward depiction of heroin use hide spoiler Yes, good question , what did I think I ve now read the first 2 Alleyn mysteries consecutively in about week and Ive really enjoyed them both The only reason Ive read 2 in succession is to catch up in my challenge I m still behind, but getting there This was another intriguing case for D.C.I Alleyn and his cohorts, including Nigel the journalist, with an abundance of red herrings and hidden clues, brought to a successful conclusion in time honoured denouement fashion As an aside I do think reading them in quick succession is not recommended as one loses track of which investigation one is in I was going to go directly onto number 3 but feel that would be a little too much, so might have a break and read something completely different. He estado a punto de ponerle 5 estrellas porque me la col hasta el fondo, pero creo que ser a exagerado Al fin y al cabo, es una historia bastante simple, un murder mystery o whodunit de lo m s cl sico, s , entretenido, sin duda, y bien escrito, pero que no pasa de ser un divertimento. Ahora, como pasatiempo es fant stico El puzzle tal vez no sea tan elaborado como en otras novelas del g nero, pero es lo es lo suficiente para enga ar al lector O al menos a m me ha tenido en vilo Aunque me averg ence admitirlo. No hay mucha descripci n, al menos de lugares La mayor parte de la novela est compuesta por di logos y acciones, sobre todo di logos, que son giles, ligeros, y tratan de ser divertidos la mayor a de las veces Este libro no va por el drama introspectivo, es un ejemplo del g nero en su poca dorada, donde reinaban las grandes Reinas del Cr men Agatha Christie, Dorothy L Sayers, Margery Allingham y la propia Ngaio Marsh Como tal, no tiene tacha, y de hecho me gusta m s que la anterior novela de la autora que le Un hombre muerto , creo que est m s pulida, es m s interesante y m s compleja, o al menos con un misterio m s elaborado. Todo fan de este g nero deber a leer este libro, porque sin duda lo disfrutar y pasar un buen rato. I always think a good test of a book is to read several in parallel it soon becomes clear to which one you gravitate and presumably, therefore, enjoy the most. As a reader I am a journey person rather than a destination person that is to say, I m happy to trundle along, settled in a cosy if rattling first class carriage, swaying with the twists and turns, eavesdropping upon the likes of Holmes

Watson, Poirot Hastings, and Morse Lewis I m in no great hurry to reach the platform signposted Denouement. In both *Enter a Murderer* 1935 and its forerunner *A Man Lay Dead* 1934 the emphasis lies squarely with the crime scene It is examined in the minutest detail, and suspects are grilled to the nth degree about their movements and observations. Relatively little investigation takes place elsewhere. This is reflected in that the plot of *Enter a Murderer* can be captured as follows an actor is shot dead on stage with a prop that should fire blanks who could have substituted the live shells. Rather than being asked to form subjective judgements about the character and motivation of each of the suspects, the author demands of the reader a prodigious memory for many small details. The journey, if there is one, is spent head down, poring over a detailed jigsaw of circumstantial evidence. Having now read the first two of thirty two Chief Detective Inspector Alleyn novels, I think I have to recalibrate my ambition to consume the whole series in sequence. Not wishing to give up entirely, I think I may jump forward, perhaps to the 1940s, in the hope of a change of style. Continuing with my quest to sample the great mystery and detective writers of yesteryear, I now turn my attention to Ngaio Marsh, often mentioned as one of the Queens of Crime alongside the likes of Agatha Christie and Dorothy L Sayers. She is known mostly for her detective series which contains 32 novels featuring Chief Inspector Roderick Alleyn later Chief Superintendent of the Criminal Investigation Department, Metropolitan Police, London. However, she is also well recognized for her extensive activities as a theater director and it is this background upon which this particular novel is built. *Enter a Murderer* is the second novel in the Inspector Alleyn series and it boasts an absolutely classic whodunit plot. Alleyn is given a complimentary ticket to see a play and he, along with the rest of the audience witnesses a murder when a prop gun is discharged with real bullets instead of blanks. My first thought hasn't this plot been done before. But then I realized this novel was written in 1935 so perhaps all others actually stemmed from this one. As inspector Alleyn methodically investigates the crime, I was happy to see some surprises thrown in here and there, many false leads and ultimately, a final denouement wherein Alleyn reveals the culprit. As often seems to be the case with these sorts of mystery novels, virtually every person involved had a reason to commit the crime. This was quite a complex plot perhaps too complex. I always prefer a mystery plot where I have a possibility of figuring out the identity of the murderer on my own but to do so this time would have required me to keep extensive notes myself and perhaps build a replica of the theater stage so as to fully understand where each suspect was at what time. But nevertheless, it was fun to watch Alleyn and the others do the legwork for me and simply be part of the large group to be surprised when the murderer is revealed. I plan to read two from this series this year, one from the middle and one from near the end. That should satisfy my need to adequately sample this author's work. However, given my enjoyment of this one, I may well read many more than that. 1935, 2 Chief Detective Inspector Roderick Alleyn, London first of her eight theatre centered novels, old fashioned but nicely sly classic theatre mystery really three and

a half stars, not four. Arthur Surbonadier was a rotter who happened to also be a pretty good, not great, actor. Passed over for a role that he thought was his, ought to have been his, he resorts to several nefarious methods to push out the Nice Guy actor Felix Gardiner, who did get the role. And both of them are interested in the same woman, lovely Leading Lady Stephanie Vaughan. Lots of scope for mischief there, yep. So when the unlovely Arthur gets himself murdered on stage in front of a full audience during one night's performance, members of the cast and their friends are shocked, but not truly surprised. The problem is, it looks like Nice Guy Felix did it, and everybody truly likes Felix. Another large problem for the murderer, that is, is that Detective Inspector Alleyn was in the audience that night, and saw the whole thing, even though it's a rather complex murder and not easily nor immediately identifiable just exactly what did happen, even by an alert and intelligent policeman. Arthur got shot, yes, and it does appear that Felix shot him. So far, so good. But appearances can be deceiving, especially on stage. This is a juicy, nicely convoluted mystery tale of the theatre, told by a writer who would become a master at this sub genre and who, even at this early point in her career, was awfully good at spinning a web. There are a few tropes and awkward bits here certainly, but most of them only reflect the period in which the novel was written, and don't affect the essentially good plot, the fairly good pacing, and the superb characterizations. Marsh worked extensively in the theatre and obviously loved Theatre Folk and all their trappings, methods, and moods. She's nicely biting here with beautifully sharp remarks about Actors and the profession, about hubris and talent or the lack of it when coupled with a large ego. All together the mix is a lot of fun, if a bit slow in spots, and there are a couple of little niggly bits that bugged me. Firstly, the character of Nigel Bathgate, semi-literate Watson and budding newspaperman is front and center, occupying a good portion of the activity, as he accompanies Alleyn along on most of his interrogations and investigations. I've never much liked this character, as he's sweet, wimpyish, and a total waste of space. IMO her time would have been better served giving us of the delightful Mr Fox or Bailey the fingerprint expert, as she does in later novels. Fox and Bailey are truly interesting and almost real people, where Mr Bathgate is a pure caricature. The Nice Oxford Chap thrust into The Real World to Make His Way, often relying upon Those In The Know that he knows you know what I mean. That sort of stock character may have been entertaining in the 1930s but he's boring now, and slows down almost every scene that he's in. And there's the almost obligatory for mysteries of the period love connection between Alleyn and a suspect. Totally unusual for this series over its long run, as Marsh rarely used this bit again except for Alleyn's initial meeting with Troy, who would later play such a large role in his life and in the series, and with the Troy first encounter the bit works. One of the things I enjoy most about Marsh's writing is that in most of the novels there is a lack of both a sappy Watson character and of the lead policeman endlessly falling in love with totally unsuitable types. Unfortunately both are quite present in this early novel. Marsh becomes a much better, and a cleaner writer, with her future novels, thankfully, and is one of my very

favorite writers from the period IMO she s a smoother, purely enjoyable writer than Christie, although Christie was a far superior plotter and tended to do up differing environments settings far better But Marsh did people far better, with concise, precise characterizations filled with nicely sharp bits, often slipping the edge of the knife in very gently, subtly, perfectly So if you tend to enjoy literate, kindly detection with a nicely wicked psychosocial edge to it, then Marsh is the one to read. This early Marsh novel is a good, not great, story, and although it s one of her lesser novels IMO, it s still an entertaining read. An average murder mystery Murder committed during a play My first Ngaio Marsh Not impressed with inspector Allyn And the layout of the stage, the dressing room and the numerous passages, I did not get which was crucial to the mystery May try out from this author but not too soon.

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