

IGNOU Books, IGNOU Result, IGNOU Solved Assignment, IGNOU

[Home](#)

[The Warren Court and American Politics](#)

[John Marshall and the Heroic Age of the Supreme Court](#)

[Out of Order: Stories from the History of the Supreme Court](#)

[I Dissent: Great Opposing Opinions in Landmark Supreme Court Cases](#)

[Justice Lewis F. Powell: A Biography](#)

[Lazy B: Growing Up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest](#)

[Of Power and Right: Hugo Black, William O. Douglas, and America's Constitutional Revolution](#)

[Simple Justice: The History of Brown v. Board of Education and Black America's Struggle for Equality](#)

[John Marshall: The Man Who Made the Supreme Court](#)

[Judicious Choices: The New Politics of Supreme Court Confirmations](#)

[Hugo Black: A Biography](#)

[The Confirmation Mess: Cleaning Up The Federal Appointments Process](#)

[Making Constitutional Law: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court, 1961-1991](#)

[The Life and Times of William Howard Taft, Vol 1](#)

[Deciding to Leave: The Politics of Retirement from the United States Supreme Court](#)

[Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Awakening of President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Waties Waring](#)

Posted on 19 June 2019 By Ngaio Marsh

{READ KINDLE} ì Colour Scheme ò eBook or E-pub free

Hard to write a review after the miserable ending I simply abhorred The majority of the book was a very entertaining read, however. Within the first 43 pages or so I was in hysterics and glad no one was around to hear me hooting The characters Dame Marsh populated this book with are gems She also placed the action in New Zealand, her home ground, and included interactions with the Maori, all adding interest to the story. It all starts in wartime with a family of genteel Brits tired of life in India deciding to take a chance on something new and opening a Mud Bath Spa The father is a Colonel, mother is set on proprieties, daughter is sheltered and shy and son is independent and snarky Another resident is the mother's brother, a hilariously irascible retired doctor Dr Ackrington has all the best lines. Among the guests visiting the Spa is a well known British Shakespearean actor with his dresser and secretary A nefarious type looms over the tranquility of the resort, a man who made a loan to the Colonel some years ago with the intention of taking over the business when the man could not repay the loan He becomes a focus for many looking for a spy that signaled from their hillside prior to ships sinking in the sea below. I do know there were television productions in New Zealand of some of these Alleyn books including this one, but it does not appear to be available any longer. Another Marsh cozy I love these things for many reasons I enjoy mystery and WWII era behavior and s and Brits But the real reason I keep returning to Marsh is this consider how she introduces the character of Maurice Questing Maurice Questing was about fifty years old and so much a type that a casual observer would have found it difficult to describe him He appeared in triplicate at private bars, hotel lounges, business meetings and race courses His features were blurred and thick, his eyes sharp His clothes always looked expensive and new His speech, both in accent and in choice of words, was an affair of mass production rather than selection Yet though he was as voluble as a radio advertiser, shooting out his machine turned phrases in a loud voice, and with a great air of assurance, every word he uttered seemed synthetic and quite unrelated to his thoughts A wordsmith if there ever was one And, again, the murder almost seems unnecessary in this one, it doesn't happen until almost half way through as one is so taken with the character studies and the chemistry of relationships. I recommend that you pick these small masterpieces up at your local used bookstore when you see them and save them for a rainy day or an afternoon on the beach Wonderful stuff. What passes for mediocre Ngaio Marsh is better than the best from many mystery writers This isn't the worst that Miss Marsh penned That dubious honor must go to the plodding Overture To Death But Colour Scheme suffers from one of the same setbacks Inspector Alleyn isn't introduced until too late in the novel Actually, I didn't realize he was in the novel until late in the 11th chapter The description of Rotorua on the North Island was enchanting I loved

learning about the Maoris and the thermal springs However, the Claires were stereotypical Poms and the resolution to the mystery wasn't very plausible Colour Scheme simply doesn't rank with Marsh's better works, such as *A Man Lay Dead*, *Artists in Crime*, or *Death In A White Tie*. Most readers will prefer the very next novel Ngaio Marsh wrote, *Died In The Wool*, which is likewise set in New Zealand It provides a different glimpse into the country, this time at life on New Zealand's sheep stations, but the story is absorbing and lively, and, happily, Inspector Alleyn is introduced right from the start The latter, by itself, is enough to make all the difference 2019 Reread This one worked better on reread The New Zealand setting is novel The characters are fairly interesting The secondary romance is reasonably well developed I wish Alleyn had showed up a bit earlier, but it's not as bad as some Not my favourite, but unique enough to be readable. 2016 I'm beginning to think I'm being unfair to Ngaio Marsh From time to time, I'm annoyed with her for not being Dorothy Sayers, but why should she be She's a perfectly good mystery writer, even if I don't love her as I do Sayers That's hardly her fault, given the subjective nature of story. I told myself for the first two thirds of this, that I didn't like it very well Except that I finished it in less than a day, and seem to be devouring this series. Look, it's not perfect There's the requisite case of insta love that seems to crop up in so many of these, although this one is relatively well done and kind of interesting But upon reflection, the reason that I think I resent the frequent cases of insta love related to the case is not the improbability of so many random couples falling in love over the course of a murder investigation and the related improbability of so many relationships formed under such extreme circumstances lasting, but rather that the cases of insta love are not the relationship I want to hear about In my heart of hearts, I'm convinced that Alleyn and Troy's relationship is probably interesting, and that is rarely discussed I think I resent the relationships of the case, because the other is apparently happening off page. As is often the case with Marsh, the victim was fairly universally hated Although, in the end, he actually wasn't quite as terrible as he was made out to be by everyone he was still fairly terrible view spoiler he just wasn't a traitor hide spoiler Possibly Spoilerific. Read at your own risk if you have any desire to read Ngaio Marsh's mysteries. So the last time I read Ngaio Marsh's *Colour Scheme* 1946, I gave it a very unenthusiastic two stars Unfortunately, I have to report that I still don't think much of it If you'd like a review that goes a bit in depth, then please see my earlier review [HERE](#) This time around, I'd just like to reiterate what a very long wait we have for A the murder and B for Alleyn to show up And it's not like first time readers are going to know that it's Alleyn when he does show up Other than, obviously, the series says that it's all about Inspector Roderick Alleyn When he does show up, there isn't the usual investigation Quite honestly, most of the detective work goes on off stage and the only point where alibis and what not are examined is when the household gathers for a little pow wow while the local police are off collecting clues or some such thing The best thing about the book is the way Marsh brings Maori culture and people into the story without making a major production of it It's just there, so to speak, and the

reader absorbs it along the way without having to think about it or be distracted by it too much Her descriptions of the countryside are particularly good as well And I do like the characters of Dikon Bell and Barbara Claireas well s Barbara s uncle, Dr Akrington, and his bickering relationship with his brother. Currently, this is my lowest rated Marsh book I m on a mission to reread her novels most of them as part of the Ngaio Marsh Reading Challenge this year and next on Goodreads , so we ll see if any others disappoint me in the future First posted on my blog My Reader s Block. Colour Scheme certainly takes an entirely different path than earlier books in the series, but I credit this with preventing the routine of the police investigations from getting stale We are transported to the lush and primordial landscape of rural New Zealand, where a motley band of characters gather together at a thermal spa resort Tempers flare, personalities clash, and you know trouble is not far behind This is easily a book that you could read out of sequence, and is enjoyable for its over the top characters and nearly improbable murder method.

NGAIO MARSH



COLOUR SCHEME

'The queen of the straight crime
novel - long may she reign!'

SUNDAY TIMES

Back in the day I probably read all of the Ngaio Marsh books my local library had to offer, yet this another hospital charity table purchase was unfamiliar. Set in wartime New Zealand, a refreshing change from London or the traditional country house of dear old Agatha and Dorothy L, it details the suspected demise of the rather nasty Mr Questing, a slimy little chancer with his eye on bagging a thermal spa. On page 237, a character exclaims, Oh, just get on with it and I couldn't have agreed. Whilst it is undoubtedly a well-written and plotted novel, it certainly does take some time to get round to the corpse and even that is only partial in the end and left for the disguised detective to tell us who has killed the vile Mr Questing. In all honesty, by that time I really didn't care, and felt the device of disguising Marsh's famous detective, Inspector Roderick Alleyn as the ridiculously named Septimus Falls was, frankly, ludicrous. I have a couple of Marsh novels to get through, again courtesy of Holywell Hospital, and am hopeful that they will be rewarding than this. One of the strongest of Marsh's books in terms of setting and culture. A New Zealand spa, built around a set of natural hot mud pools, is practically within shouting distance of a Maori village. The village leader, an ancient and retired Member of Parliament, is an endearing character who helps us see the endearing side of the awkward Claire family who run the spa. Maurice Questing is so close to his goal of grabbing the spa away from the Claires that he is scouting for business. He entices Geoffrey Gaunt, star Shakespearean actor, into settling in for a cure in the mud pools. The ensuing scenes between Questing and the Claires and their staff provide enchanting entertainment for Gaunt until Questing goes too far, and everyone including the reader wants to kill him. Praise be, someone does at last. That's where it becomes too real for Gaunt. Ultimately all the characters are stripped of protective artifice. This is a strong example of Marsh's talent, but I don't think I'm going to buy the audio. The atmosphere is pretty dark. {READ KINDLE} ĩ Colour Scheme Ú Often Regarded As Her Most Interesting Book And Set On New Zealand S North Island, Ngaio Marsh Herself Considered This To Be Her Best Written Novel It Was A Horrible Death Maurice Questing Was Lured Into A Pool Of Boiling Mud And Left There To Die Chief Inspector Roderick Alleyn, Far From Home On A Wartime Quest For German Agents, Knew That Any Number Of People Could Have Killed Him The English Exiles He D Hated, The New Zealanders He D Despised Or The Maoris He D Insulted Even The Spies He D Thwarted If He Wasn T A Spy Himself If I had not known going in that this was a murder mystery, I wouldn't have guessed it in the first half of the book. We meet various colorful characters at a spa in New Zealand, where they mostly bicker. Also there are some descriptions of the traditions of the local Maoris. The only hint of mystery is the conviction of some members of the family that owns the spa that someone, perhaps their unpleasant guest Questing, is an enemy spy and gave information leading to the recent torpedoing of a ship nearby. Finally, two thirds of the way through, someone disappears on the way home at night and the police are called. Once that happens the usual detective stuff happens in short order: alibis and motives are examined and precise times of whereabouts and details about articles of

clothing are checked, and soon everything is solved The end Very odd pacing. Incidentally, my 1971 paperback says 100th anniversary edition, but the book was first published in 1943 Dunno.

New Post

Justice James Iredell

Dark Bargain: Slavery, Profits, and the Struggle for the Constitution

Race and the Supreme Court: Defining Equality

Justice for All: Earl Warren and the Nation He Made

Supreme Court Decisions

The Supreme Court in United States History: Volume Two, 1821-1855

John Jay: Founding Father

My Own Words

Fair Labor Lawyer: The Remarkable Life of New Deal Attorney and Supreme Court

Advocate Bessie Margolin

The Supreme Court in United States History: Volume Three: 1856-1918

Salmon P. Chase: A Biography

The Warren Court In Historical And Political Perspective

Newsworthy: The Supreme Court Battle over Privacy and Press Freedom

American Original: The Life and Constitution of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia

The Warren Court and American Politics

Recent Post

The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court

The Brethren: Inside the Supreme Court

My Beloved World

Becoming Justice Blackmun: Harry Blackmun's Supreme Court Journey

Justice Brennan: Liberal Champion

Scorpions: The Battles and Triumphs of FDR's Great Supreme Court Justices

Supreme Power: Franklin Roosevelt vs. the Supreme Court

Louis D. Brandeis

The Partisan: The Life of William Rehnquist

A People's History of the Supreme Court: The Men and Women Whose Cases and Decisions Have Shaped Our Constitution

The Great Dissent: How Oliver Wendell Holmes Changed His Mind--and Changed the History of Free Speech in America

Five Chiefs: A Supreme Court Memoir

The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court: A C-SPAN Book, Featuring the Justices in their Own Words

Gideon's Trumpet: How One Man, a Poor Prisoner, Took His Case to the Supreme Court-And Changed the Law of the United States

The Day Freedom Died: The Colfax Massacre, the Supreme Court and the Betrayal of Reconstruction

What Kind of Nation: Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, and the Epic Struggle to Create a United States

David Hackett Souter: Traditional Republican on the Rehnquist Court

The Man Who Once Was Whizzer White: A Portrait Of Justice Byron R White

The Forgotten Memoir of John Knox: A Year in the Life of a Supreme Court Clerk in FDR's Washington

FDR and Chief Justice Hughes: The President, the Supreme Court, and the Epic Battle Over the New Deal

The Majesty of the Law: Reflections of a Supreme Court Justice

The Rehnquist Choice: The Untold Story of the Nixon Appointment That Redefined the Supreme Court

The Memoirs of Chief Justice Earl Warren

Sonia Sotomayor: The True American Dream

The Supreme Court in United States History: Volume One: 1789-1821

Justice James Iredell

