

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 12 March 2017 By Ngaio Marsh

(Free Epub) ï Death in a White Tie (Roderick Alleyn, #7) ë eBook or E-pub free

4.5 When I reread *Death at the Dolphin* I ll be interested to see how this earlier title compares *Death at the Dolphin* was my favourite as a young reader, but this title was a first time read for me this now feels like my favourite Marsh novel. The main reason is it is a good story, well told Marsh seems to have some understanding of the world of debutantes I know back in the 60s 70s New Zealand had a debutante system as my four sister in laws were debutantes So possibly Marsh grew up understanding the conventions Everything is very theatrical, but the best Marsh s generally are I think the debutantes restricted world would have been theatrical in it s intensity. What made this book enjoyable for me is Alleyn s relationship with both Fox Troy was far natural than in the other Alleyn novels He is not patronising or arch with Fox Rory Troy aren t circling each other like a pair of skittish fauns There is even gasp a hint of passion. I have knocked half a off because I kept getting two of the male characters muddled because I guessed the murderer quite early. But glad to find a Marsh that I can wholeheartedly recommend *Death in a White Tie* is a reread for me I discovered Ngaio Marsh back at my hometown Carnegie Library moons ago than we need to count and I promptly read through all the Marsh books they had Later, about twenty years ago, I read some of them again and *Death in a White Tie* was one simply because it s one of my favorites There are so many things I enjoy about this tale of murder and blackmail amongst the London Society at the height of the Season from the witty dialogue, to the scenes at the various society dos debutante balls and teas and Agatha Troy s one man art show , to the understated romance between Alleyn and Troy, to his affection for his mother, to the undercurrents of gossip in the chaperone circle at the dance It s all so veddy, veddy British and elegant and well done And Marsh presents us with one of the most sympathetic victims who doesn t want Bunchy s killer found and punished to the full extent of the law The story begins with Inspector Roderick Alleyn asking Lord Robert Bunchy Gospell to assist him in tracking down a despicable blackmailer who is at work among the cream of London society Bunchy moves through society like everyone s favorite uncle He can talk to anyone and go anywhere and no one would suspect that behind his twinkle and rather high, almost silly voice lies a very sharp brain that has helped the officials with other difficult problems in the past His first assignment to attend a performance of Bach at one of the new concert rooms and attempt to find out who collects the blackmail money which the latest victim has been instructed to leave in her purse stuffed into a blue sofa As Alleyn tells him Bunchy, let nothing wean you from the blue sofa Talk to Mrs Halcut Hackett Share the blue sofa with her and when the austere delights of Bach knock at your heart pay no

attention Lord Robert does his job well and becomes convinced he knows the blackmailer's identity even though the lights were dimmed when the bag was collected. But he wants to be sure of his facts and confirmation comes at the next society function, a ball held by Lady Carrados for her daughter's coming out. He calls up Alleyn before he leaves to be sure the Inspector will still be at the Yard and, unfortunately, someone walks in on his conversation. Two hours later, a taxi rushes up to the Yard with the driver announcing that his fare's been murdered. He's right and the murdered man is Lord Robert Gossell. Alleyn is dismayed and clearly shaken, not because he's lost a vital witness but because he's lost a very dear friend. He also feels directly responsible since Lord Robert was involved purely at his behest and he gives us a bit of the avenging hero speech when he speaks to Bunchy's sister. I tell you this, Mildred, if it takes me the rest of my life, and if it costs me my job, by God if I have to do the killing myself, I'll get the murderer and see him suffer for it. He quickly realizes the melodrama of his words and says, Good Lord, what a speech Bunchy would have laughed at it. But, with the aid of Detective Inspector Fox, he sifts through the movements of each suspect and makes good on his vow bringing the crime home to the murderer in less than two days. This is, I believe, one of Marsh's best novels. It doesn't matter that I've read it before and know who the culprit is. I enjoy every minute that I spend in the company of the dashing gentleman policeman, Roderick Alleyn, for a lovely vintage read.

First posted on my blog My Reader's Block. Please request permission before reposting. Thanks.

Description: The season had begun. Debutantes and chaperones were planning their luncheons, teas and balls. And the blackmailer was planning his strategies, stalking his next victim. But Chief Detective Inspector Alleyn knew that something was up.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=raP7U> Sometimes a Golden Age whodunnit is my only weakness.

3 A Man Lay Dead Roderick Alleyn, 1
2 Enter a Murderer Roderick Alleyn, 2
3 The Nursing Home Murder Roderick Alleyn, 3
WL Death in Ecstasy Roderick Alleyn, 4
WL Vintage Murder Roderick Alleyn, 5
WL Artists in Crime Roderick Alleyn, 6
3 Death in a White Tie Roderick Alleyn, 7
4 Overture to Death Roderick Alleyn, 8
3 Death at the Bar Roderick Alleyn, 9
4 Death of a Peer Roderick Alleyn, 10
WL Death and the Dancing Footman Roderick Alleyn, 11
WL Colour Scheme Roderick Alleyn, 12
WL Died in the Wool Roderick Alleyn, 13
2 Final Curtain Roderick Alleyn, 14
WL A Wreath for Rivera Roderick Alleyn, 15
3 Night at the Vulcan Roderick Alleyn, 16
WL Spinsters in Jeopardy Roderick Alleyn, 17
TR Scales of Justice Roderick Alleyn, 18
3 Hand in Glove Roderick Alleyn, 22
3 Dead Water Roderick Alleyn, 23
3 When in Rome Roderick Alleyn, 26
3 A Grave Mistake Roderick Alleyn, 30
WL Clutch of Constables Roderick Alleyn, 25

This seventh book in the Inspector Alleyn series was published in 1938. This is set in the world of debutantes and coming out balls. Alleyn's own mother, Lady Alleyn, is bringing out his niece, Sarah, and is looking forward to doing the Season. One of the balls that everyone is most looking forward to is that given by Sir Herbert and Lady Evelyn Carrados, for Evelyn's daughter, Bridget. Meanwhile, Alleyn has asked his old friend, Lord Robert Gossell, who is always invited everywhere, to keep his

eye out There is a blackmailer on the loose, who is able to mix with ease among the glamorous members of those attending those endless, glamorous balls, parties, opera and theatre shows, and Alleyn is keen to uncover their identity. This is an interesting Golden Age mystery for a couple of reasons First of all, the setting is great fun and Marsh manages her suspects and motives well, among the ballrooms, Harley Street consulting rooms, glittering social occasions, seedy clubs and endless gossip and speculation of her novel There are those, like the garrulous Lord Robert Gossell, who enjoys the Season and those, such as the young lady, the wonderfully named, Mrs Halcut Hackett, is bringing out, who oathes every second of it There are young men in debt, old secrets, and, unusually, a victim that is generally liked In many Golden Age novels, the victim tends to be someone who is unsympathetic but, in this novel, this is not the case That does give a new slant to the story and shows that Marsh was willing to try something new This is good to read, as I have felt much of this series follows a rather formulaic structure of crime, followed by questioning of the suspects That still happened, but the victim and many of the suspects are linked to Alleyn, socially, if not always as a friend, so that gave a different dimension to the plot Overall, a good addition to the series and probably my favourite so far. Death in a White Tie was a very pleasant surprise for me I've read three other Marsh mysteries, and found them dull and blandly written I had this on my shelf, and thought I'd start it, give it my usual 50 pages, then get rid of it I was hooked, however, because of how vividly the fictional world is imagined The victim is a truly interesting, sympathetic character, and I experienced real outrage and puzzlement at his demise I felt I had a vested interest in accompanying the detective, Roderick Alleyn, as he tracks down the killer The novel features a handful of despicable characters besides the murderer, and Marsh is expert in concocting scenes in which they get their comeuppance. Detective fans are infamous for not wanting an excessive love interest The reason is that these romantic subplots are often not integrated very well with the rest of the plot This, unfortunately, is the case here The romance, though appealing, is like a lump of foreign material in the proceedings which takes undue focus For a successful integration of a romance with detection, see E.C Bentley's Trent's Last Case. Competent audiobook narrator, but a rather strange, tinny quality to the recording quality itself. You can spot the murderer in this one if you spot the lie, but it's only by knowing the lie that I ever spot it I get very annoyed at nephew Donald whenever I read this Everyone describes him as a nice young chap, but he consistently behaves as such an ass that I don't think he's got much soundness in him at all.

NGAIO MARSH



DEATH IN A WHITE TIE

'The best detective story I have
ever read.'

DASHIELL HAMMETT

I think this is the first Alleyn mystery where I genuinely felt for the victim, which helped greatly in my enjoyment of the story. It's the first one where you spend part of the book following the victim closely, too, and where Alleyn has personal feelings on the matter, both of which I think are relevant. I know that the trope of the personally involved detective can be exasperating and Alleyn even refers to it, in one of those unsubtle bits of meta but at least it's another way for the reader to engage with the case. The actual puzzle aspect of the story is or less as usual a character you wouldn't normally suspect ends up in it up to the neck, where the guy who looks like a sure thing is actually innocent. Still, the reasoning does make sense, all the timings match up, etc, so it makes perfect sense, which Ngaio Marsh is admittedly good at apart from the weird mix of opportunism and premeditation in the crime in the first Alleyn book. As for Alleyn's personal life, well I still can't help but feel he's a cut-rate Wimsey. His relationship with Troy has some similar ups and downs to Wimsey's with Harriet, but we don't get to see as much interaction, as much of the push and pull they feel, and so it feels less compelling. I know I'm biased as a major fan of Sayers already, but I can't help the feeling. I listened to Benedict Cumberbatch's reading of this book, so I don't know if it counts as my reading. My full intention was to enjoy BC's voice, but I end up very absorbed in the story. Traditional Agatha, Troy style mystery, upper class setting, sympathetic characters and amusing tone. Engaging but not heavy. (Free Epub) [Death in a White Tie \(Roderick Alleyn, #7\) ? A Body In The Back Of A Taxi Begins An Elegantly Constructed Mystery, Perhaps The Finest Of Marsh S S Novels](#) [The Season Had Begun](#) [Debutantes And Chaperones Were Planning Their Luncheons, Teas, Dinners, Balls And](#) [The Blackmailer Was Planning His Strategies, Stalking His Next Victim](#) But Chief Detective Inspector Roderick Alleyn knew that something was up. He had already planted his friend Lord Robert Bunchy Goppell at the scene. But someone else got there first. As we continue our survey of the books of Ngaio Marsh, we get to what is perhaps my favorite book, 1938's *Death in a White Tie*. Someone has been actively blackmailing socialites amid those doing the season, when debutantes go to balls to look for a husband. Detective Chief Inspector Roderick Alleyn seeks out the help of Lord Robert Bunchy Goppell, who has helped Scotland Yard in the past, to help him find the culprit. Bunchy, around the age of 50, is popular with everyone of all ages who go to events in the season, making him ideal to help with the investigation. Alleyn first learned of the blackmail when Mrs Halcott Hackett, a former actress married to a retired general 20 years older than herself, went to Alleyn with a letter her friend received demanding 500 to get back a love letter from a man not her husband. As he describes the situation to Bunchy, Bunchy recognizes the handwriting in the letter as one he saw when he was visiting Evelyn Caradoss earlier that day and which caused her panic when her husband found it. They now have a new lead in the case. Read the rest of this review and other fun, geeky articles at [Fangirl Nation](#)

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