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Posted on 06 January 2019 By Ngaio Marsh

@FREE EBOOK Ç Singing in the Shrouds ? eBook or E-pub free

Entertaining read of a serial killer who is likely aboard the Cape Farewell Interesting characters and humorous sections It s a dated book, so of course one will come across some things that would be offensive by today s standards. This was okay I listened to the Audible for part of it, and the narrator affected several really annoying accents for some of the characters, several of whom were rather bizarre and unlikable I wasn t sure if it was the narrator s acting or the way Marsh wrote the characters I also missed Fox, Alleyn s long time sidekick at Scotland Yard. The book opens in a wonderfully atmospheric scene at the London docks, as a constable patrols the foggy, cold quayside and passengers arrive to board a ship departing at midnight It was a great start, with a dead woman discovered by the constable strangled, with flowers tossed on her chest She s likely the latest victim of a possible serial killer, and since she s clutching a torn bit of a boarding document from the ship, Scotland Yard thinks the murderer may be aboard Inspector Alleyn comes aboard at Portsmouth, undercover, to keep an eye on the passengers and crew and investigate. Without Fox and the usual investigative machinery usually at his disposal, Alleyn tries to blend in and observe the ship s inhabitants several of whom seemed possible as the murderer, seeming unlikable, unbalanced, or just plain odd Some of their actions and reactions were rather inexplicable to me, especially when the murderer strikes again I m not sure if this was Marsh s elliptical writing style, or a product of the time the novel was written, or what I ve run into this before with Marsh s writing I ve been reading a mystery of hers every month with the Reading the Detectives group, and sometimes I m really not sure what she s trying to say also, with this particular narration, my enjoyment was definitely affected by the bizarre accents and acting the narrator chose to use I may have enjoyed this one if I had read the whole book. Anyway, I enjoyed several parts of the mystery, but it wasn t a favorite I was surprised at the identity of the killer, and the motive seemed to reek of pop psychology, but at the time of writing early 50s , perhaps these theories were emerging into mainstream books and movies. @FREE EBOOK ? Singing in the Shrouds Î All Aboard For Murder The Cape Farewell Steams Out To Sea, Carrying A Serial Strangler Who Says It With Flowers And A Little Song Behind, On A Fogbound London Dock, Lies His Latest Lovely Victim And On Board, Working Undercover To Identify Him Before He Strikes Again, Is Inspector Roderick Alleyn But With A Collection Of Neurotic, Bombastic, Shifty, And Passionate Passengers At One Another S Throats How Long Can He Keep The Investigation On Course A very good contained mystery as Roderick Alleyn finds a serial killer among the passengers on a ship bound for an African cruise. The weakest in this series so far, I think Nothing special in the way of characters, in fact most of them are pretty unattractive Setting not the most interesting Fox and Co are back at the Yard whilst Alleyn

makes do with a couple of deputized passengers No revelations of Alleyn's background or character When the murderer is eventually revealed, his motivation seems kind of trumped up On to the next and hope it's just a momentary lapse. Something about the old 1958 edition that filled my hold, rebound in ugly orange buckram, reminded me of shelving mysteries of this vintage as a library page in the 1960s Never imagined then that I'd be reading them today. Father Jourdain Alleyn are walking on deck after returning from an excursion They walked together down the well deck on the port side When they had reached the little verandah aft of the engine house, they stopped while Alleyn lit his pipe The night was still very warm, but they had run into a stiff breeze and the ship was alive with it There was a high thrumming sound in the shrouds Someone singing, Alleyn said Isn't it the wind in those ropes Shrouds, don't they call them I wonder why These cases, said Alleyn, are the worst of the lot from our point of view We can pick a card sharp or a con man or a sneak thief or a gunman or a dozen other bad lots by certain mannerisms and tricks of behaviour They develop occupational habits and they generally keep company with their own kind But not the man who, having never before been in trouble with the police, begins, perhaps lathish in life, to strangle women at ten day intervals and leave flowers on their faces He's a job for the psychiatrist if ever there was one, and he doesn't go in for psychiatry He's merely an example But of what The result of bad housing conditions or a possessive mother or a kick on the head at football or a bullying schoolmaster or a series of regrettable grandparents Again, your guess is as good as mine He is He exists He may behave with perfect propriety in every possible aspect of his life but this one He may be, and often is, a colourless little fellow who trots to and fro upon his lawful occasions for, say, fifty years, seven months, and a day On the day after that he trots out and becomes a murderer Probably there have been certain eccentricities of behaviour which he's been at great pains to conceal and which have suddenly become inadequate Whatever compulsion it is that hounds him into his appointed crime, it now takes over He lets go and becomes a monster

First sentence In the Pool of London and farther east all through the dockyards the fog lay heavy Lights swam like moons in their own halos Insignificant buildings, being simplified, became dramatic. Premise plot Singing in the Shrouds is the twentieth novel in Ngaio Marsh's Inspector Alleyn mystery series Cape Farewell is about to steam out to sea when a body is discovered near the docks It is believed that the murderer is a passenger on the ship Inspector Alleyn joins the ship in disguise the next day He not only wants to find the murderer who has already struck three times but to prevent another murder from occurring This serial killer is striking every ten days And the voyage is much longer than ten days Can Alleyn discover the murderer among the passengers without being discovered himself My thoughts I am loving Ngaio Marsh I am I can't believe it's taken me so long to get to her mystery novels I enjoyed getting to know the passengers There were some interesting characters among them some prove Alleyn's great allies One of the passengers was a 1950s version of Jerry Springer a television personality of a reality talk show where guests

bring him their personal troubles When it comes to separating the easygoing from the exacting passenger, stewards are not easily deceived But Dennis had been taken in by Mr Merryman The spectacles, the rumpled hair and cherubic countenance had led him to diagnose absence of mind, benevolence and timidity He was bitterly disappointed when Mr Merryman now gave unmistakable signs of being a Holy Terror 24 It s the greatest mistake to think that jealousy is necessarily a fault On the contrary, it may very well sharpen the perception 54 Alibis, Mr Merryman said grandly, are in the same category as statistics in the last analysis they prove nothing 85 A serial killer is at work in what becomes one of Detective Chief Inspector Roderick Alleyn s most urgent and dramatic cases in *Singing in the Shrouds* by Ngaio Marsh The S.S Cape Farewell sets sail from London to South Africa just as the beat policeman discovers the third such body, with the signature flowers spread over the body and the sound of singing showing off the trademarks of the Flower Murderer The strangled woman clasps an embarkation ticket to the ship, causing Alleyn to be sent to the ship from Portsmouth in order to look for the murderer He does this despite all the objections of Captain Bannerman, who stubbornly refuses to accept that one of his passengers could be a murderer no matter what kind of evidence builds up. Read the rest of this review and other fun, geeky articles at Fangirl Nation This is the twentieth novel in the Roderick Alleyn series, published in 1959 I have found Ngaio Marsh to be quite inconsistent some of her mysteries are excellent and others not nearly so good This is one of the better ones, with a good opening It begins on the docks, with a group of passengers boarding The Cape Farewell, heading for South Africa Among those boarding is a young woman whose engagement has recently broken off, the ship s doctor, a television personality a new, and rather amusing career, you feel, which is much derided by many of those aboard , the beautiful Mrs Dillington Blick, the gruff, manly, Catherine Abbott, an elderly bachelor, a priest, an unpleasant teacher and Mr and Mrs Cuddy, who feel they are looked down upon by the others A young woman, delivering some flowers to Mrs Dillington Blick is murdered by the flower murderer, who is known for leaving flowers on the body of the woman he kills Alleyn is sent on board, as the murderer is suspected to be one of the passengers and tries to infiltrate the group and discover their thoughts on the killer With a manly, female passenger and an effeminate, male steward, Marsh enlarges the possible suspects and the young, broken hearted Jemima and attractive Mrs Dillington Blick, good, possible victims Marsh manages some good twists and the setting, onboard ship, with an unhelpful Captain, makes Alleyn s job difficult and adds some extra tension Marsh has not managed to achieve the success of her early books for me, but this is a good addition to the series I did listen to this on Audible, but James Saxton was not the best narrator and his choice of voices accents was, at times, bizarre Rated 3.5

Ngaiio
MARSH

*Singing in
the Shrouds*



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

had my review erased accidentally Wondering what key did that to me I had just typed something of the mood Marsh successfully set to start us on this tightly plotted mystery In the pool of London and further east all through the dockyards the fog lay heavy Lights swam like moons in their own halos Beyond their illuminated places the dockyards vanished The gang loading the Cape Farewell moved from light into nothingness It is a most peculiar group of passengers aligned for this cruise where Alleyn arranges to board at sea to capture his serial murderer when another body is found after Cape Farewell launches 20th in Alleyn series, published 1959 For me, I much prefer the books that include Alleyn s wife in the narrative.

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Justice James Iredell

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