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Posted on 08 February 2018 By Ngaio Marsh

|Free E-pub ? Last Ditch ? eBooks or Kindle ePUB free

One of the last of Marsh's Inspector Alleyn novels 32 novels over an almost fifty year writing career Marsh, along with Christie, Sayers, and Allingham, were the Grand Dames of twentieth century crime novelists A well written, well told story I've not read any of her other novels, but this one seems as good a place to start as any other, though the whole series follows the career and marriage of Alleyn There is a nice little appendix telling the story of how Marsh came to start writing crime novels, and how she came up with Inspector Alleyn pronounced Allen. My impression of Ricky from the first book still stands he's too precious, and how he managed to bumble his way into every step of the investigation and leave nothing for the second investigation was too much Still, he was a nice change of pace from his too suave and bland Papa I'm glad he didn't turn too, too much and become a jobbing detective version of his dad For the consummate Ngaio Marsh fan, this is a good read For everyone else, eh, I wouldn't recommend it. What a fun golden age mystery I loved the characters, setting, mannerisms of the time and pacing of the story I don't know why I've never read Ngaio Marsh before, but I've already ordered the first few books in this series to start from the beginning I look forward to catching up with Inspector Alleyn. 1977's Last Ditch by Ngaio Marsh turns its focus to Ricky Alleyn, the son of Detective Superintendent Roderick Alleyn, as Ricky goes to the Channel Islands to immerse himself in his work in writing a novel There he runs into a family who met his parents once on a cruise, and Ricky finds himself falling in love with the wife, Julia Pharamond He also makes the acquaintance of Sid Jones, a wannabe painter with a bad attitude until he learns that Ricky is the son of Agatha Troy, the greatest painter England has ever produced Ricky keeps suspecting Sid of nefarious behavior, especially when Sid, who works as a paint salesman in exchange for free acrylic paints to use, gets furious when Ricky accidentally steps on one tube, causing it to burst open Another day the Pharamonds talk Ricky into joining them going horseback riding at the stables owned by Mr Harkness The fire and brimstone religious man is furious that his daughter, the highly promiscuous Elsie, is pregnant and tries to lock her in her room But Elsie manages to escape and takes out the bay mare against her father's express orders When the family and Ricky return to the stable, they find the body of Elsie in a ditch behind a big bush, apparently the victim of having taken too dangerous a chance in jumping the horse where her father has forbidden her to go. Read the rest of this review and other fun, geeky articles at Fangirl Nation

Ngāio
MARSH

Last Ditch



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

I'd discovered these during my long ago Christie phase, because while I don't think Marsh's plots are as neat as Christie's, her writing is better. However, I was still fairly meh about this one: police procedurals are just not my cup of tea, even though I like the characters. I may see if I can find the book or two which come after *Artists in Crime*, out of curiosity to see the progress of Alleyn and Troy's romance, but other than that, I don't think I'll seek out Marsh.

In this late entry of the Inspector Alleyn series, the focus is on Alleyn's son Ricky. While the last third, when Alleyn himself arrives on the scene, was exciting, I found the mystery itself a little obvious. Wanda McCaddon Nadia May did a decent narration but it wasn't as good as some of hers I have listened to. |Free E-pub ? Last Ditch ? Horseplay Turns Deadly

Young Ricky Alleyn Has Come To The Picturesque Fishing Village Of Deep Cove To Write Through The Sleepy Little Town Offers Few Diversions, Ricky Manages To Find The Most Distracting One Of All Murder For In A Muddy Ditch, He Sees A Dead Equestrienne Whose Last Leap Was Anything But An Accident And When Ricky Himself Disappears, The Case Becomes A Horse Of A Different Color For His Father, Inspector Roderick Alleyn

The second appearance of Ricky Alleyn, who makes a good showing at the beginning of the novel, managing to nicely encompass aspects of both his parents, but then unfortunately catches a bad case of too stupid to live and fades off the screen. More a 2.5 than 3 star novel, dragging considerably in the middle. This is a book club edition, probably purchased around 1985. The club editions don't seem to have ISBNs, for some reason. This was a re-read, but it's been a long time, so I'd forgotten a lot of it. It is fairly late in the Alleyn sequence: the primary character is Alleyn and Troy's son, Ricky. Ricky also appeared as a young child in a previous book, *Spinsters in Jeopardy*. The story, plot, characterization, etc., were wonderful. Marsh as usual, but I don't like this book as much as the others. I think it is because Ricky is pretty much of a young idiot through most of it. He has graduated from university, apparently, and you would think would be a little less callow. However, he falls hard for the ditzy and beautiful Julia Pharamond. She with her husband, cousin, sister, and brother-in-law sweep him into their orbit. He is rooming in a small town on some island off the coast of France, attempting to write a book, and his landlord appears to be a bit shady. He also meets another shady character, an artist. Both men make a lot of mysterious trips to another island. I wasn't too sure of the geography and to France. When a local girl is killed jumping a horse over the ditch of the title, he notices some oddities about the ditch and has his doubts as to whether it is an accident. Eventually his father and Inspector Fox show up to look into the accident and also on the trail of drug runners. Ricky's ridiculous attempts at sleuthing get him into lots of trouble, but of course Dad comes through. All in all, this will be one of my favorite ones in the series, if only because Troy and Rory's son Ricky, now all of 21, plays a major part in the murder crime setting. I did like because we see the very concerned and subjective parental response in Alleyn to his son's involvement as well as the son's awareness of how his father has rather sheltered the family from some of the horrors of murder scenes. Inspector Fox, trusty godfather to Ricky, also has some emotional

reactions to his godson's predicament. There is even a shout out to the quirky family presented in a much earlier case known as the Surfeit of Lampreys. The added benefit of this particular edition of Last Ditch was that it included an essay at the end of the volume by Ngaio Marsh herself on how she first came to Roderick Alleyn as her mainstay inspector. Loved it.

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