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Posted on 11 February 2017 By Ngaio Marsh

EBOOK ? Died in the Wool ?

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I find I really like the New Zealand ones in this series This one is also set in NZ, during WWII. Alleyn's essentially counter intelligence, investigating a potential information leak and associated murder on a New Zealand sheep farm. I like the reduced cast of characters I like the setting And it struck me in this one that I definitely have a better sense of Alleyn as a character now One could argue that 13 books in is too late I don't disagree I will only say that it probably happened a few books ago, and I didn't notice until now, but I definitely have a better sense than in the early novels. Also, no case of insta love There is an engaged couple, but they've known each other for a year or so, so y know, fair. And, I'm pleased that Ngaio Marsh was clearly planning on finally developing something with Alleyn Troy in the next book It shows in this one If the next book is a disappointment, I'm going to be sad One and a half stars for this unfortunately talky talky wartime mystery Excellent basic idea rich grazier's wife vanishes, only to turn up weeks later well past her use by date but the book was done to death under an avalanche of words, words, words Any action is crammed unceremoniously into the last quarter of the book. We start with Alleyn being sent up to the holding as a member of some unnamed wartime special branch, supposedly too hush hush to even mention but it just reinforces the weakness of the structure His interview with the suspects turns into a far too longwinded not to mention unbelievable group therapy session, with shellshocked soldiers, state secrets, young women whose upper lips are so stiff they can act as corsets for their heaving emotions, schoolboys who run away to join up, etc etc dreary etc until oh yes the mention of spies among us sets everyone on edge. Bleah Marsh continues to be obsessed with people's hands at one point she describes the butler as standing with his hands at his sides, and turned outward from the wrists I've tried that position as well this time it's physically impossible, at least for normal people Her editor let her down too at one point, for example, she tells us that the habit was habitual with him Well, it would be Add to this that the killer was predictable from the outset and the ending was ALSO pure tell not show epistolary ending, no less and you have the reason I shelved this as stonking great disappointment Marsh's penchant for dividing each chapter into several numbered parts, as if it were a TV drama with commercial cues at all tense points though yes I know TV hadn't taken off yet, that's how it felt did not help matters. I wanted to enjoy this book, but it simply wasn't possible. EBOOK ? Died in the Wool ? Popular Book, Died In The Wool Author Ngaio Marsh This Is Very Good And Becomes The Main Topic To Read, The Readers Are Very Takjup And Always Take Inspiration From The Contents Of The Book Died In The Wool, Essay By Ngaio Marsh Is Now On Our Website And You Can Download It By Register What Are You Waiting For Please Read And Make A Refission For You Died in the Wool is one of four Alleyn tales Marsh set in her native New Zealand, and is

made even interesting as it was actually published during the Second World War, and incorporates aspects, issues, and perspectives on the war climate into the murder mystery plotline. Being written before Marsh would have even known when or how the war would end, some of the settings and characterisations can give insights into New Zealand at that time that no recently written historical novel, no matter how well researched, can match. One summer evening in 1942, formidable Member of Parliament Florence Flossie Rubrick goes to the wool shed on her high country property to rehearse a patriotic speech, and disappears. Three weeks later, she is found dead inside a bale of wool at an auction. Inspector Alleyn, in New Zealand on war security matters, comes to the high country sheep station than a year later, after Rubrick's husband has also passed away from illness, and tries to piece together what really happened to the polarising MP, based on the testimonies of several acquaintances. At the same time, concerns are raised about the top secret security work being carried out by two young men: have the blueprints for the new anti-aircraft device been leaked? In effect, Marsh has transported the classic British country house murder mystery, with its closed environment and small amount of characters all of whom have a motive for killing the victim, into a rural New Zealand setting during the war. But she also does a few things differently that help *Died in the Wool* stand out. Alleyn arrives months after the murder, so can't rely on the crime scene clues and observations usually available to detectives; instead he has to weigh the differing recollections of the residents, each has its own chapter, eg. According to Terence Lynne: This device gave Marsh not only a different structure and investigative method, but the opportunity to voice varying views and concerns about what was going on during the war, through her different characters. In general, Marsh's plots weren't quite as intricate as Christie's puzzles, but she was the superior writer when it came to setting, description, and giving her characters depth and layers. Compared to today's crime novels, the pace is somewhat languid, and at times, the language used dates the book, but decades after it was published, *Died in the Wool* remains an absorbing, enjoyable read. Another solid Marsh mystery I was able to guess the killer towards the end, but there were plenty of suspects to choose from. She also offered up a unique landscape that is was part English countryside, part New Zealand wilderness. My previous experience with GA mysteries had solely been from the Christie canon, so it has been refreshing to get another perspective and writing style. Many times a bit outlandish and over the top, but almost always fun. Definitely not my favorite published in 1945, my paperback 2013 *Felony Mayhem*. New Zealand is the site of all the action, a very well known lady shows up dead rolled up in wool at her sheep farm even though she'd had a house full of guests who were helping her look for a diamond clip along the paths surrounding the estate. Alleyn is called in to thoroughly investigate how this came about and who was responsible as he is UK's man on the scene in New Zealand on the watch for spies. It is wartime. There are some interesting characters, as usual, but the dialogue is cliché and the pace is very sluggish. I had to turn to a couple other books to force myself to finish this one.

off Can't please all the people all the time eh Part of my irritation is the physical torment I went through to get on a cold train last weekend and hike it to the library and then back to station without even visiting my downtown digs due to weather Whine much I think the other Marsh I chose has promise it has a very lively opening, at least. I do like Inspector Alleyn, and enjoyed the descriptions of the vast landscapes of New Zealand's South Island in this mystery thriller set in 1942. Alleyn is far from his usual supporting cast in NZ during WWII, sussing out espionage after the body of a female MP is found in the middle of a bale of wool. Alleyn visits the sheep station where the murder occurred to try and solve the case, but also learn if secret weapons research being carried out there is being leaked to the enemy. I've not read this whole series, but look forward to filling in the gaps I found this interesting, as I don't know a lot about the Australian and New Zealand homefront during WWII. Unusual setting. The action takes place in New Zealand in the war so a classic murder story is set away from a British location with the addition of espionage to add to the interest. The author writes well as she should about her home country and draws the characters interestingly and differently from what might be expected in a classic murder mystery. It's thoroughly enjoyable with plenty of twists and turns so the murderer only becomes guessable towards the end. Like the previous Roderick Alleyn mystery, *Colour Scheme*, this novel is set in her native New Zealand. Published in 1945, this is also set during wartime, with Alleyn doing extremely secret, counter-espionage work in the country. It is never really explained why he should be called to do war work so far from home, but still, this is an interesting mix of crime and spy story. Unusually, the crime in this novel the murder of Flossie Rubrick took place in 1942, while Alleyn does not visit her remote sheep farm until 1943. Living at Mount Moon are various members of staff and servants, plus four young people a young man, Fabian, carrying out secret work, Captain Douglas Grace, Mrs Rubrick's nephew, plus two young women her secretary and her ward. In a way, the murder is something of a side issue, as it is obvious that Alleyn's purpose is to discover who may be involved in spying on the top secret invention that Fabian Losse is working on. However, it is murder that makes up most of the story. It is clear that just about everybody at Mount Moon has a reason to want Flossie dead and much of the book involves Alleyn interviewing members of the household. As such this is little than endless interviews, as Alleyn tries to uncover the truth. Like Alleyn himself, I rather missed Fox and Bathgate, and hope the next in the series sees us back on familiar ground. *Died in the Wool* 1945 by Ngaio Marsh finds Inspector Alleyn still in New Zealand hunting spies in World War II. Alleyn had already been hard at work in the counter-espionage business in Marsh's previous novel, *Colour Scheme*. This time he's asked to investigate the death of a member of New Zealand's Parliament Florence Flossie Rubrick. The Rubricks own a large country property which includes sheep herds and wool processing quarters. She had gone missing one evening after announcing she was headed to the wool shed to practice an upcoming speech. It isn't until sometime later that her body is found packed into a bundle of wool that has been sold. Her nephew, Douglas Grace, fears

that a spy is at work on the farm He and Fabian Losse nephew to Flossie s husband Arthur have been working on a top secret, hush hush gadget that will greatly aid the war efforts and Grace is certain that Flossie must have discovered proof of the spy s identity and been killed because of it Losse doesn t believe in the spy theory, but he does want the murder solved and after the local police flounder for over a year he writes to the big wigs and asks for Alleyn to drop indangling the possibility of a spy in front him as justification. Since the case is so cold no clues lying helpfully about to be picked up , Alleyn spends most of his time listening to every member of the household s account of the night in question and their impressions of Flossie Arthur is no longer around he died shortly after Flossie disappeared but the two nephews, Flossie s ward Ursula Harme, and Terence Lynne, Flossie s secretary all give Alleyn their version of events It isn t long before Alleyn realizes that there are several currents of motive running beneath the surface There s a local boy who was Flossie s favorite until they had a grand row And there s the growing affection between Terry Terence and her employer s husband Not to mention the sudden fall from favor that Douglas experience with his aunt A late night hunt in the wool shed yes even all this time later is called for and Alleyn becomes the target for the murderer himself before the curtain falls on this one. What is particularly nice about this one is the way Alleyn s interviews so clearly underline that no one is the same person to each person they interact with Every member of the household produces a different Flossie for the Inspector to understand Marsh uses the psychology of each person s version to help Alleyn to understand what Flossie did in the days leading up to her murder that made her death imperative for the killer Some may find this a bit slow going there s a lot of talk and little action until the last third or so of the book but in this instance I think it works A good closed group mystery with excellent setting and background and 1 2. First posted on my blog My Reader s Block Please request permission before reposting Thanks.

NGAIO MARSH



DIED IN THE WOOL

'In the front rank of
crime-story writers.'

THE TIMES

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