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Posted on 03 July 2019 By Ngaio Marsh

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@Download Book ? Death in Ecstasy / Vintage Murder / Artists in Crime , The Second Volume In A Set Of Omnibus Editions Presenting The Complete Run Of Inspector Alleyn Mysteries Includes Death In Ecstasy Originally Published London Geoffrey Bles Vintage Murder Originally Published London Geoffrey Bles Artists In Crime Originally Published London Geoffrey Bles , Portrait Of Troy And Death On The Air First Published In Death On The Air And Other Stories HarperCollins, While I really enjoyed,Death in Ecstasy Vintage Murder was dreadful. While it s been a year since I read this, I distinctly remember them as light, popcorn mystery Not as light as cozies can be, but you read these to enjoy the mysteries as they get unraveled by the charming inspector.Recommended if you want Agatha Christie lite, but not so lite as to go for a cozy.

NGAIO MARSH

'As neatly plotted
as makes no odds'

Sunday Times

Death in Ecstasy

Vintage Murder

The
**INSPECTOR
ALLEYN
MYSTERIES**

Artists in Crime

I have read Marsh's Golden Age contemporaries Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers, but this was my first Marsh novel. What impressed me the most was how prescient and still relevant themes were wrapped up in her otherwise sanitary Golden Age work. Religion is a business and, some 20 years before L. Ron Hubbard invented Scientology and cults are still being invented. People need to believe, and pay for that need in money and, in this case, with lives. Of course, it's not necessarily that simple because attraction and seduction play significant roles as well. Once the church is derailed, one woman moans that there will be no ceremonies, which is rather sad because she needs her belief and her rituals as does Alleyn. Drug use and drug trade is also featured prominently, though this is certainly not a gritty expose by any stretch. But drugs help to ensure belief. Religion is, after all, the opiate of the masses. And this also underscores the business end of the faith. And while rehab is now nothing than an exploitable, dramatic cliché for reality tv, Alleyn suggests scientific study for this mania. The final surprise for me was the relatively good representation of gays, which I'm sure is owed in part to Marsh's life-long experience in the theater. The characters refer to the two flamboyantly over the top gays as queers and sissies but Alleyn is acquiescent, referring wittily to the unspeakable Claude, an obvious reference to the Lord Alfred Douglas poem written for his lover, Oscar Wilde. But these characters are no better or worse than the others, and are not the villains they'd have been in a hard-boiled fiction of the time. The church itself is populated by others: women and foreigners. Homosexuality is merely an extension of that grouping. And, do note, that these two queens are acolytes, assuredly a telling descriptor of their proclivities in both the church and elsewhere. I absolutely intend to read of Marsh's wonderful Inspector Alleyn and his prescient adventures in the Golden Age.

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Justice James Iredell

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Justice James Iredell