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Posted on 07 April 2018 By Ngaio Marsh

#Download Kindle á Death in Ecstasy î eBook or E-pub free

Dame Agatha Christie and Her Peers A note on the publishing information page says To aid catalogers and collectors, this title is printed in an edition limited to 80 copies It has been manufactured in the United States to American Library Association standards on permanent, durable, acid free paper It seems to me Aeonian Press Mattituck spent a lot of money to print only 80 copies Or did Amereon House publish this Both publishers are mentioned Perhaps they each printed 40 copies Anyway, one must ask Was it worth the money Or did they know only 80 or so people would buy it I checked it out of the local library and 3.09 is written on the inside of the front cover And odder still, there is no publication date CAST 1 star I like very much that Marsh provides a list of cast members at the beginning of the novel in the edition I read Jasper Garnett is the officiating priest of the odd House of the Sacred Flame Cara Quayne is the Chosen Vessel and that is never explained Then there are 2 gay characters Claude Wheatley and Lionel Smith Now, I do understand that in the 1920 s there was a sort of tumultuous interest in gay entertainers America and Europe, not sure about Marsh s New Zealand then a rather vicious backlash in the 1930s And Marsh must have had some kind of derogatory terms for gay folks thesaurus handy as she disses Claude and Lionel incessantly They lisp, they mince, the dark one in the purple shirt faints by page 36, wiggling occurs on page 43 On page 45, Claudewalked with small steps and talked in a sort of feeble scream Things get worse Oh, cried Inspector Fox suddenly in a falsetto voice, oh, Inspector, I think I m going to be sick. What a loathly, what a nauseating, what an unspeakable little drollop Horrid, wasn t it agreed Alleyn absently. And on and on it goes Yes, I know some people will say Well, that s just the way people talked about gay folks in the 1930s But what do you think about a character saying this Ain t dat de truff, Lawd , as there is an American visiting England, this comment apparently directed toward him That said, the first half of this book takes place in this House and perhaps, just perhaps, everyone is putting on a show I m being generous and when Alleyn and crew enter, they just play along 1 star, but only because the author list the cast up front, as one naturally would if preparing a hand out to stage play attendees A Playbill of sorts. ATMOSPHERE 2 The House has naked statues and all kinds of spiritual type set pieces Altars, engravings, incense, and It s not spooky, just sorta silly Like a cheap first grade idea of a Halloween horror house Funny silly. Plot 1 Early, there is a murder It s a rather standard poisoning And you know it s going to be a woman because, in Marsh s world painted here, the men are all heroic except for the gay couple, the he he boys and certainly aren t going to die Yea, this book is misogynistic. INVESTIGATION 1 Alleyn and gang seem to be fine with the homophobia, or, at best, are just playing along with a staging of a murder But if you ve read any amount of murder mysteries, you ll know it all by page 45

or so. RESOLUTION 1 Oh, please As if it was even worth writing in the first place. SUMMARY I m giving this a generous 1.2 rating This is homophobic, xenophobic, racist, misogynistic and represents the worst in murder mystery writing I m going to assume, then, that this was reprinted with only 80 copies by an American publisher to demonstrate the very worst in penmanship in the 1930s on a global level and is used as a textbook for classes titled How NOT to write a novel or perhaps as a textbook explaining This is why Agatha Christie is the world s best selling novelist. Well, I guess I d better give up the disclaimer about what I think of these They re harmless, easy fun, concerned with setting up a puzzle and then working it out, with lots of red herrings and interesting people along the way Nothing ground breaking, but comfortable. This one did give me a little bit of unease because of the swishy, blatantly queer couple who were a walking, talking pair of stereotypes At least they were harmless, but Marsh wrote about them rather unpleasantly and nobody thought any good of them At least Alleyn, as I imagine him, wouldn t be an ass to them in person about it, but would respect their relationship as long as he thought it was real, not just theatrics and melodrama I suppose I am getting to like him, though I think I m building on him in my own mind than Marsh is in the text. This one only slightly breaks the trend there s no reconstruction, though the group do gather together again to talk it over, which is pretty close. The statement I spotted in another review that Nigel Bathgate does nothing and could he please be murdered now is sadly accurate The one point I liked was when Alleyn rings up and tells him to act as if he s talking to Angela That was a bit amusing.

#Download Kindle ð Death in Ecstasy Ì When Lovely Cara Quayne Dropped Dead To The Floor After Drinking The Ritual Wine At The House Of The Sacred Flame, She Was Having A Religious Experience Of A Sort Unsuspected By The Other Initiates Discovering How The Fatal Prussic Acid Got Into The Bizarre Group S Wine Is But One Of The Perplexing Riddles That Confronts Scotland Yard S Inspector Roderick Alleyn When He S Called To Discover Who Sent This Wealthy Cult Member To Her Untimely Death Review to follow And eventually it did follow I am enjoying this Inspector Alleyn mysteries challenge, although I am still 3 behind where I should be, oh bother. The characterisations are good and the murders themselves are all so different, so every story is a breath of fresh air and fun if murder can be fun As with all the rest well 3 so far I have given 4 stars, a good read in my rating system, and I look forward to catching up with the rest of the group in the next couple of months by which time another challenge will be falling by the wayside. As anyone who reads my reviews is there anyone who reads my reviews will know, I very rarely give away any of the plot, because if you want to know about the book, read the blurb on the back, but suffice to say that they never feel dated So if you do read because you like Christie Dexter Sayers Doyle then I m guessing you will also enjoy this. Ngaio Marsh s style is always a pleasure, but this tale of mystic rites in a threadbare temple in middle class London is a bit antiquated even for its time , and the characters often a Marsh strong point are rather stereotypical, particularly the American businessman and the two gay acolytes Also, the

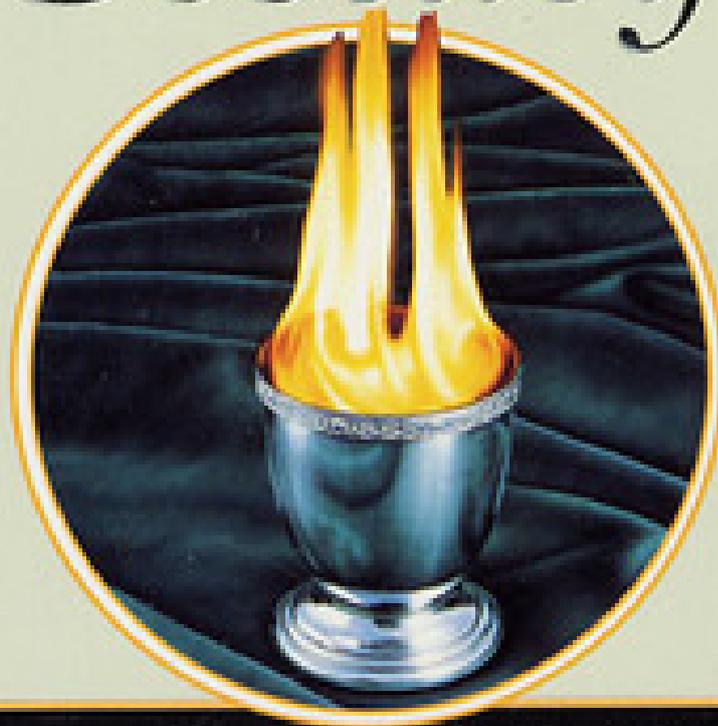
solution to the mystery really wasn't much of a surprise. This one was a slow starter for me. But it did pick up and I wound up enjoying it. Here Alleyn's reporter friend, Nigel Bathgate, discovers that he is living across the street from a cult-type church. They won't let him in the first time he was too late. So the next time he makes a point of being early. A suspicious death takes place and he calls in Alleyn. It was interesting. I was stumped.

Death in Ecstasy 1936 by Ngaio Marsh finds Inspector Roderick Alleyn's sometime Watson, Nigel Strangeways, bored on a rainy, blustery London night. He gazes discontentedly out his window and notices a sign glinting in the light as the wind gusts and jostles it about. House of the Sacred Flame, a mysterious sounding place, and as he watches members of the obscure sect enter the sacred portals, he decides that attending the services of a strange religious group is just what he needs to liven up a dull evening. Who knows there might even be a story in it. Little does he suspect just how much news he's going to find behind the doors. This particular Sunday night was a special one, a monthly service in which The Chosen Vessel, in this case one Miss Cara Quayne, having been prepared through a month of preparatory sessions with Father Garnette the founder, reaches a state of Ecstasy through ceremony. Bathgate watches as a sacred chalice is passed among the faithful. There's a bit of chanting, Cara drinks from the cup, and falls down at the feet of the priest. My friends, my friends, our beloved sister has been vouchsafed the greatest boon of all. She is in ecstasy. Let us sing our hymn to Pan, the God in all. But as one of the Initiates points out, it's not. It's not. She's dead. I touched her. She's dead. Dr Kasbek, a member of the congregation, comes forward and confirms the Initiate's declaration. They are about to clear the House when Nigel suggests that no one should leave just yet and perhaps the police should be called. After all, the woman's mouth and eyes look a bit odd and there's a certain smell. The doctor investigates further and agrees with Nigel that it looks very like poison. The newsman uses the phone to call in his old friend Inspector Alleyn. Alleyn walks into a place of mystery that is nonetheless full of very familiar worldly motives for murder: greed, jealousy, and lust to name a few. There are seven suspects, all with reasons to want the lovely Cara dead: those who were jealous of her chosen position with Father Garnette; those with a taste for the special cigarettes that light the way to ecstasy; those who were greedy for her wealth, either for themselves or to fill the coffers of the Sacred Flame. It's up to Alleyn, with the help of Inspector Fox and Nigel, to sift the clues and find those that point to the murderer. Marsh does atmosphere very well in this one. Her theatrical background lends itself to creating the slightly over-the-top trappings of the Sacred Flame, a cult that embraces all the gods of everywhere and every time, and the sacred words and chants of them all. And she presents it without it seeming like the incredible mishmash that it is. Alleyn may raise his eyebrows at it, but while the ceremony is in progress, even the worldly journalist Bathgate is swept up in the moment and lulled by the words of the priest. It's easy to see how the Initiates could be wrapped up in the cult. Well-written with skillful plotting, though not quite as mystifying as her previous work. First posted on my blog. My

Reader's Block Please request permission before reposting Thanks. Ngaio Marsh writes with wit and assurance *Death in Ecstasy* centers around a cultish house of worship of which she dryly and accurately observes, The phoenix of quackery arises again and again from its own ashes Tonight we slam the door on this bit of hocus pocus and tomorrow someone else starts a new sideshow for the credulous Sadly true This mystery came out in 1936 and already she observes what is true today 2016 that young people, take refuge in irony, a commodity that should be reserved for the middle aged As always, the characters are well drawn and the banter delightful while noting at one point the necessity faced by compassionate investigators to include a sense of humor in their otherwise grim jobs. This is the fourth Inspector Alleyn novel and was published in 1936 Again, we have the input of Alleyn's young friend, journalist Nigel Bathgate, who spies people arriving at a nearby building from his apartment His interest piqued, he ventures out, on the wet and windy evening, and discovers the House of the Sacred Flame, an unorthodox religious group Intrigued, he gains entrance, and witnesses a religious rite going on inside with the group crying out the names of pagan gods and passing round a chalice of wine Unfortunately, the chalice contains something a little potent and, poisoned, the Chosen Vessel, a woman named Cara Quayne, falls to her death, witnessed by Nigel, who immediately calls Alleyn. This is an unusual setting and an odd cast of suspects Involved are Jasper Garnette, the officiating priest of the House of the Sacred Flame, plus various initiates Despite the setting, there are very familiar motives though, including greed and jealousy, as well as the use of drugs and resentment at members handing over their wealth to this group In a way, this is a little like an early novel about a cult Some of the characters are quite stereotypical and may offend modern sensibilities, but I find it difficult to expect political correctness of novels written in the past Still, there is certainly a fair amount of scorn poured on two young, rather effeminate, acolytes which will jar modern readers That said, this is an enjoyable mystery Not perhaps as good as the previous novel in the series, *The Nursing Home Mystery*, but I look forward to reading on Rated 3.5

Ngaiio
MARSH

*Death in
Ecstasy*



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

Having a mystery in a series involve a weird religious group or cult isn't as de rigeur as having one with a house party or one with a theatrical performance, but it is pretty common. Instant color. This particular sect is pretty odd, and Marsh never really explains why, since they made the religion up only two years ago, they picked such an odd syncretism. But it doesn't seem to matter much. Amusing if you can manage to ignore the overt and recurring and completely irrelevant to the plot homophobia. Silver lining, fruity friends you will automatically be dismissed from suspicion of murder because you wouldn't have the guts.

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