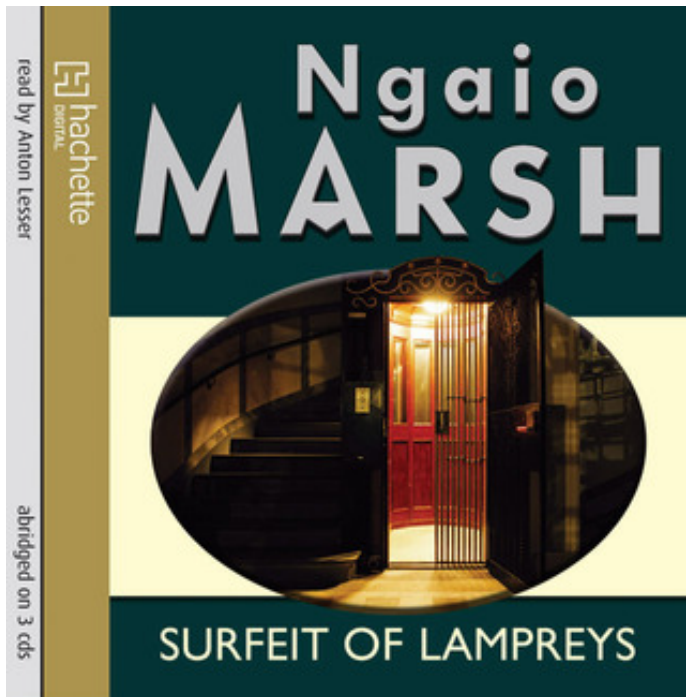

Ngaio Marsh

Surfeit of Lampreys (Roderick Alleyn #10)



Title: Surfeit of Lampreys (Roderick Alleyn #10)

Author: Ngaio Marsh

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Description

Ngaio Marsh's most popular novel begins when a young New Zealander's first contact with the English gentry is the body of Lord Wutherford—with a meat skewer through the eye. The Lampreys had plenty of charm—but no cash. They all knew they were peculiar, the charades with which they entertained their guests became quite complicated. And when Uncle Gabriel Lamprey dies, Chief Detective Inspector Roderick Alleyn is called in.

Insightful reviews

Katie Hilton: A very entertaining murder mystery! The crime itself is grisly, but the investigation is offset by Roderick Alleyn's duty to interview numerous members of a very eccentric family. The reader hopes none is guilty because they are rather charming, but somebody killed their unlovable uncle. A good read!

Jill Hutchinson: This is one of my favorite Alleyn books. The Lamprey brood, aristocrats teetering on the brink of bankruptcy are in line to inherit a bundle from a much despised older brother. Lo and behold, the brother is murdered in a rather horrific manner and everyone falls under suspicion. Enter "Handsome" Alleyn and his loyal sidekick, Fox, and the chase is on to discover the answer. Mix together a little black magic, a game of charades, and budding romance and you have a cracking tale from one of the masters of the golden age of British mystery, Ngaio Marsh. I have read all the Marsh books and this one measures up to her standards. Alleyn has found his persona by this writing after a shaky start in the early books. Highly recommended for the classic mystery lover.

William S.: There was much to like about this book, with a dotty charming English aristocratic family, and the sharp Scotland Yard Inspector Alleyn. He's the sort of fellow who picks up a clue the reader should have seen, but didn't quite get. The murder takes place in a smallish apartment with elevator, and so much of the action is really cerebral - whose story tallies, and whose does not. The only annoying theme was Alleyn's constant referring to Inspector Fox as "Brer Fox." which is unprofessional and cutesy. I won't give away the ending, except to say that it is manufactured and clumsy. I had the feeling of a well drawn plot, then a vacation, then the author realizing there was a time deadline from the publisher. That's probably unjust, but that is how it seemed to this reader. It could have been much better if the last quarter of the book had been on the same level as the first three quarters.

Nancy Butts: e-book 10, and the 1st within which the fascinating yet irresponsible Lamprey relatives look [what a final irony to have; all I'll contemplate used to be lamprey eels.] during this grotesque secret there's insanity and a marginally of witchcraft. simply because the Lampreys are approximately to fall into poverty, they are "rescued" while Lord Charles comes right into a peerage and wealth after his stingy and odious elder brother, a marquis, is skewered in the course of the eye like an unlovely shish kebab. The e-book starts in New Zealand yet speedily returns to London. be aware that even though the e-book is determined within the 30s, it wasn't released till 1941, so Marsh isn't prescient whilst she talks concerning the war; within the actual world, it had already begun. Nigel Bathgate makes a minor appearance.

Mothninja: pondering myself slightly of a Golden Age Detective Novel aficionado, i used to be startled to assert the least to simply stumble upon Ngaio Marsh a number of weeks in the past and am now operating my method via her work. fascinating and wonderfully written, to the level the place I frequently locate myself smiling with pleasure at her flip of phrase. no longer particularly Dorothy L Sayers, yet leagues prior to Agatha Christie. Very warmly prompt indeed.

Mary: This booklet used to be initially released below the identify A Surfeit of Lampreys which i feel is a greater identify for it. i feel this identify supplies away an excessive amount of too soon. a lot of this tale is going on ahead of Alleyn ever turns up, and sooner than there's a murder, so understanding who the sufferer could be is a bit a spoiler. one other Marsh ebook I learn was once based this fashion to boot (they may well all be, i've got simply learn a pair so far) and that i discovered it a really passable technique to constitution the story. we do not recognize who dedicated the crime--I did not determine it out until eventually approximately the end--but we all know many stuff Alleyn does not in regards to the relations and what went on correct ahead of the murder. Alleyn is an attractive character, as have been the Lampreys (they jogged my memory of Bertie Wooster and his pals) and Marsh's writing is particularly clever.

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