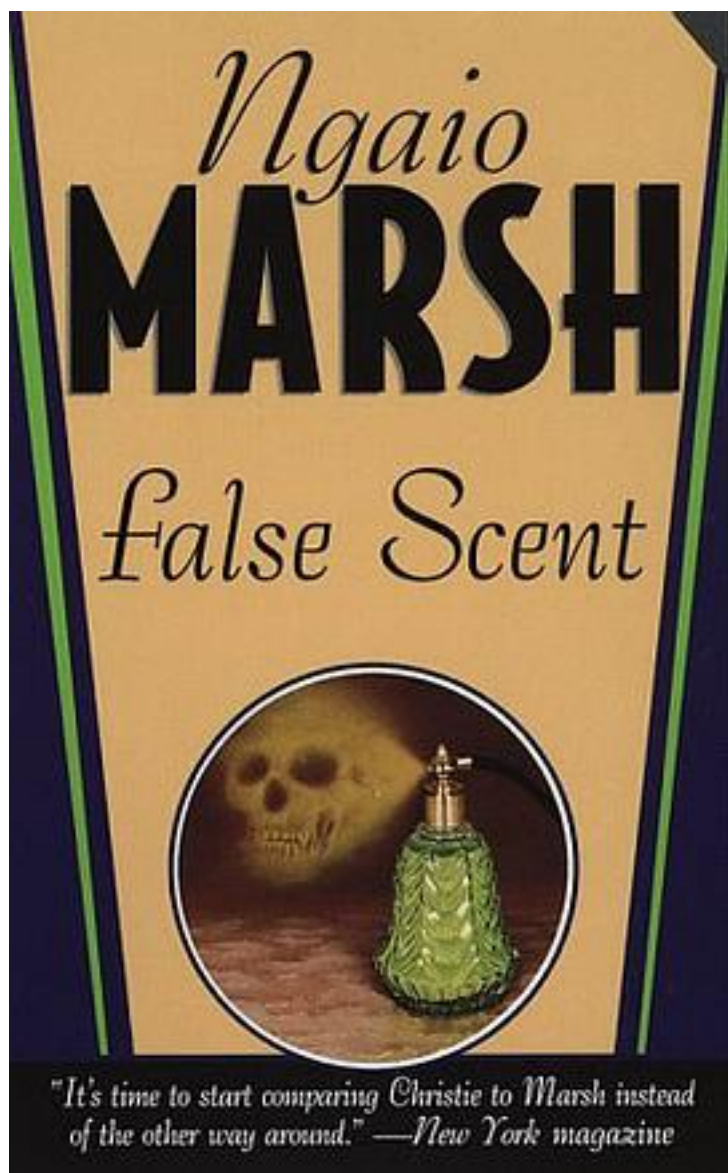


# False Scent (Roderick Alleyn Mysteries)



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著者:Ngaio Marsh

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## 作者介绍:

Dame Ngaio Marsh DBE (/na.o/; 23 April 1895 – 18 February 1982), born Edith Ngaio Marsh, was a New Zealand crime writer and theatre director. She was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1966.

Internationally Marsh is known primarily for her creation Inspector Roderick Alleyn, a gentleman detective who works for the Metropolitan Police (London). Thus she is one of the "Queens of Crime" alongside Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, Gladys Mitchell, and Margery Allingham.

Marsh was born in the city of Christchurch, New Zealand, where she also died. Her father neglected to register her birth until 1900 and there is some uncertainty about the date.

She was educated at St Margaret's College in Christchurch, where she was one of the first students when the school was founded. She studied painting at the Canterbury College (NZ) School of Art before joining the Allan Wilkie company as an actress and touring New Zealand. From 1928 she divided her time between living in New Zealand and in the United Kingdom.

Internationally she is best known for her 32 detective novels published between 1934 and 1982. Along with Dorothy L. Sayers, Margery Allingham and Agatha Christie, she has been classed as one of the four original "Queens of Crime"—female writers who dominated the crime fiction genre in the Golden Age of the 1920s and 1930s.

All her novels feature British CID detective Roderick Alleyn. Several novels feature Marsh's other loves, the theatre and painting. A number are set around theatrical productions (*Enter a Murderer*, *Vintage Murder*, *Overture to Death*, *Opening Night*, *Death at the Dolphin*, and *Light Thickens*), and two others are about actors off stage (*Final Curtain* and *False Scent*). Her short story "I Can Find My Way Out" is also set around a theatrical production and is the earlier "Jupiter case" referred to in *Opening Night*. Alleyn marries a painter, Agatha Troy, whom he meets during an investigation (*Artists in Crime*), and who features in several later novels.

Most of the novels are set in England, but four are set in New Zealand, with Alleyn either on secondment to the New Zealand police (*Colour Scheme*, and *Died in the Wool*), or on holiday (*Vintage Murder* and *Photo Finish*); *Surfeit of Lampreys* begins in New Zealand but continues in London.

Marsh's great passion was the theatre. In 1942 she produced a modern-dress *Hamlet* for the Canterbury University College Drama Society (now UCDS), the first of many Shakespearean productions with the society until 1969. In 1944, *Hamlet* and a production of *Othello* toured a theatre-starved New Zealand to rapturous acclaim. In 1949, assisted by entrepreneur Dan O'Connor, her student players toured Australia with a new version of *Othello* and Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. In the 1950s she was involved with the New Zealand Players, a relatively short-lived national professional touring repertory company.

She lived long enough to see New Zealand set up with a viable professional theatre

industry with realistic Arts Council support, with many of her protégés to the forefront. The 430-seat Ngaio Marsh Theatre at the University of Canterbury is named in her honour. Her home on the Cashmere Hills is preserved as a museum.

Marsh never married or had children. In 1965 she published an autobiography, *Black Beech and Honeydew*. British author and publisher Margaret Lewis wrote an authorized biography, *Ngaio Marsh, A Life* in 1991. New Zealand art historian Joanne Drayton's biography, *Ngaio Marsh: Her Life in Crime* was published in 2008.

"This brilliant New Zealander Ngaio March claims a high level as to sheer writing and still more as a view of humanity."

ELIZABETH BOWEN

"The finest writer in the English language of the pure, classical puzzle whodunnit. Among the crime queens, Ngaio Marsh stands out as an express."

THE SUN

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标签

NgaioMarsh

小说

评论

Collins Crime Club 女流看板作家 No.2

(No.1当然是阿加莎啦) 中期的作品。戏剧性十足，每个人物的刻画特很细致，凶手嘛……我买书的时候手贱先翻了最后一页……总体来说我觉得相当不错，和阿加莎很相似的行文风格，但是有更强的人物塑造，读完后还能对其中部分人物念念不忘。

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## 书评

After all, a great many suicides as well as homicides have been rigged to look like accidents. 总而言之，不少自杀与凶杀案都被人搞得像是意外。——Roderick Alleyn  
本书书名就隐隐透露出，这又是一部典型的Ngaio Marsh作品，戏剧的场景、戏剧的人物、戏剧的设计，一...

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