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Ngaio Marsh

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Ngaio Marsh : Colour Scheme before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Colour Scheme:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Another Good One! By Anna M. I LOVE the search feature on my Kindle that allows me to go back and verify details when I'm reading a mystery. (I also love being able to look up words instead of hauling out my mammoth dictionary -- thank you, thank you!!) Unfortunately, a couple times, using search, I found out who the murder was. This was the case with Colour Scheme -- well, I knew from the first chapter (agree with another reviewer on that) that it was one of two people. For the not-so-tolerant 40's, I thought that a very good portrait was given of the Maori people. (The mystery is set in a New Zealand resort where guests bathe in the natural pools; the victim gets thrown into boiling mud.) However, I differ with the reviewer who said that you'd never guess which character was Inspector Alleyn, posing as a guest. Well, maybe not, so I won't give it away, but definitely enjoy this mystery with an authentic New Zealand setting and believable characters. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. At the Hot Springs By LH422A rather suspicious and unbelievable set of circumstances finds Inspector Alleyn in New Zealand. In the midst of the thermal springs of northern New Zealand, a rather unpleasant character meets his death by drowning in a pool of boiling mud. The blundering Claire family owns the local resort, and they are well in debt to Maurice Questing, the unfortunate victim. Many wanted Questing dead. At first I found the setting of this mystery to be quite interesting. The landscape is dramatic. That said, the solution to the mystery, the how, is deceptively simple. The who is rather unsatisfying, as the killer's character is not as developed as it could be. The side-plot about WWII spies operated at such a level of simplicity as to be somewhat absurd. A significant part of this mystery is figuring out how, exactly, Alleyn will come to be involved. I had that part figured about well before the end. This is not the best of Marsh's work. Her New Zealand mysteries never are. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This was by far the best. It takes place in Rotorua By K. Wisniewski While visiting New Zealand, I read three of Marsh's novels that are set in her native country. This was by far the best. It takes place in Rotorua, an area of geysers and thermal features that resembles a mini-Yellowstone. Part of it is also controlled by the Maori, who play a big part in the plot. Given how long ago this book was written (early 1940s), Marsh displays great empathy and respect for the Maori. The somewhat addled family of English ancestry that is trying to run a health spa makes for entertaining reading. Inspector Alleyn makes a late appearance, but the dark power of the volcano just beneath the surface of Rotorua dominates this mystery.

Maurice Questing was left to die in a pool of boiling mud. Chief Inspector Roderick Alleyn knew that any number of people could have killed him: the English exiles he'd hated, the New Zealanders he'd despised or the Maoris he'd

insulted. Even the spies he'd thwarted - if he wasn't a spy himself.

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