



Brazen Tongue

Gladys Mitchell

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It is the early months of the Second World War and the inhabitants of the provincial town of Willington are just coming to terms with the idea of petrol shortages, rationing, and the occasional air-raid warning. The last thing they expect is for three mysterious corpses to appear More... in their midst on the same, rainy autumn night. The mystery is compounded by the apparent motiveless nature of the crimes and the absence of any obvious link between the victims: one, a notable town councilor; the second, a young A.R.P. volunteer; and the third, an unidentified drowning case. The youthful Inspector Stailard is baffled and it requires the saurian intervention of Mrs. Bradley to unravel the complex web of deceit and to uncover a particularly peculiar motive behind the murders. The humour and energy of Brazen Tongue, which are a hallmark of every Gladys Mitchell novel, will delight her established body of enthusiasts, and will introduce a lesser-known work from a masterly Golden Age writer to a new generation of crime fiction fans.

Brazen Tongue Details

Date : Published December 1st 2005 by Minnow Press (first published 1940)

ISBN : 9780953944835

Author : Gladys Mitchell

Format : Hardcover 274 pages

Genre : Mystery, Historical Mystery

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From Reader Review Brazen Tongue for online ebook

John says

As a fan of Gladys Mitchell, I thoroughly enjoyed this book although I don't consider it, by any means, one of her best. Three and a half stars would have been fairer.

The plot was, I think, a bit over complicated with red herrings all over the shop. The explanation at the end by Mrs B. seemed to go on for ever and was quite confusing.

However, her characters are so well drawn that you feel that you know them. Her style has that hint of wit that makes it so attractive. Mrs Bradley herself is a masterpiece.

Gillian Kevern says

Apparently, Gladys Mitchell was very embarrassed by this book, set at the start of the War, and tried to suppress it. I actually thought it much stronger in terms of plot, character and interest than the Devil at Saxon's Wall, which I finished immediately before reading Brazen Tongue, but I can see how the characters cavalier approach to petrol rationing would be embarrassing as the war progressed and supplies became more strained.

To modern readers, I think that aspect only enhances the interest of the story. It's one of the most interesting things about Mitchell, I think. There's some of the pre-war arrogance, casual racism and not just one lunatic, but two.

William Bibliomane says

Murders most foul in the early days of the Phony War... but Mrs. Bradley is on the case...

Full review to follow.

Puzzle Doctor says

Good premise, fails in the execution. Full review at classicmystery.wordpress.com

Erik says

Good read but a bit convoluted at the end.
