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Elisabeth May Ogilvie

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About this Person

Born: May 20, 1917 in Boston, Massachusetts, United States

Died: September 09, 2006 in Cushing, Maine, United States

Nationality: American

Occupation: Writer

Other Names: Ogilvie, Elisabeth

Updated: Sept. 27, 2006

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Born May 20, 1917, in Boston, MA; died of a stroke, September 9, 2006, in Cushing, ME; daughter of Frank Everett (in insurance) and Maude (a teacher; maiden name, Coates) Ogilvie. **Education:** Attended public schools in Massachusetts. **Politics:** Republican. **Religion:** Baptist. **Memberships:** Author's League of America, Authors Guild, Mystery Writers of America, American Crime Writers, Foster Parents' Plan, Nature Conservancy, Maine Publishers and Writers Alliance.

CAREER:

Writer.

AWARDS:

Fiction awards, New England Press Association, 1945, and North-East Woman's Press Association, 1946, both for *Storm Tide*.

WORKS:

WRITINGS:

- *High Tide at Noon*, Crowell, 1944.
- *Storm Tide*, Crowell, 1945.
- *The Ebbing Tide*, Crowell, 1947.
- *Honeymoon* (based on a story by Vicki Baum), Bartholomew House, 1947.
- *Rowan Head*, Whittlesey House, 1949.
- *My World Is an Island* (autobiographical), illustrated by Paul Galdone, Whittlesey House, 1950.
- *Whistle for a Wind: Maine, 1820*, illustrated by Charles H. Geer, Scribner, 1954.
- *The Dawning of the Day*, McGraw, 1954, republished, Down East Books (Camden, ME), 1999.
- *Blueberry Summer* (juvenile), illustrated by Algot Stenbery, Whittlesey House, 1956.
- *No Evil Angel*, McGraw, 1956.
- *The Fabulous Year* (juvenile), Whittlesey House, 1958.
- *How Wide the Heart* (juvenile), Whittlesey House, 1959, published as *A Steady Kind of Love*, Scholastic Book Service, 1979.
- *The Witch Door*, McGraw, 1959.
- *The Young Islanders* (juvenile), illustrated by Robert Henneberger, Whittlesey House, 1960.
- *Becky's Island*, Whittlesey House, 1961.
- *Turn Around Twice*, Whittlesey House, 1962.
- *Call Home the Heart*, McGraw, 1962.
- *Ceiling of Amber* (juvenile), McGraw, 1964, published as *Until the End of Summer*, Scholastic Book Service, 1981.
- *There May Be Heaven*, McGraw, 1964.
- *Masquerade at Sea House*, McGraw, 1965.

- *The Seasons Hereafter*, McGraw, 1966, republished, Down East Books (Camden, ME), 1999.
- *The Pigeon Pair* (juvenile), McGraw, 1967.
- *Waters on a Starry Night*, McGraw, 1968.
- *Bellwood*, McGraw, 1969.
- *Come Aboard and Bring Your Dory* (juvenile), McGraw, 1969.
- *The Face of Innocence*, McGraw, 1970.
- *A Theme for Reason*, McGraw, 1970.
- *Weep and Know Why*, McGraw, 1972.
- *Strawberries in the Sea*, McGraw, 1973, republished, Down East Books (Camden, ME), 1999.
- *Image of a Lover*, McGraw, 1974.
- *Where the Lost Aprils Are*, McGraw, 1975.
- *The Dreaming Swimmer*, McGraw, 1976.
- *An Answer in the Tide*, McGraw, 1978.
- *A Dancer in Yellow*, McGraw, 1979.
- *Beautiful Girl*, Scholastic Book Service, 1980.
- *The Devil in Tartan*, McGraw, 1980.
- *The Silent Ones*, McGraw, 1981.
- *Too Young to Know*, Scholastic Book Service, 1982.
- *A Forgotten Girl*, Scholastic Book Service, 1982.
- *Jennie Glenroy*, McGraw, 1983.
- *The Road to Nowhere*, McGraw, 1983.
- *Jennie about to Be*, McGraw, 1984.
- *My Summer Love*, Scholastic Book Service, 1985.
- *The World of Jennie G.*, McGraw, 1986.
- *The Summer of the Osprey*, McGraw, 1987, republished, Down East Books (Camden, ME), 1999.
- *When the Music Stopped*, McGraw, 1989.
- *The Day before Winter*, Down East Books (Camden, ME), 1997.

Contributor of short stories to periodicals, including *Woman's Day*.

Sidelights

Elisabeth May Ogilvie began writing books after taking a college extension course about writing for publication. Her instructor, a literary agent, helped her with her first novel and was her agent for nineteen years afterward. Ogilvie's books are primarily concerned with life on the Maine coast and its nearby islands, although her later works are often set in England and Scotland. Susan Quinn Berneis of *Twentieth-Century Romance and Historical Writers* described Ogilvie's environments and landscapes as "so detailed and portrait-like that the setting almost becomes another character. By the final chapter of each of her books one is so minutely acquainted with every mood and view of the environment that one could be transported to that place and never feel lost." Ogilvie's characters are praised for their vividness, and her plots are regarded as rich and complex. While Ogilvie's novels are categorized as romance fiction, her range within the genre is wide and includes gothics and suspense novels. The author's work depicts romance at many stages; while some novels end at the suggestion or the beginning of a relationship, others end with the relationship in full bloom. One series follows a couple as they grow from courtship into comfortable married life.

High Tide at Noon, the author's first novel, introduces the Bennett family, who reside on a Maine island. Critics reacted favorably to the book. Sterling North of *Book Week* declared that "there can be no doubt that Miss Ogilvie has a brilliant future," while Margaret Wallace noted in *New York Times* that Ogilvie "has a warm, and homespun quality which suits her story well." David Tilden observed in *Weekly Book Review*, "You feel and delight in the distinctive zestful life of a particular place and a particularly engaging family. . . . Beyond these, the book has a vigor and substance which would do credit to an author with a long string of titles to her credit." Ogilvie continued the saga of the Bennetts and especially Jo Bennett in her next two novels, *Storm Tide* and *The Ebbing Tide*.

Ogilvie once told *CA*: "I would rather write than do anything else. In fact, I can't imagine a day going by without my having put *something down*, if it's only notes or a paragraph of description. Along with being a compulsive writer who likes to type in the dark at four in the morning so as to have an extra-long morning, I'm an outdoor person, and life on the coast of Maine gives me plenty of opportunities for scraping and painting boats, fishing, beachcombing, digging clams, and just wandering around.

"I hope my writing has matured over the years. The Bennetts and Sorensens of my earliest books are still very much alive to me, and I return to them at intervals. Many things have changed with the times on Bennett's Island, and the six young Bennetts of *High Tide at Noon* have gray in their hair and grown-up kids. But they're still islanders in their own kingdom.

"I've branched out into suspense stories and to some settings away from the Maine coast such as Nova Scotia and Scotland, which is where *The Silent Ones* takes place. I know I'm far from being a *great* writer, but I think I'm a good storyteller."

FURTHER READINGS:

FURTHER READINGS ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

BOOKS

- Marquardt, Dorothy A., and Martha E. Ward, *Authors of Books for Young People*, Scarecrow, 1967.
- Ogilvie, Elisabeth May, *My World Is an Island* (autobiographical), illustrated by Paul Galdone, Whittlesey House, 1950.
- *Twentieth-Century Romance and Historical Writers*, 3rd edition, St. James Press, 1994.
- Warfel, Harry R., *American Novelists of Today*, American Book Co., 1951.

PERIODICALS

- *Book Week*, April 9, 1944.
- *Christian Science Monitor*, May 10, 1956.
- *Kirkus Reviews*, February 1, 1987; January 1, 1989.
- *Library Journal*, April 1, 1987.
- *New York Times*, April 16, 1944.
- *New York Times Book Review*, May 7, 1967.
- *Publishers Weekly*, October 18, 1985; February 27, 1987; January 20, 1989.
- *Weekly Book Review*, April 16, 1944.
- *Wilson Library Bulletin*, September, 1951.*

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