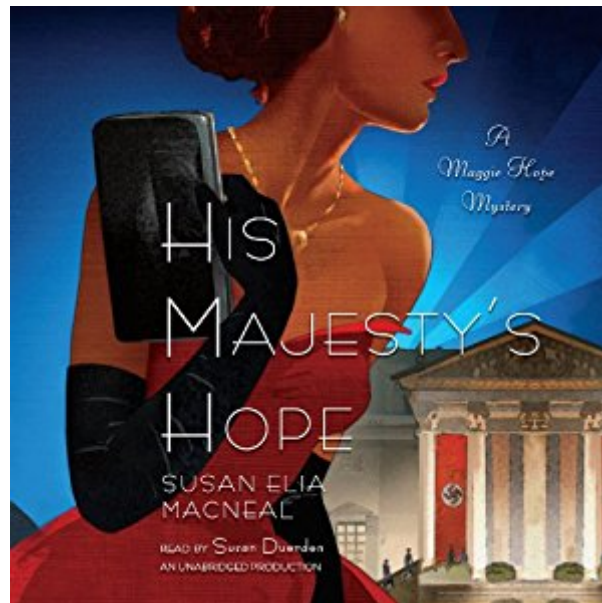




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His Majesty's Hope: A Maggie Hope Mystery, Book 3



Synopsis

For fans of Jacqueline Winspear, Laurie R. King, and Anne Perry, whip-smart heroine Maggie Hope returns to embark on a clandestine mission behind enemy lines where no one can be trusted, and even the smallest indiscretion can be deadly. World War II has finally come home to Britain, but it takes more than nightly air raids to rattle intrepid spy and expert code breaker Maggie Hope. After serving as a secret agent to protect Princess Elizabeth at Windsor Castle, Maggie is now an elite member of the Special Operations Executive-a black ops organization designed to aid the British effort abroad-and her first assignment sends her straight into Nazi-controlled Berlin, the very heart of the German war machine. Relying on her quick wit and keen instincts, Maggie infiltrates the highest level of Berlin society, gathering information to pass on to London headquarters. But the secrets she unveils will expose a darker, more dangerous side of the war-and of her own past.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Or, rather, she attempts to meet the requirements to graduate, but she cannot pass the physical tests so she is sent back to 10 Downing Street--where, she fears, she will be limited to typing once again. But then Churchill approaches her with a special request: to sneak into Berlin in order to bug the office of a high Nazi official. After returning to Scotland to learn how to parachute safely, she is sent off on a small plane from which she jumps into Germany. From this point on, the novel is a tense, exciting bit of espionage, including (although not in this order) attending a party with high ranking Nazi officials, discovering a former lover, and meeting previously unknown relatives. In

addition to this fine plot, the book also does a powerful job of painting the settings in Scotland, London, and Berlin. And a historical sense of what it was like to live in London and in Berlin during these challenging times is frightening to experience. This is a wonderful book, but I strongly recommend reading the previous books in this series in order. It could stand on its own, but is richer with the connections from the earlier books.

This is the second Maggie Hope Mystery that I am reviewing, and I would say the same things that I wrote about the others. I have read six of these and enjoyed all of them. They are set in WWII England and Europe and are definitely fiction in terms of the main characters and what they do for a living, but the historical background is solid. Better to read them in order.

I bought this book right away, because I had enjoyed her two previous stories of Maggie Hope. Some might say that Maggie's story becomes more farfetched as she is dropped behind enemy lines into Nazi Germany as a spy. However, these were extraordinary times and ordinary people did extraordinary things. Maggie is from an unusual background with her father as a code-breaker and her mother as a spy. There are some convergences of coincidence that you know are coming and they are a bit hard to swallow, but I chose to just move on down the road and let it go. I know London and Bletchley Park and had recently been there which made the story enjoyable; however, I do not know the parts of Germany where much of the action was set. I assume that Ms. Macneal is accurate in her settings there as well. Although it is a period piece it does deal with some contemporary themes. I did not find that jarring. I do think that her subplot dealing with a same sex relationship does not give the reader a full sense of the danger to the men. Allan Turing went from war hero to criminal in a very short time after the war because of his sexuality. We readers see more of the parents struggling with the issue but perhaps not enough of the very real risk of criminal prosecution. Ms. Macneal certainly does include mention of the risk, but our modern eyes and brains may need to be hit over the head a bit to truly comprehend the magnitude of the risk. This book is a quick read, but it is darker than the earlier two installments. There are Nazi's doing unthinkable things and wartime taking its toll on good people. Perhaps it is a bit ironic that this is the first book that is subtitled as a Maggie Hope Mystery. Most of us read them as such, but some reviewers of the earlier books seemed to be looking for something else. Perhaps the subtitle will help. My book group has been meeting for almost 25 years. This book would not be the kind of book that could be a book group selection for us although there is more to talk about in this book. This book was worth the purchase price and reading time. When I finished, I am again looking forward to the next

installment about Maggie Hope.

I am a big fan of Maggie Hope and find it hard to be critical. For the most part this was an incredible book - I really enjoyed the espionage triangle - Maggie, Hess (her mother and sister), and John. A couple of wacko things were a little hard to fathom, but overall I would buy this book again and plan to reread it as well - which I normally only reserve for those books I really liked. I like that it was fast-paced, but steady. We didn't feel too sorry for ourself when we were depressed or hurt - which is a big plus. It was almost believable, which is a mark of a good suspense novel 'in my book.'

I have been hooked by Maggie Hope. This is the third book in the series, and I think they just keep getting better. There needs to be a suspension of belief for all the coincidences that place Maggie in an ideal position to serve in the British intelligence, and, that she has the particular (and unusual) set of skills to make her useful. She is moving up the hierarchy in her spy craft, and this time she is sent into Germany on a quick delivery of radio tubes and the planting of a receiver device for eavesdropping, but ends up staying longer than originally planned, putting her life and her "handler's" life in jeopardy. And the on-going intrigue with her parents just keeps getting more and more complicated. If you like period stories (WWII), intrigue, strong women and danger, this is the book for you.

Another very good book. I enjoyed it very much. Just enough intrigue to wet the appetite and just enough real history intermingled....looking forward to the next book.

Did I read it wrong? P. 153, reading on the iPad. Please edit. A jarring note in an otherwise beautifully researched and written tale. Just omit reference please.

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