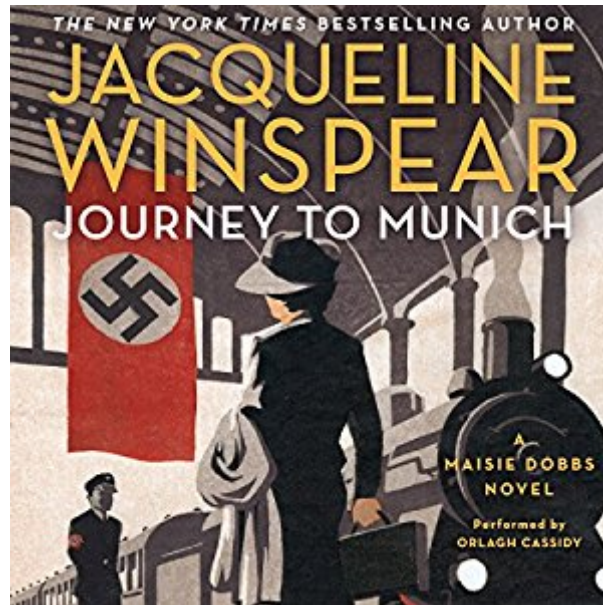


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Journey To Munich: A Maisie Dobbs Novel



Synopsis

Working with the British Secret Service on an undercover mission, Maisie Dobbs is sent to Hitler's Germany in this thrilling tale of danger and intrigue - the 12th novel in Jacqueline Winspear's New York Times best-selling "series that seems to get better with each entry" (The Wall Street Journal). It's early 1938, and Maisie Dobbs is back in England. On a fine yet chilly morning, as she walks toward Fitzroy Square - a place of many memories - she is intercepted by Brian Huntley and Robert MacFarlane of the Secret Service. The German government has agreed to release a British subject from prison, but only if he is handed over to a family member. Because the man's wife is bedridden and his daughter has been killed in an accident, the Secret Service wants Maisie - who bears a striking resemblance to the daughter - to retrieve the man from Dachau, on the outskirts of Munich. The British government is not alone in its interest in Maisie's travel plans. Her nemesis - the man she holds responsible for her husband's death - has learned of her journey and is also desperate for her help. Traveling into the heart of Nazi Germany, Maisie encounters unexpected dangers - and finds herself questioning whether it's time to return to the work she loved. But the Secret Service may have other ideas....

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours and 18 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: HarperAudio

Audible.com Release Date: March 29, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01A5U5PD6

Best Sellers Rank: #35 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > British

Detectives #180 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Historical Fiction #267

in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Mysteries

Customer Reviews

I very, very nearly passed up the chance to read this book, having been disappointed by several of the most recent "mysteries" featuring Maisie Dobbs, most of which ended up being a vehicle for a humorless and smug character who is, of course, infinitely smarter than everyone else around her,

to muse endlessly on human follies and on psychological phenomena. It wasn't very interesting and Maisie became downright annoying as a character; had I met her in person, I probably would have wanted to slap her. Thankfully, I resisted my inclination, because somehow, miraculously, the series has a new lease on life, and instead of being treated to endless series of interior monologues by Maisie, this book has real drama, suspense and intrigue! In other words, it's actually an exciting page-turner, and I literally couldn't put it down, instead of having to force myself to finish it.

Hallelujah! Sure, Maisie could stand to be slightly less perfect and less smug (of course, when she is being trained before the journey in the title, when she first picks up a gun to shoot, she hits a bulls-eye with her first shot...) and she still has her propensity to proffer unsolicited wisdom to all and sundry. (It might be wise, but it's like having that annoying friend who is ALWAYS right and knows it...) But those become very minor annoyances, slipping into the background of what is a suspenseful yarn.

Fans of British mystery who have not yet discovered Jacqueline Winspear's Maisie Dobbs novels are in for a treat. "Journey to Munich" is the second of the series that I have read, after "A Dangerous Place", which is well into the series, and I anticipate working back to the beginning and catching up. One of the things I liked about the two Maisie Dobbs novels I have read is that Ms Winspear does an excellent job of weaving a bit of backstory into the current book -- enough so that a new reader does not find themselves all at sea in the current book, but not so much as to be tiresome. This new book finds Maisie being recruited by the British Secret Service to go to pre-war Nazi Germany to aid in the return of an English businessman who has been imprisoned by the Hitler regime for 2 years. The Nazis will only allow the man to be released to a family member, so Maisie is to impersonate the man's daughter, who is too ill to travel (BTW -- the synopsis of the book is wrong in this respect, stating that the man's daughter had been killed in an accident. I also got a few other things wrong in their synopsis). As if this assignment were not delicate and dangerous enough, Maisie agrees to attempt to locate and effect the return to England of the daughter of Canadian newspaper magnate John Otterburn (a clever renaming of the real-life Lord Beaverbrook, a Canadian newspaper tycoon who was named the UK's Minister of Aircraft Production by Winston Churchill in 1940.) The complication in this second task comes courtesy of the fact that Maisie has long held the young woman in question to be at least partially responsible for her husband's death at the controls of an experimental aircraft.

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