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The Paris Spy: A Maggie Hope Mystery



Synopsis

American-born spy and code-breaker extraordinaire Maggie Hope secretly navigates Nazi-occupied France to find two brave women during the darkest days of World War II in the latest novel in this New York Times best-selling series - "a treat for WWII buffs and mystery lovers alike" (Booklist, on *The Prime Minister's Secret Agent*). Maggie Hope has come a long way since serving as a typist for Winston Churchill. Now she's working undercover for the Special Operations Executive in the elegant but eerily silent city of Paris, where SS officers prowl the streets in their Mercedes and the Ritz is draped with swastika banners. Walking among the enemy is tense and terrifying, and even though she's disguised in chic Chanel, Maggie can't help longing for home. But her missions come first. Maggie's half-sister, Elise, has disappeared after being saved from a concentration camp, and Maggie is desperate to find her - that is, if Elise even wants to be found. Equally urgent, Churchill is planning the Allied invasion of France, and SOE agent Erica Calvert has been captured, the whereabouts of her vital research regarding Normandy unknown. Maggie must risk her life to penetrate powerful circles and employ all her talents for deception and spycraft to root out a traitor, find her sister, and locate the reports crucial to planning D-Day in a deadly game of wits with the Nazi intelligence elite.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've been following along with the adventures of Maggie Hope since *Mr. Churchill's Secretary* (which I think I acquired through Vine, as with this novel). I've enjoyed every minute of the 7 books in the series, particularly since Susan Elia MacNeal gives us a view of what it

meant to live through World War II, using someone else's eyes. It helps that Maggie is a marvelous character with unique qualities (that somehow make me willing to accept them), such as being an accomplished mathematician and having the ability to act decisively despite her fears. In addition to a rollickingly good spy story and characters I believe in, these historical novels bring to life the gritty experiences of food rationing, the sense of uncertainty and distrust among neighbors, and emotional see-saws wherein nobody knows what'll happen if the Germans win... or lose. And right now they appear to be winning. At the end of the last novel, [[ASIN:0804178720 The Queen's Accomplice:] Maggie put herself on a plane to Paris with several goals, including finding out the fate of a missing British spy and discovering the fate of a family member. This novel is the story of her tackling that mission -- with, of course, no real idea where to start on those tasks. She also crosses paths with longtime friends who are on their own spy missions -- and who, if you have read the earlier novels (and you should; don't start here!) -- have their own frightening challenges. In lesser hands, this could be merely an entertaining frippery. But the characters are so compelling that I keep wanting to know what happens to them, and the author brings alive the feel of not-really-conquered Paris. "I'll read just one more chapter," I told myself as I went to bed, knowing full well that I had a meeting at 8am. But I didn't go to sleep until I'd finished the entire book. Yeah, it's that good. Highly recommended.

I have read all of Susan MacNeal's books to this point but a little disappointed in this book. The story seemed to wonder about and the ending was disappointing.

The latest Maggie Hope novel, 7th in this excellent series, starts off at a run and never stops. Maggie is in Paris looking for a spy whose communications have stopped. She's also looking for her half-sister Elise, who is in hiding, but nothing is easy. The Nazis have taken over the city and Maggie is undercover as a young Irish woman assembling her trousseau. In that capacity she interacts with Nazi officers and historical figures like Coco Chanel. But the story does not take place mainly in that glamorous if treacherous world but rather in the intense goings-on beneath the veneer of civilization. Maggie's friends, Hugh and Sarah, are also in Paris, working as entertainers and arranging the pickup of material vital to the upcoming D-Day invasion. An exciting storyline is the possible existence of a mole, a double agent working with the Nazis. There are several suspects -- and plenty of interesting twists -- as one would expect in a novel rooted in skullduggery. This is a wonderful, fun series, enhanced by our knowledge of what is going to happen -- and an entertaining glimpse at the young people who would later be called the Greatest Generation. For every elder

who made it home there was another who did not. The Nazis were a terrible enemy, and characters we've come to know do suffer. This is a grim chapter of the great war period. The Nazis lorded it over Paris and the Allies were trying to muster one great action to establish a military presence on the continent. The stakes were high and morale was low, not least at the thought of a traitor in the midst of SOE. As always MacNeal loads the story with interesting facts from the time -- cultural, political and military -- and it's all wrapped up in an exciting fast-paced story with great characters. I can almost see Ginger Rogers or Irene Dunne playing Maggie Hope, or any of a number of talented young actresses working today. There's even a scene for Churchill and the support staff back in the UK, and one for Hitler, though the primary action is with the spies. This is a great series, best to read in order because of the war story progression, but absolutely enjoyable as a standalone. In order the books are: Mr. Churchill's Secretary, Princess Elizabeth's Spy, His Majesty's Hope, The Prime Minister's Secret Agent, Mrs. Roosevelt's Confidante, The Queen's Accomplice and The Paris Spy.

Another exciting Maggie Hope Mystery! As a huge fan of this series, I truly believe that MacNeal's books keep getting better and better. If you are new to the series, Maggie Hope is an American code breaker who works for England as a Special Operations Executive (SOE). In this novel, she is sent to Paris to locate a captured spy and to find a traitor who is leaking information to the Nazis. The race is on, as the invasion of Normandy is planned, and Maggie must work to stop the Nazis from learning of this location. What I like best about these novels is that they are well researched and provide enough history to engage and provide context, but not so much that it takes over the plot. The descriptions of Nazi-occupied Paris are compelling and the suspense is palpable. Maggie must move with utmost caution, and this is conveyed very well. Maggie is a great character, and it's a thrill to watch her evolve and grow. Also, the cliffhangers keep getting more intense and exciting. Though it's not imperative that you read the other books first, I would say that it definitely helps with some of the secondary action of this book. For example, Maggie has a half-sister who is still missing, and that plays a prominent role in this book. All in all, The Paris Spy is definitely one of my favorite Maggie Hope books. The descriptions and complexity really kept me engaged.

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