

Ventura Book Reviews

Where will
the next book
take you?

Maisie Dobbs

by Jacqueline Winspear



Winspear

I went to the library in search for another book and *A Dangerous Place*, Book #11 of the Maisie Dobbs series, caught my eye. I added it to my “Want to Read” book shelf on the Goodreads app and downloaded the audio version of *Maisie Dobbs* (#1) from the Overdrive app so I could start from the beginning. Although the story has its problems, like World War I, it was a breath of fresh air. Let me explain.

The novel starts in 1929 after the war has ended and the main character,

Maisie Dobbs, is settled in a career. The novel also jumps back in time to when Maisie was younger which offers a very deep and interesting back story. The way the author presents the background of the main character is very well done. Everything is thoroughly explained and it is obvious that Winspear did her research. Usually when a character encounters a new event or situation in the story the readers (or listeners) sensors start to twitch that something is about to go wrong. But in *Maisie Dobbs* nothing does—for the most part. It was really wonderful to just learn of this fictional woman’s life and to be wrapped up in it. I say fictional because Maisie is too perfect for real life. She is smart with dark hair, deep blue eyes and her ability to read people is a borderline superpower. That’s just not realistic. Another thing I have to add is that it was very easy to get lost listening to. The narrator of the audio version, Rita Barrington, has a very calm, even voice with a beautiful accent. Her voice added to the story and made it easier to get lost in another world.

Jacqueline Winspear has written 12 novels in the Maisie Dobbs series. Just from skimming the synopsis of some of the other novels it seems like the stories are about the cases Maisie Dobbs encounters in her line of work. I plan to read *Birds of a Feather* (#2) and I hope it catches my attention as much as *Maisie Dobbs* so that I can look forward to reading the entire series.

Reviewed by Grace Ventura