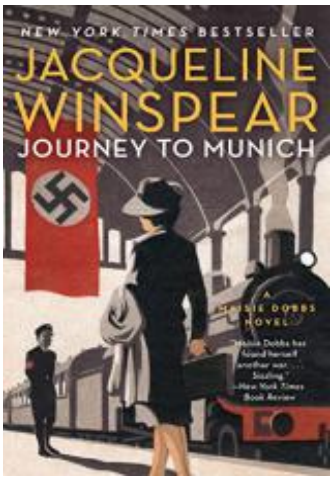
Journey to Munich: A Maisie Dobbs Novel

by Jacqueline Winspear



About the Book

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* bestselling ?series that seems to get better with each entry? (*Wall Street Journal*).

It?s early 1938, and Maisie Dobbs is back in England. On a fine yet chilly morning, as she walks towards 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.

Discussion Guide

1. As the novel begins, Maisie is in a profound state of grief. How does this affect her behavior or decisions? How does this emotional weight evolve or change throughout the novel?

2. Despite her suffering, Maisie realizes that ?tending the terrible wounds of those who fought for freedom from oppression?lifted her own deep melancholy.? How is it that such traumatic service can be uplifting?

3. What might Maisie mean when she says that her challenging time in Spain helped her rediscover ?the raw material of her character?? What is the essence of her character?

4. What particular skills does Maisie possess that makes Robert MacFarlane want her for this particular mission in Munich?

5. In what ways does Gilbert Leslie, seemingly a mere administrator, prove important to Maisie? What does his background add to the complexity of their time in Munich?

6. Who --- John Otterburn, Elaine Otterburn, James himself --- is responsible for James? tragic death? Why?

7. Maisie admits to feeling ?at sea, adrift,? and with ?no anchor.? In what various ways is this true? How does this affect her behavior? In what ways might such a state of disconnect be helpful?

8. Maisie consistently considers the connections between her physical, emotional and spiritual self. How are they connected? When and how is this awareness particularly important for her?

9. In what situations is Maisie?s work made more difficult because she is a woman? How does she respond to the unfair challenge of such inequality?

10. How does Maisie come to accept, forgive, and even help Elaine after her role in James? death?

11. Consider Maurice?s teaching about the balance of opposites in human behavior, that to have too little of something (water, love, etc.) often causes dangerous, over compensatory behavior. How is this insight helpful to Maisie?

12. Maisie often meditates, imagines, or visualizes before dangerous encounters. What?s the value of such activity? How does it work?

13. In what ways is Mark Scott helpful or harmful to Maisie? What does she dislike about him? What does she come to appreciate?

14. The image of two young girls playing in secret behind an abandoned building in Munich is very powerful for Maisie. What does it represent?

15. Maisie admits to gradually learning that ?wisdom [is] to be found in forgiveness.? What does this mean? How might it serve her?

16. After the mission, Maisie reflects upon Maurice?s teaching that ?everyone has the capacity for evil.? What did he mean? What are the implications --- personally, socially, politically --- of such a truth? What are the best ways to prevent such a capacity from actualizing?

Author Bio

Jacqueline Winspear is the author of the *New York Times* bestsellers THE CONSEQUENCES OF FEAR, THE AMERICAN AGENT and TO DIE BUT ONCE, as well as 15 other bestselling Maisie Dobbs novels, and THE CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF LIES, a Dayton Literary Peace Prize finalist. Jacqueline has also published two nonfiction books: WHAT WOULD MAISIE DO? and a memoir, THIS TIME NEXT YEAR WE'LL BE LAUGHING. Originally from the United Kingdom, she divides her time between California and the Pacific Northwest.

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